

Minutes of the Affordable Housing Council (AHC) Meeting

Tuesday, November 9th, 2021

Virtual via WebEx and

Facebook Live on Frederick County Boards and Commissions Facebook page

Minutes of Meeting:

Welcome and Call to Order

Mark Long called the meeting to order at 2:30 and reviewed the virtual meeting protocols.

Attendance

Members Present: Mark Long, Malcolm Furgol, Assan Sosseh, Kandy Alexander, Mary Ellen Mitchell, Hugh Gordon, Tiffany Fossett, Jason Wiley, Kimberly Ashkenazi, Bruce Zavos, Patricia Galloway

Members absent: Angie Liddiad

Public Officials/Staff Liaisons: Jessica Fitzwater, Liaison, Frederick County Council; Ryan Trout, DHCD Housing Program Manager

Guests/Visitors: Brian Carmody and Tim Romero, ContainerModal; Ed Hinde; Jodie Ostoich, Executive Director, IHA; Milton Bailey, Department of Housing and Community Development; Susan Brown, Director, Department of Housing and Community Development ; Alan Feinberg; Diana Fulchiron, Director of Community Impact, Community Foundation of Frederick County; Ruth Waxter, Assistant Director, Housing and Human Services, City of Frederick; Veronica Henry, United Way of Frederick County

Approval of Agenda: With no changes, Hugh made a motion to approve the agenda. Assan seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes for September 14, 2021, and October 12, 2021, meeting: As amended, Hugh motioned to approve the minutes. Malcolm seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Business

1. **Update on AHC meeting venue/format.**
 - a. Mark reported meetings will remain virtual through January.
2. **Presentation on IHA** by Jodie Ostoich, Executive Director, IHA
 - a. Updates on employees, finances, accomplishments, projects, and community needs

3. **Presentation about ContainerModal** by Timothy Romero and Brian Carmody
 - a. ContainerModal is a factory that builds steel modular container units.
 - b. Jodie Ostoich asks about sweat equity programs connections; Brian Carmody responds in favor of connecting.
 - c. Assan asks for price comparison; Brian Carmody responds with price factors and an estimate of \$150/sq foot or approximately \$96,000 - \$140,000.
 - d. Bruce asks about jurisdiction permitting; Brian Carmody responds that permitting varies, but more jurisdictions are adapting.
 - e. Bruce asks about façade options; Brian Carmody responds with options.
4. Discussion/Affirmation of **AHC Initiatives for 2021-2022**
 - a. Presented by Mark
 - b. Focus on Initiative #3) Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit Ordinance – Impact fee burden
 - c. Assan provides more information about Initiative #3 and offers to champion the initiative.
 - d. Councilwoman Fitzwater provides more information/background on Initiative #4) Advocate for larger piece of Recordation Tax for Housing Initiative Fund (HIF).
 - e. Mary Ellen provides information on Attorney General’s listening session on Access to Counsel and other programs.
 - f. Hugh moves to accept the revised Affordable Housing Council Initiatives for 2021-2022. Malcolm seconds the motion. **Council adopts List of Initiatives.**
5. **Amend/Update Chapter 1-22 Article I**, Development Impact Fee Procedures and Requirements, and Article II, Public School Development Impact Fee, of Frederick Co.
 - a. Presented by Mark
 - b. Councilwoman Fitzwater provides background on the Bill.
 - i. Ryan Trout clarifies relevance to MDPU impact fee exemption.
 - c. Public Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, November 23, @ 7:00PM
 - d. Bruce states he thinks impact fees should be waived, not deferred, for affordable housing.
6. Updates from on-going Committees
 - Messaging/Education – Hugh
 - Coalition of the Homeless, Housing Sub Committee – Mary Ellen
7. **Open Meeting Acts training** – Mark

Updates from Staff Liaisons and Elected Official Liaisons:

- Susan Brown, Director, DHCD
- Ryan Trout, DHCD Housing Program Manager
- Jessica Fitzwater- County Councilwoman

Public comment: No public comment

Comments and sharing by Council Members:

- Malcolm– Community Health Needs Survey public feedback will be virtual Wednesday, January 19, 2-4PM; Available for answering COVID-19 vaccination questions
- Tiffany – Frederick County Office of Sustainability and Environment is providing energy saver grants and audits targeting low-middle income households

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16.

A recording of this meeting can be found on Frederick County Boards and Commissions Facebook page.

The council meets the second Tuesday of each month at 2:30 pm.

~~The next meeting will be December 14, 2021. Cancelled.~~

The next meeting will be January 11, 2022.