

**BOARD OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
MEETING**

10:00 A.M., January 25, 2021

Digital Meeting Only

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency and the need to provide social distancing and prohibit large gatherings, the meeting was held electronically in accordance with the State of Emergency Declared by the Governor and the 2020 amendments to the Appropriations Act. The meeting was held via Google Meet.

Members Present

Sonny Abbasi
Claudia Cotton
Susan Dewey
Sean Farrell
Andrew Friedman
Sylvia Hallock
Mark Jackson
Abigail Johnson
Keith Johnson
Monique Johnson
Brett Meringoff

Members Absent

Richard Gregory
Patricia "Patty" Shields

Call to Order

Mr. Sonny Abbasi, Chair of the Board of Housing and Community Development, called the meetings to order and recognized Mr. Kyle Flanders of the Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) Policy Office to read a brief statement.

Mr. Abbasi then recognized Mr. Andrew Friedman, Committee Chairman, to begin the Housing and Community Development Committee meeting.

Mr. Abbasi called the meeting of the Board to order at 10:35 a.m.

Roll Call

The roll was called by Mr. Flanders. Mr. Flanders reported that a quorum was present.

Public Comment

Mr. Abbasi noted procedures for offering public comment and recognized Mr. Flanders to call the speakers.

No member of the public appeared before the Board for public comment. The public comment period was closed.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Farrell and properly seconded by Ms. Abby Johnson to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020

Board of Housing and Community Development meeting. The motion passed (Yeas: Abbasi, Cotton, Dewey, Farrell, Friedman, Hallock, Jackson, A. Johnson, K. Johnson, M. Johnson, Meringoff; Nays: None).

Report of the Housing and Community Development Committee

Mr. Friedman presented proposed changes to the Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF) guidelines altering the method by which distress is calculated. The recommendation of the committee came as a standing motion. The motion was seconded by Ms. Abby Johnson. The motion passed (Yeas: Abbasi, Cotton, Dewey, Farrell, Friedman, Hallock, Jackson, A. Johnson, K. Johnson, M. Johnson, Meringoff; Nays: None).

Overview of the Code Update Cycle

Mr. Abbasi recognized Ms. Cindy Davis, Deputy Director of the Building and Fire Regulations Department at DHCD to present on the status of the Code Update Cycle.

Ms. Davis informed the Board that final regulations approved at the December meeting of the Board had been approved by the Attorney General's office and are now subject to approval of the Governor's office. Upon approval, the changes will be published in the Virginia Register with a 30-day comment period. It is anticipated that the final regulations will go into effect later this year.

Reports

Ms. Dewey presented an update on the work of Virginia Housing, including the partnership with DHCD on an affordable housing report and the Rent and Mortgage Relief Program. Ms. Dewey also informed the Board that Virginia Housing is in the process of updating the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program (LIHTC) qualified allocation plan.

Mr. Keith Johnson noted that the Virginia Fire Services Board had not met since the last BHCD meeting and that there was nothing to report.

Mr. Johnston thanked Board member Monique Johnson for her help as a guest in the new Community Vitality Series, which is an informational series focused on community revitalization in Virginia.

Mr. Johnston noted that the Governor's Budget has proposals that would increase funding for the Virginia Main Street Program to help bolster Main Street recovery, an increase in the Housing Trust Fund, and an increase for the Office of Broadband.

Mr. Johnston recognized Ms. Kristen Dahlman as the new Policy and Legislative Director at DHCD.

Mr. Johnston noted that a bill regarding the Enterprise Zone program is currently being considered in the General Assembly. The bill increases eligibility for SWAM businesses and changes guidelines in response to the upcoming minimum wage increase.

Mr. Johnston noted that the stimulus package approved by the federal government in December included funding for rental assistance and utility relief as well as an extension of the eviction moratorium.

Mr. Johnston noted that the first Regional Green House Gas Initiative (RGGI) auction allocation will be received in March and the Housing Innovations in Energy Efficiency (HIEE) Stakeholder Advisory Group has met several times to consider ways to utilize the allocation.

Board Matters

Mr. Flanders reminded the Board that annual financial disclosures are due on the 1st of February. A reminder will be sent to all members.

Future Board Meeting
Dates

Mr. Johnston noted that the next Board meeting will take place on March 15.

Adjournment

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