

## **Minutes of the Affordable Housing Council (AHC) Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 8, 2022**

**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 2:33 and reviewed the virtual meeting protocols.

#### In Attendance:

Members Present: Mark Long, Malcolm Furgol, Kandy Alexander, Hugh Gordon, Tiffany Fossett, Kimberly Ashkenazi, Jason Wiley, Patricia Galloway, Bruce Zavos, Angie Lollar

Members absent: Mary Ellen Mitchell, Assan Sosseh,

#### Public Officials/Staff Liaisons:

Jessica Fitzwater, Liaison, Frederick County County Council; Derek Shackelford, Liaison, City of Frederick Board of Alderman; Susan Brown, Director, Department of Housing and Community Development; Ruth Waxter, Assistant Director, Housing and Human Services, City of Frederick

#### Guests/Visitors:

Christine Cambareri Kay, Division Director, Citizens Services of Frederick County; Ashli Morris, Family Services Coordinator, Habitat for Humanity; Kara Norman, Executive Director, Downtown Frederick Partnership; Diana Fulchiron, Director of Community Impact, Community Foundation of Frederick County; Veronica Henry, United Way of Frederick County; Ryan Trout, Resident; Alan Feinberg, Resident; Roger Sobkowiak, Human Relations Commission; Kim Halter, Administration Coordinator, Housing & Community Development

Approval of Agenda: With a change of order, Hugh made a motion to approve the agenda. Kandi seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes for January 11, 2021, meeting: Approval of minutes was postponed until March meeting.

### Business

#### **1. Updates from standing Committees**

- a. Messaging/Education – Hugh – The Hugh and Mark Rotary Show!
- b. Policy – Mark – Update on MPDU Workgroup Recommendations.

- i. Council agreed for Mark to be liaison for MDPU workgroup and updates.
  - ii. Councilwoman Fitzwater made comments commending the work of the workgroup and being in favor of moving forward and addressing MPDU Workgroup Recommendations.
- 2. Updates from Staff Liaisons and Elected Official Liaisons:
  - a. Jessica Fitzwater- Reminded AHC the County is reviewing the budget and taking input.
    - i. Councilwoman will be asking for increased funds for the Housing Initiative Fund.
    - ii. Hugh asked about budgeting for new affordable housing relevant videos; Councilwoman Fitzwater was not sure how videos were funded but that a budget request would be appropriate. Susan responded her department has used funds in the past.
    - iii. Councilwoman Fitzwater is looking at opportunities for merging Climate Workgroup recommendations with affordable housing goals.
    - iv. (after Update 2.b. from Ruth Waxter) Malcolm asked Councilwoman Fitzwater if she thinks MDPU legislation will happen before change of administration; Councilwoman Fitzwater responds she would like to keep the momentum moving.
  - b. Ruth Waxter – Assistant Director of Housing, Frederick County of Housing and Human Services
    - i. Department will be working on MDPU ordinance
    - ii. Starting a water bill payment assistance program
    - iii. (after Update 2.a.iv) Ryan asked if water/sewer program is for renters or homeowners; Ruth responded it is for either.
  - c. Derek Shackelford, Alderman, City of Frederick
  - d. Susan Brown, Director, DCHD
    - i. Update on LIHTC projects

### 3. **Roundtable Discussion**

- a. Bruce would like AHC to work on county and city waiving impact fees for affordable housing.
  - i. Alderman Shackelford asked if Bruce is receiving feedback from other officials.
  - ii. Mark asked for clarification on County and City deferment and waiving of impact fees.
  - iii. Ryan Trout encouraged making it “by-right”.
  - iv. Angie Lollard agreed with Ryan’s “by-right” comment.
  - v. Bruce would like immediate action to assist in current development to be followed by long-term action.
- b. Mark brought up topic for absent AHC member Mary Ellen – Adding more deeply affordable housing

- i. Ryan responded it would take a lot of money.
    - ii. Hugh suggested the County and City looking at schools and parks that could be developed for housing.
    - iii. Bruce responded how this has been discussed reasons it has stalled.
    - iv. Ryan Trout said there is a group called YIMBY Maryland trying to encourage legislation for this.
  - c. Bruce brought up concern for additional sprawl due to increase in teleworking since COVID pandemic
    - i. Alan Feinberg made comments on impact of teleworking
    - ii. Ryan Trout made comments about impact.
  - d. Malcom brought up concerns about the health of affordable homes.
    - i. Mark responded with his agreement.
    - ii. Ruth Waxter responded about her department being able to help.
4. Roger brought up experiments about giving incomes to people below poverty line and asking for philanthropic opportunities.
5. Kandi wanted to talk about AHC accomplishments and mission, how members can present the AHC to the community, and the responsibilities of members.
6. Bruce suggested creating an AHC handbook.
7. Councilwoman Fitzwater suggested sharing updates on funding supply/need.

Public comment:

No public comment.

Comments and sharing by Council Members:

- Malcolm- Frederick County Healthcare Coalition announcing public health priorities
- Tiffany – Frederick County Office of Sustainability Power Saver Retrofit Program

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11.

**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 March 8, 2022.