

**Arlington County Housing Commission  
Meeting Notes**

The Housing Commission convened its meeting at **7:04pm** on **May 9, 2024**.

**PRESENT (IN-PERSON)**            Chair Kellen MacBeth  
   Commissioner Anika Montgomery  
   Commissioner Karen Serfis  
   Commissioner Katie Wenger  
   Commissioner Zack Linick  
   Commissioner Jason Schwartz  
   Commissioner Margaret McGilvray  
   Commissioner Nikki Blake  
   Commissioner Sara Rubalcava

**PRESENT (VIRTUALLY)**        Commissioner Michael Hemminger  
   DAC Liaison Doris Ray

**ABSENT**                            Commissioner Elizabeth Escovar  
   Commissioner Danny Ross  
   Commissioner Joseph Ventrone

**STAFF**                              Alex McMillen, Richard Tucker, Anne Venezia, Samia Byrd

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[View the Meeting Recording Here](#)

**Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

There were no public comments not on the agenda.

**Approval of Notes – Action**

There were no edits to the notes. Karen Serfis made a motion to approve the notes and Anika Montgomery seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

- [View the March 7, 2024, Housing Commission notes here.](#)

**Announcements by the Chair – Information**

Kellen MacBeth informed the Commission there was a new electronic meetings law passed at the state level. The Commission will have to pass a new electronic meetings policy at the June or July meeting.

Kellen MacBeth also informed the Commission of the opportunity to provide feedback on the Commission Advisory Handbook, which is currently being updated. Staff will send directions to the Commission directly on how to provide feedback.

Kellen MacBeth informed the Commission of new electronic security policy to better secure virtual meetings. Staff will be implementing these security measures in future meetings.

**COG Regional Principles of Equitable Development – Information**

Staff from the Department of Community Planning, Development and Housing presented the item.

- [View the slides here.](#)

Kellen MacBeth asked what the next steps are for these principles now that they have been adopted by the County Board. Staff answered they have not, at this point, discussed making an actual guide for staff to use but that the first step is to make sure everyone has them and understands them. There will also be an opportunity during the Comprehensive Plan update to incorporate these principles, which helps guide all of the County's work. Staff also mentioned several County staff recently finished workshops and trainings with COG to help them implement these ideas and staff will incorporate that feedback as well.

Kellen MacBeth asked when the Comprehensive Plan public engagement begins. Staff answered it won't start for a few months as they just kicked off internally.

Karen Serfis asked if recipients of county funds will have to meet these guidelines. Staff noted they have begun to include equity and diversity considerations into their work, and they will continue to do so.

Jason Schwartz asked if other jurisdictions are planning to adopt the principles. Staff answered they hope so and that some neighboring jurisdictions could soon.

#### **Legislative Priorities Subcommittee – Information**

Kellen MacBeth introduced the item. The Legislative Priorities Subcommittee would work over the next few months to further research and prepare the legislative priorities for the Commission. Nikki Blake agreed to Chair the Subcommittee. Kellen MacBeth said ideally recommendations would be prepared by September.

Sara Rubalcava asked if the Commission should consider taking a stance on elected officials in the legislative priorities. Kellen MacBeth said the Commission works at the pleasure of the County Board and so they should stick to legislative priorities and not endorsing elected officials.

Jason Schwartz said it could be useful to look at the states' Housing Commission that is currently reviewing new bills concerning housing.

Karen Serfis asked if Commissioners can meet with delegates. Kellen MacBeth answered that would be inappropriate to do as a commissioner and to leave that to the County Board.

Kellen MacBeth said the Joint Subcommittee with the Human Rights Commission will not be going forward at this time. He said he heard from the Board Liaisons that there is interest in further researching Community Land Trusts. Kellen MacBeth also noted that they have significant up-front costs.

#### **Development Updates – Information**

Staff had one development update on the Barcroft Apartments. It was an update on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Use Permit for Barcroft Apartments. The subject site contains 114 of the 1,335 total units. The unit mix is not changing but there are additional Type A units and larger family sized units being added.

Kellen MacBeth asked why all entrances won't have canopies as it is a resident safety issue. Staff answered that the Applicant is not adding canopies as it may hurt the ability to receive historic tax credits. The Commission was in support of the project but wants all entrances to have canopies.

Margaret McGilvray asked if the canopy determination was made by the Applicant or the historic tax credit agency. Staff answered the Applicant is requesting it this way because they need to have the opportunity to earn tax credits going forward.

- [View the Development Updates here.](#)

Kellen MacBeth provided a short budget update and asked staff to provide more information on what Housing Commission asks were met.

Sara Rubalcava provided a short update on the Crystal City Block Plan W SPRC meeting she attended.

Staff shared an update on the next few items that will come to the Commission, including a few site plan requests and the Barcroft MFDP.

### **Subcommittee Reports – Information**

Margaret McGilvray let the Commission know the community development process had begun.

Katie Wenger said the first C2E2 and Housing Subcommittee meeting will be in the next month or two.

Meeting adjourned at **9:30pm**.