

**BOARD OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
MEETING
10:45 A.M., December 16, 2019
Glen Allen, Virginia**

Members Present

Sonny Abbasi
Sean Farrell
Andrew Friedman
Richard Gregory
Helen Hardiman
Abigail Johnson
Keith Johnson
Brett Meringoff
Earl Reynolds
Jeff Sadler
Steve Semones
Patricia “Patty” Shields

Members Absent

Susan Dewey
Mimi Elrod

Call to Order

Mr. Steve Semones, Chairman of the Board of Housing and Community Development, called the meeting of the Board to order at 10:45 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. Andrew Grigsby, representing The Virginia Renewable Energy Alliance, spoke in support of the new air duct testing regulations. However, Mr. Grigsby indicated that the new duct testing provisions do not go far enough in enhancing energy efficiency and that Virginia should fully adopt the model code as it relates to building envelope requirements.

Mr. Shaun Pharr, representing the American Office Building Association and the Virginia Apartment and Management Association spoke and expressed his support for the participation of the Fire Services in the code development process this cycle and noted an improved end product as a result of their engaged and collaborative participation.

Approval of Minutes A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2019, meeting of the Board; the motion passed.

Rick Witt Presentation Mr. Semones presented Mr. Rick Witt with a letter from the Governor thanking him for his years of service and congratulating him on his retirement. Ms. Cindy Davis, Deputy Director of Building and Fire Regulation at DHCD, Mr. Erik Johnston, Director of DHCD, and Mr. Sean Farrell all spoke thanking Mr. Witt for his leadership in the Code Development process as well as his mentorship and support.

Report of the Codes and Standards Committee Mr. Sonny Abbasi, Committee Chairman, summarized the recommendations of the Codes and Standards Committee for the Board.

The standing motion of the committee was seconded by Mr. Sean Farrell to adopt proposed regulations for the Uniform Statewide Building Code. A substitute motion was made by Mr. Keith Johnson to remove regulations regarding school barricade devices and adopt the remaining regulations. Mr. Friedman seconded the amended motion. The amended motion failed on a 2-10 vote. The original motion passed on a 10-2 vote.

The standing motion of the committee was seconded by Mr. Farrell to adopt proposed regulations for the Statewide Fire Prevention Code. A substitute motion was made by Mr. Johnson to remove regulations regarding school barricade devices and adopt the remaining regulations. Mr. Friedman seconded the amended motion. The amended motion failed on a 2-10 vote. The original motion passed on an 11-1 vote.

The standing motion of the committee was seconded by Mr. Farrell to adopt regulations for the Virginia Amusement Device Regulations. The motion passed unanimously.

The standing motion of the committee was seconded by Mr. Farrell to adopt regulations for the Industrialized Building Safety Regulations. The motion passed unanimously.

The standing motion of the committee seconded by Mr. Farrell to adopt regulations for the Manufactured Home Safety Regulations. The motion passed unanimously.

The standing motion of the committee was seconded by Mr. Farrell to adopt regulations for the Virginia Certification Standards. The motion passed unanimously.

The standing motion of the committee was seconded by Mr. Farrell to adopt the code change cycle schedule. The motion passed unanimously.

The standing motion of the committee was seconded by Mr. Farrell to approve the mandatory energy training policy. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Bylaws

Mr. Flanders summarized changes to Board Bylaws to extend the term limit, in accordance with state code, for the Directory of Regulatory Compliance. He also noted a change merging the Housing and Community Development Committees. On motion properly made and seconded, the Board adopted the amended bylaws.

Housing and Community Development

DHCD Director Erik Johnston and DHCD Associate Director of Community Development Division, Rebecca Rowe, updated the Board on possible revisions to the Industrial Revitalization Fund guidelines. Staff indicated they will return to the board in January requesting final adoption after receiving input from stakeholders.

Mr. Flanders updated the Board on the Residential Executory Real Estate Contracts process for formalizing best practice guidelines for rent to own contracts. Mr. Flanders noted that a public comment period was set to begin for stakeholders. The Board conveyed that the public comment period should be longer than usual to accommodate for the General Assembly session.

Code Change Process Update

Ms. Cindy Davis, Deputy Director of Building and Fire Regulation at DHCD, summarized the code process and the status of future subworkgroup meetings.

Mr. Sadler noted that he would like to see further work done on trying to find a compromise between stakeholders on school barricade devices.

Reports and Information

Mr. Johnston reported that VHDA had added minority home ownership and public housing transformation to its list of priorities.

Mr. Gregory reported that Virginia Fire Services Board (VFSB) was proud to announce that firefighters and EMTs had accrued over one billion hours of training. Mr. Johnson also noted that Garret Dyer had been appointed as the new State Fire Marshal.

Mr. Johnston reported on a variety of recent Governor's announcements. Mr. Semones requested an overview at a future Board meeting on both veteran homelessness issues and administrative definitions regarding homelessness. Mr. Abbasi requested an overview for a future Board meeting on programs specific to the Amazon Headquarters in Northern Virginia.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to be discussed.

New Business

There was no new business to be discussed.

Board Matter

Mr. Flanders noted that conflict of interest disclosure forms would be sent via email after the first of the year.

Future Meetings

Discussion ensued regarding the 2020 meeting schedule. The Board will meet next on January 28 with additional information to be sent to finalize March and June meeting dates.

Adjournment

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