

**BOARD OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
MEETING
December 19, 2016
Richmond, Virginia**

Members Present

Mr. John Ainslie
Mr. John Patrick Carr
Mr. James “Robby” Dawson
Ms. Susan Dewey
Mr. Sean Farrell
Ms. Helen Hardiman
Mr. Robert Kaplan
Mr. Roger McLellon
Mr. Rich Napier
Mr. Shekar Narasimhan
Mr. Earl Reynolds
Mr. Jeff Sadler
Mr. Steve Semones
Ms. Patricia Shields
Mr. Tommy Shields

Members Absent

Call to Order

Mr. John Ainslie, Chairman of the Board of Housing and Community Development, called the meeting of the Board to order.

Roll Call

The roll was called by Ms. Elizabeth Rafferty of the Department of Housing and Community Development’s (DHCD) Policy Office. Ms. Rafferty reported that a quorum was present.

Public Comment

Several individuals were in attendance to speak during the public comment period.

Andrew Grigsby, Executive Director of Local Energy Alliance Program, recommended the adoption of the 2015 IECC code and provided information previously regarding adopting this code in this climate zone.

Eric Lacey, Responsible Energy Codes Alliance, requested that the Virginia code align with the model code as the release of the 2018 IECC is pending. He suggested the Board adopt a timetable of when to incrementally adopt the model code.

Michael Toalson, the CEO of the Home Builders Association of Virginia, stated the Board was taking the correct approach and would like the energy efficient changes to be incremental to not increase the cost of production on homes.

Dana Wiggins, Virginia Poverty Law Center, recommended adopting the 2012 standards stating that it is better for low income residents for both purchasing and renting by reducing utility costs over a long term.

Robert Champ, from Edge Energy, cited a program that Maryland offers that allows people of low income the ability to have the home retrofitted up to \$8,000-\$10,000 to aid in the passing of duct and blower testing. He indicated that it is important to do duct and blower door testing on houses before they are sold.

No further comments were made by the public; the public comment period was then closed.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Sean Farrell made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2016 meeting of the Board. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Code Change Process Updates

Ms. Cindy Davis provided a brief update indicating the items from today's meeting will be included in the base document which includes all the approved amendments from the September and October meetings. This document becomes the proposed regulations and will be sent to the Attorney General's office for approval. Upon approval by the Attorney General's office, a public comment period will begin with the proposed regulations posted on Town Hall. Amendments that were carried over from the previous phase will be reviewed by the workgroups in this phase of the process and will be brought forth with the final regulations in the Fall.

Report of the Codes and Standards Committee

Mr. J.P. Carr stated that the Codes and Standards Committee met and reviewed changes to proposed regulations for each code (SFPC, USBC, VADR, and IBSR).

Mr. Carr stated that the committee recommends the Board approve the proposed regulations for the Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC). A motion was made to approve the proposed regulations of the SFPC and properly seconded; the motion passed.

Mr. Carr stated that the committee recommends the Board approve the proposed regulations for the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC). A motion was made to approve the proposed regulations of the USBC and properly seconded. Mr. Ainslie asked was there any discussion. Ms. Patricia Shields stated that she was going to vote to approve the proposed regulations but wanted to echo what was said by the energy efficiency advocates. She mentioned that states like Maryland have surpassed Virginia in energy standards and it has not affected their housing market. She urged the Board to think about people living in the buildings and not the costs. Mr. Shekar Narasimhan suggested looking at a way to phase in regulations so that costs would not rise suddenly. Mr. Jeff Sadler cited the duties as Board members referenced in the Code of Virginia and that the only way the Board should be deviating from the national standard is to have compelling evidence otherwise. Mr. Ainslie stated that changes at the national level have not been adopted in Virginia and many other states because of the high costs. He also added that there have been studies that show some concerns with the changes and that Virginia has been a leader in the code adoption process. After no further discussion the motion passed.

Mr. Carr stated that the committee recommends the Board approve the proposed regulations for the Virginia Amusement Device Regulations (VADR). A motion was made to approve the proposed regulations of the VADR and properly seconded; the motion passed.

Mr. Carr stated that the committee recommends the Board approve the proposed regulations for the Industrialized Building Safety Regulations (IBSR). A motion was made to approve the proposed regulations of the IBSR and properly seconded; the motion passed.

VHDA Report	<p>Ms. Susan Dewey reported to the Board that the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) update has been completed and is updated on a biennial basis. The Virginia Housing and Development Authority (VHDA) Board voted in favor of the changes that were sent to the Governor for approval, and are now in effect. Full details on the changes can be found on VHDA’s website. VHDA does not intend to make changes in the next year.</p>
VFSB Report	<p>Mr. Farrell reported on behalf of the Virginia Fire Services Board (VFSB) that their fire and education training is ready to be deployed across the state and will be implementing stakeholder meetings. Mr. Robby Dawson also added that there is a proposed bill regarding aid to localities.</p>
Report of the Director	<p>Mr. Bill Shelton reported that the Governor released amendments to the biennial budget and there were two actions that affected the Agency. In Fiscal Year 2017 the Department was asked to identify reductions of about \$1.9 million, which is a little less than 2% of the overall Agency budget. Fiscal Year 2018 included a \$12 million reduction from the Virginia Growth and Opportunity (GO VA) Fund. The legislature will convene on January 11th and run until the end of February for a short session. GO VA is a new initiative that includes a board and stakeholder group and is supported by DHCD.</p> <p>Mr. Shelton mentioned that the Governor’s Housing Policy Advisory Council was meeting later today; the group is exploring several issues, including the link between housing and education and the issue of economic mobility.</p> <p>Mr. Shelton also wanted to recognize Ms. Davis and the work of her team for winning a Governor’s Technology Award for IT as Efficiency Driver – Government to Business, as part of the Commonwealth of Virginia Innovative Technology Symposium (COVITS) for the Code Development Process for Virginia (CdpVA).</p>
Unfinished Business	<p>There was no unfinished business to be discussed.</p>

Resolutions	Mr. Ainslie presented three resolutions recognizing the former Board members in attendance; Mr. Brian Mullins, Mr. Anthony Clatterbuck, and Mr. Rick Witt.
New Business	There was no new business to be discussed.
Board Matters	There were no board matters to be discussed.
Future Meetings	Mr. Robby Dawson requested that a tentative date be set for the joint meeting with the VFSB. Mr. Steve Semones also asked if staff anticipated any standalone committee meetings next year and Ms. Davis responded none at this time.
Adjournment	Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.