

BOARD OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

December 12, 2022

10:00 A.M.

Glen Allen, Virginia

Public Comment Link - <https://youtu.be/h5fBUqHnDV0>

Members Present

Louie Berbert
Claudia Cotton
Susan Dewey
Sean Farrell
Richard Gregory
Sylvia Hallock (arrived late)
Keith Johnson
Brett Meringoff
Larry Murphy (arrived late)
Patricia “Patty” Shields
J.M. Snell
Mark Trostle

Members Absent

Mark Jackson
Abigail Johnson

Call to Order

Mr. Brett Merignoff, Chairman of the Board of Housing and Community Development, called the meeting of the Board to order at 10:00 am.

Roll Call

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

Public Comment

Mr. Meringoff indicated that virtual comment would be offered first, followed by in-person comment and that each speaker would have one minute to speak with one half hour total allotted for virtual comment. Mr. Meringoff noted the order of meetings.

Mr. Ross Shearer spoke in support of proposals for residential energy efficiency and changes to incorporate sprinklers.

Ms. Judy Gayer spoke in support of adopting energy efficiency proposals to help reduce greenhouse gas and improve long term cost savings.

Ms. Allison Cook of Arlington spoke against adoption of the single staircase proposal.

Ms. Meredith Haines, of the Virginia Grassroots Coalition, spoke in support of energy efficiency proposals and solar and EV readiness proposals.

Mr. Mike Trauberman, of the City Falls Church Environmental Sustainability Council, spoke in support of energy efficiency proposals and recommended adoption of the 2021 IECC without amendment.

Mr. Andrew Milliken, Chairman of the Fire Services Board Codes and Standards Subcommittee, spoke in opposition to the Board's decision not to consider certain non-consensus items at their October meeting.

Mr. Jeff Shapiro, speaking on his own behalf, spoke in opposition to the Board's decision not to consider certain non-consensus items at their October meeting, and voiced concerns in how non-consensus items are considered.

Mr. Dan Wilham spoke in opposition to the single staircase proposal and in support of energy efficiency proposals.

Mr. Lee Stoermer spoke in favor of adopting the changes to the State Fire Marshal's office fees and in support of adopting changes regarding residential sprinklers. He spoke in opposition to the single staircase proposal.

Mr. Keith Brower spoke in support of the comments of Mr. Shapiro and Mr. Milliken.

Ms. Olivia Jurcisin spoke on behalf of energy efficiency proposals and electric ready homes.

Mr. Meringoff noted the conclusion of virtual comment and opened the in-person comment portion.

Mr. Robby Dawson, of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), noted how the current code update process erodes the NFPA ecosystems cog regarding government responsibility and expressed that the Board should reconsider the actions of October.

Ms. Susan Stillman spoke in opposition to proposals below the model energy code standards for manufacturing and warehouse buildings.

Mr. Bill Penniman, representing the Virginia Sierra Club, spoke in support of energy efficiency proposals. He indicated the long term cost and environmental impacts of adopting the proposed regulations with amendments to the model energy codes.

Mr. Eric Lacey, representing Responsible Energy Codes Alliance, spoke in support of adoption of the 2021 IECC, specifically noting opposition to appendix CB for manufacturing and warehouses.

Mr. Bob Shippee, speaking on behalf of himself, spoke in support of adopting energy efficiency proposals for the benefit of future generations and long term cost savings.

Mr. Glen Besa, spoke on behalf of adopting proposals at least to the level of the model code, noting the rebates that may be available via the Inflation Reduction Act. He also supported changes to support EV readiness.

Mr. John Walser spoke on behalf of Fairfax County in support of comments of Mr. Dawson and Mr. Milliken and noted public safety concerns with not hearing all the non-consensus proposals.

Ms. Page Wessaling spoke in support of affordable and safe homes and in opposition to fossil fuel appliances and infrastructure.

Mr. Brad Creasy, Executive Director of the Department of Fire Programs, spoke in support of adopting changes to the fees for the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting until the conclusion of the committees. The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Reconvene

Mr. Meringoff, reconvened the meeting of the Board at 12:06 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2022, meeting of the Board; the motion passed on a voice vote.

Report of the Codes and Standards Committee

Mr. Rick Gregory, Chairman of the Codes and Standards Committee, summarized the recommendations of the Codes and Standards Committee for the Board.

The committee recommendation in the form of a standing motion to approve the proposed regulations for the Statewide Fire Prevention Code, to include the repeal of Chapter 51 and the adoption of Chapter 52, was presented. The motion passed with 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.

The committee recommendation in the form of a standing motion to approve the proposed regulations for the Uniform Statewide Building Code, was presented. The motion passed with 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.

The committee recommendation in the form of a standing motion to approve the proposed regulations for the Industrialized Building Safety Regulations, was presented. The motion passed with 12 – yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

The committee recommendation in the form of a standing motion to approve the proposed regulations for the Virginia Amusement Device Regulations, was presented. The motion passed with 12 – yeas 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Housing and Community Development Committee Report

Mr. Meringoff provided a summary of the work of the Housing and Community Development Committee.

The committee recommendation in the form of a standing motion to approve the amendments to the Annual Action Plan was presented. The motion passed on a voice vote.

The committee recommendation in the form of a standing motion to initiate a periodic review for the Enterprise Zone regulations was presented. The motion passed on a voice vote.

The committee recommendation in the form of a standing motion to approve the amendments to the Private Activity Bond Guidelines was presented. The motion passed on a voice vote.

VFSB Report

Ms. Claudia Cotton noted that the Fire Services Board met in December for a retreat of the Board. She noted that the Board requested an update on the status of the MOU and that the Board also plans to draft a letter to the Secretary regarding the code update process.

Virginia Housing Report

Ms. Susan Dewey, CEO of Virginia Housing, reported that Virginia Housing would begin utilizing the next iteration of the State Housing Opportunity Tax Credit soon.

Report of the Director

Mr. Bryan Horn, Director of DHCD, noted that the Governor would be releasing his budget soon and that the next Board meeting would be in January.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to be discussed.

New Business

There was no new business to be discussed.

Board Matters

Assistant Attorney General Representative Justin Bell indicated he could provide the Board information on virtual meetings at the next meeting.

Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Board will be January 9, 2023.

Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.