

**BOARD OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
MEETING
10:17 A.M., September 2, 2021
Tuckahoe Area Library
Henrico, VA**

Members Present

Sonny Abbasi
Claudia Cotton
Susan Dewey
Andrew Friedman
Richard Gregory
Sylvia Hallock
Abigail Johnson
Keith Johnson
Monique Johnson
Brett Meringoff

Members Absent

Sean Farrell
Mark Jackson
Paykon Sarmadi
Patty Shields

Call to Order

Mr. Sonny Abbasi, Chair of the Board of Housing and Community Development, called the meeting of the Board to order at 10:17 a.m.

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. Abbasi opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. William Penniman, representing the Sierra Club, spoke regarding implementation of House Bill 2227. He indicated the importance of the legislation in specifying additional actions the Board can take to ensure consideration of energy efficiency in the building code. He also expressed concern regarding transparency and the proposed change to the Board Workgroup Policy.

Mr. Bob Shippee, representing the Sierra Club, spoke of the importance of implementing House Bill 2227 and encouraged the full adoption of the International Energy Conservation Code.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Abbasi and properly seconded by Mr. Brett Meringoff to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 Board of Housing and Community Development meeting. The motion passed.

Election of Officers

Mr. Erik Johnston, Director of DHCD, opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Board. Mr. Meringoff nominated Mr. Abbasi for the position of Chair. Hearing no further nominations, the floor was closed. Mr. Abbasi was elected as Chair.

Mr. Abbasi opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair of the Board. Mr. Abbasi nominated Mr. Meringoff for the position of Vice Chair. Hearing no further nominations, the floor was closed. Mr. Meringoff was elected as Vice Chair.

Mr. Abbasi noted that Board members who were interested in committee leadership roles should contact staff for more information.

Report of the Housing and Community Development Committee

Mr. Andrew Friedman, Committee Chair, presented the committee recommendation of approval of the Enterprise Zone Regulations. Ms. Claudia Cotton seconded the standing motion of the committee to approve the regulations. The motion passed.

Amusement Device Technical Advisory Committee

Ms. Cindy Davis, Deputy Director of Building and Fire Regulation at DHCD presented the recommendation of Michael Dellinger for appointment to the Amusement Device Technical Advisory Committee (ADTAC). Ms. Davis noted Mr. Dellinger would represent code officials and was a recommendation of the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association (VBCOA). Ms. Sylvia Hallock motioned to appoint Mr. Dellinger as a member of the ADTAC. Mr. Meringoff seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Code Change Cycle Update

Ms. Davis presented a brief overview of the code change cycle over the past few years, indicating an increase in volume and complexity of code change proposals. Ms. Davis indicated staff had solicited input regarding process improvements via an open discussion session and by receiving written comments regarding changes to the process. Mr. Abbasi noted there had been significant input during this process. Ms. Davis noted three recommendations resulting from the input 1) Code change proposals would only be accepted during the proposed phase 2) There would not be a new technical advisory committee; staff will summarize non-consensus proposals 3) There will be a mechanism

through cdpVA for stakeholders and the board to comply with the provisions of HB 2227.

Board members discussed the potential changes for the 2021 Code update cycle. Board members noted interest in additional data and the availability of subject matter experts. Board members expressed interest in a meeting prior to voting on code proposals that would be a question and answer session only. Staff indicated they would work with counsel to discuss different options for this type of meeting.

Staff indicated they would bring forward formal policy recommendations for consideration by the Board at their October meeting.

Board Member
Workgroup Policy

Mr. Flanders presented the Board Member Workgroup Policy indicating staff recommended rescinding the policy in order to best serve stakeholders and allow for virtual meetings. After discussion, it was emphasized that stakeholders would still be aware of meeting details and that Board members would still have access to meeting summaries. Ms. Susan Dewey motioned to rescind the Board Workgroup Policy. Ms. Abby Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Fire Inspector
Certification

Ms. Sandi Morris, Director of the Jack Proctor Virginia Building Code Academy and Mr. Jared Goff of the Virginia Fire Marshal Academy presented updates regarding recent work to clarify and streamline certification and continuing education requirements for Fire Inspector Certifications. After discussion amongst Board members, Fire Programs and DHCD staff were commended for their hard work to provide clarity on this important topic.

Reports and Information

Ms. Susan Dewey, Chief Executive Officer of Virginia Housing, updated the Board on funding scheduled to be received by Virginia Housing from the American Rescue Plan Act. Funding from the Act will be utilized to prevent foreclosure and displacement of homeowners and Virginia's Plan has been submitted for review to the US Treasury. Ms. Dewey also noted the first 3D printed home has been sited in Virginia.

Ms. Dewey provided an update on the Housing Opportunity Tax Credit noting that pricing was uncertain at this point and that the Virginia Housing Board of Commissioner's would consider rules and regulations for the program at their October meeting.

Mr. Rick Gregory and Mr. Keith Johnson presented an update from the Virginia Fire Service Board (VFSB). The Board has elected Scott Garber as its chair and will be meeting during the First Responders Conference in September. The VFSB has approved a draft version of a new Memorandum of Understanding between the VFSB and the BHCD.

Mr. Johnston noted that Cindy Davis would likely become the next president of the International Code Council (ICC) effective at their upcoming September conference. Mr. Johnston and the Board commended Ms. Davis. Mr. Johnston noted that the Insurance Institute for Building and Home Safety (IBHS) has rated Virginia as number two in their ranking of building codes and related training and enforcement in hurricane prone states.

Mr. Johnston presented information on the Rent Relief Program (RRP) noting work done with Outreach and Engagement Grants and utilizing Treasury Guidance to most effectively serve the Commonwealth. Mr. Johnston also noted significant funding allocated through the American Rescue Plan Act during the special session of the General Assembly that would be directed towards the following DHCD program areas: Broadband, the Industrial Revitalization Fund, and Virginia Main Street.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Board Matters

There were no further board matters.

Future Board Meeting
Dates

Mr. Johnston noted that the next Board meeting will take place on October 25 and that the Board retreat will take place December 13 and 14.

Adjournment

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