

Minutes of the Affordable Housing Council (AHC) Meeting

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

Hybrid Meeting – 478 Prospect Blvd and Zoom

Minutes of Meeting:

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Mark Long called the meeting to order at 2:54 p.m. and reviewed the protocol for the meeting.

In Attendance:

Members Present: Mark Long, Hugh Gordon, Patricia Galloway, Malcolm Furgol, Kimberly Ashkenazi, Veronica Henry

Members Absent:

Jason Wiley, Bruce Zavos, Angie Lollar, Tiffany Fossett, Assan Sosseh

Public Officials / Staff Liaisons:

Jessica Fitzwater, Liaison, Frederick County Council, Susan Brown, Director, Department of Housing and Community Development. Lauren Metz, Community Program Manager/Community Development, Christine Kay, Citizen's Services Director

Guests / Visitors:

Eric Anderson, Executive Director, Habitat For Humanity, Bruce Gourley, Applicant for Affordable Housing Council, Gary Bennett, Applicant for Affordable Housing Council

Approval of Agenda: Patricia Galloway made a motion to approve the agenda. Hugh Gordon seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes for April 12, 2022, meeting: Patricia Galloway made a motion to approve the April 12, 2022 minutes. Malcolm seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Business:

1. Mark Long noted that he had been advised that the Council would attempt to be more careful not to allow an open dialogue with guests in attendance, especially during formal discussions.
2. Hugh Gordon made a motion to go into closed session per General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b)(1) of the Open Meetings Act: "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals."

PAGE 2

June 14, 2022

Affordable Housing Council

Specific Topic: To Interview Applicants to the AHC and make decision to Recommend, or Not Recommend, Appointment to the Affordable Housing Council.

NOTE: AHC members, and support staff, will go into Closed Session at the end of the today's meeting, and will not return to Open Meeting. Patricia Galloway seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. Susan Brown reported that Frederick County had applied for 2.3 million dollars of rental assistance for Frederick County tenants. She said the application will take several weeks to process and approve. The funds can be used to assist those struggling to find options to maintain housing.

4. Mark Long motioned to approve the officer nominations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022: Hugh Gordon – Chair, Malcolm Furgol - Vice Chair, Tiffany Fossett – Secretary. Patricia Galloway seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Mark Long also noted that Assan Sosseh had submitted his resume for consideration of being reappointed to the Frederick County Affordable Housing Council. Hugh Gordon motioned to approve Assan Sosseh's request for renomination. Patricia Galloway seconded the motion which was approved.

Mark Long, Kimberly Ashklenazi, and Mary Ellen Mitchell were thanked for their years of service on the Affordable Housing Council.

Mark Long also noted that with the two possible candidates that we are interviewing for open seats there are other seats open due to the recent resignations of Mary Ellen Mitchell. We have three open position we were attempting to fill from the most recent advertisement and only two applications to consider.

The Council needs to evaluate open and current seats to determine the "category" of Council members. We may need to re-classify the current participants to make sure we have representation per our bylaws and that we are well represented across the community we serve.

Council members were asked to think about individuals that might have a positive impact on the Affordable Housing Council and encourage them to submit an application when the open positions are advertised.

5. **Messaging** – Hugh Gordon said he hopes to continue to get out into the community to provide updates on the work of the Council. Hugh also mentioned that one of the candidates being considered as an applicant for the Council has marketing background and may be able to provide guidance for our messaging efforts.

Jessica Fitzwater noted that there should be a more regular use of the videos that were produced during hearings with citizens concerned about the impact of affordable housing on their communities.

PAGE 3

June 14, 2022

Affordable Housing Council

Jessica also suggested submitting a request for a messaging budget during the budget cycle.

Policy – Hugh Gordon and Malcolm Furgol met with City Aldermen at a city workshop on June 8 to discuss housing priorities.

- 6. Updates – County Council Liaison Jessica Fitzwater** – Jessica said that there are three different drafts of the revised MPDU proposal. It continues to be a work in progress. Derek Shackelford from the City of Frederick is working with Jessica to make sure that the City’s MPDU revised ordinance and the County’s ordinance mirror each other. There is an APFO update proposed by Steve McKay that makes significant changes to the APFO ordinance. It has impact on the South Frederick Corridor Regional Plan that impacts housing. The Council needs to keep a watchful eye on this proposal.

Guests – Ryan Trout recently sent a letter requesting 5 million dollars for emergency rental assistance from Frederick County. The letter also included a request from Frederick City for 0.5 million dollars and a request for the County to advocate with Secretary Holt for 2 million dollars. Ryan said that there needs to be consideration for funding after the end of 2022. If this funding is received, it will help to offset a gap that is projected in September for rental assistance funding.

Susan Brown was appointed to take Mary Ellen Mitchell’s place as the liaison to the Frederick County Continuum of Care Collaborative. Susan is replacing Mary Ellen Mitchell at their June 29th meeting.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Closed For Executive Session to Consider Applicants For The Frederick County Affordable Housing Council:

After interviewing Affordable Housing Council candidates, Kimberly Ashkenazi motioned to accept the applications for Bruce Gourley and Gary Bennett. Malcolm Furgol seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

The Frederick County Affordable Housing Council meets the second Tuesday of each month at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 12, 2022.