

**BOARD OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
MEETING
April 7, 2003
Richmond, Virginia**

Members Present

Mr. Richard Ahuja
Mr. James Benson
Mr. Gary Bowman
Ms. Betty Ann Davis
Mr. Thomas Fleury
Ms. Ann Hunnicutt
Mr. John Kilgore
Mr. Jack Loeb
Ms. Rene Miller
Mr. Phillip Paquette
Mr. William Thompson

Members Absent

Ms. Susan Dewey
Mr. Evans Thomas

Call to Order

Mr. Gary Bowman, Chairman, called the meeting of the Board of Housing and Community Development to order.

Roll Call

The roll was called by Mr. Stephen Calhoun of the Department's Policy Office. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2003 meeting of the Board. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

New Board Members

The Chairman introduced a new member of the Board, Mr. Thomas Fleury. Mr. Fleury spoke briefly on his background and interest in the Board.

Public Comment

Mr. Bowman opened a public comment period for persons wishing to address the Board. Seven persons requested to speak. The first speaker, Mr. Tom Forl of Roanoke, Virginia spoke of his support for regulatory provisions requiring Arc-fault protection circuit breakers and thanked the Board for their support of this safety device.

Mr. Jake Pauls spoke about stair geometry issues and provided his personal thoughts on the Virginia regulatory system and the Board of Housing and Community Development. Mr. Pauls provided written comments. Ms. Carolyn Williams also spoke on the issue of stair geometry safety issues. Ms. Williams provided written comments to the Board.

Ms. Barbara Goodwin spoke on issues related to the work of certified interior designers and certified designers being registered design professionals. Mr. Nelson Williams of the Virginia Structural Engineers Council also spoke on the issues related to registered design professionals.

Ms. Jan Mitchell of the Virginia Fires Services Board Code Committee spoke about the process for the adoption of the USBC and the SFPC and thanked the Board for their work through the adoption process.

Mr. Mike Toalson of the Home Builders Association of Virginia thanked the Board for their work throughout the regulatory adoption process. Mr. Toalson reported that there is no study that has been conducted to date that shows a relation between stair geometry and stair related injuries. Mr. Toalson also requested an additional amendment to the USBC regarding basement egress.

Report of the Codes
and Standards

Mr. Bowman reported on the morning Codes and Standard Committee meeting and the recommendations of the Committee for final regulations. There was a discussion of a requested amendment to the basement egress provision of the USBC. The Board decided not to make additional amendments at this time but to study the issue further.

Mr. Bowman read adoption orders for each proposed regulation as follows:

1. *Uniform Statewide Building Code* - Mr. Bill Thompson made a motion to adopt the final regulation. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.
2. *Statewide Fire Prevention Code* – Mr. Phil Paquette made a motion to adopt the final regulation. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.

3. *Virginia Certification Standards* – Mr. Richard Ahuja made a motion to adopt the final regulation. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.
4. *Virginia Amusement Device Regulation* – Mr. Richard Ahuja made a motion to adopt the final regulation. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.
5. *Virginia Standards for Individual and Regional Code Academies* – Mr. Phil Paquette made a motion to adopt the final regulation. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.
6. *Virginia Industrialized Building Safety Regulation* – Mr. Richard Ahuja made a motion to adopt the final regulation. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.

The Adoption Order for each regulation is attached to and made a part of these minutes as Appendix 1.

Consolidated Plan

Mr. Bill Shelton, Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, provided an overview of HUD programs that address housing and community development needs. Mr. Bill Ernst of the Department of Housing and Community Development's Policy Office outlined the planning process for the development of a Consolidated Plan for Virginia to be submitted to HUD.

Report of VHDA

Mr. Bill Shelton provided the VHDA report and spoke about budget issues related to the sale of the portfolio of the Virginia Housing Partnership Fund. More information about this sale will be presented to the Board during future meetings.

Report of the Virginia Fire Services Board

Mr. Paquette reported that the VFSB has not met since the last meeting of the Board of Housing and Community Development. The next meeting will be during June 2003. Mr. Paquette reported on grants for fire professional training and for computer systems and computer equipment.

Report of the Director

Mr. Shelton reported on the 2003 General Assembly session. Mr. Ernst reviewed key bills passed during the session that will impact the Board and/or the Department. Mr. Shelton updated the Board on the most recent Community Improvement Grants awarded. Mr. Shelton reported on the recent Telecommunications Conference convened in Abingdon, Virginia and recent meetings of the

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Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). Virginia will host an ARC conference during October 2003. Mr. Shelton also reported on recent meetings between the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Department of Fire Programs regarding fire safety. These meetings are being held in response to recent fires in other states (including Rhode Island) where there was a high loss of life.

Board Matters

Mr. Bowman reported on committee assignments for the Board. A copy of the assignments is attached and made a part of these minutes as Appendix 2.

Mr. Ahuja expressed thanks to Mr. Shelton and Ms. Susan Dewey, Executive Director of VHDA, for their work with housing programs that have benefited Virginia.

Mr. Bill Thompson provided an update on scout camps that use black powder. Mr. Ed Altizer, State Fire Marshal, provided information on where to apply for a black powder permit.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, May 19, 2003.

Adjournment

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

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