

MEETING MINUTES OF THE ARLINGTON COUNTY TENANT LANDLORD

March 13, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 7:04

Commissioners present in person: David Timm, Kirit Mookerjee, Andrew Ferreira, Griffin Koupaul, John Reynolds,

Present (virtually): Kristin Clegg,

Commissioners absent: Aaron Almanza, Emily Camardo

STAFF: Rolda Nedd, Hector Mercado

No Public Comment

Meeting minutes approval: Approved with correction. Commissioner Ferreria moved to approve, and Commissioner Reynolds seconded.

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

Item #1

Budget:

The Commissions' discussion centered on proposed Housing Commission Recommendations.

General discussion: Budget items have generally maintained at current levels or increased slightly. Pilot program for Youth Aging Out of Foster care is a new program.

Question: What would be the difference to the housing grant budgeted amount if housing grants recipients paid 30% of income instead of 40% that is currently paid. Staff would provide response prior to the meeting.

What is the source of "one-time funding" is it left over grant funding, funding from reserves, funding from the state.

CAF Inspections – what data is collected, and how shared with other departments? What percentage of units is being inspected? Can we double the inspections with funding not being used in two vacant positions. Request for Jonathan Wright to present inspection reports.

What was previous amount? For homelessness services before addition of \$500,000. What is homelessness rate?

HC Recommendations

1. Proposed 30M how arrived at this? Would question Kellen. Supportive of increasing AHIF .
2. Resident Councils- support for development of resident councils at CAF properties. If direct pipeline from Councils could be source for TLC, direct connection to TLC, could be more effective

way of dealing with public comments/complaints. Reach out to Barcroft resident council and talk about what's working and what isn't. More information about, resident councils. Barcroft and their resident council, how working and how's it going? Pose questions to residents.

3. Fair Housing – more of HC purview. TLC subcommittee report on Source of Funds to be shared at next meeting.
4. Equity analysis- not sure what. Is there any discussion on what funding is required for doing equity analysis, if there is ongoing discussion how is this taking place; who is doing it? Cost estimate.

Item #2.

Board member Maureen Coffey addressed the Commission. Shared views on housing in Arlington as the only Board member who is a renter. 61% of county residents are renters therefore policies must be renter focused. Her interest is in creating a sustainable living environment and also increasing renter engagement on Commissions and other areas to include their perspectives. Apartment assessments increased more than single family assessments which has an impact on rents.

Her perspective on the budget highlighted the increased allocations made to the AHIF budget due to conversations with the County Manager.

Noted that funding for Eviction Prevention was decreasing and needs are increasing. Few tenant protections in Virginia. She commended expansion of the local Housing Grants program.

Commented on proposed cuts to 2 planner positions in CPHD when increased staff capacity is needed to review the Comprehensive Plan and other work plan items.

On the comment about other Housing activities, initiatives such as Housing Land Trusts and policies in nearby jurisdictions Ms Coffey agreed that actions by peer localities could be considered. The concern is the ability to balance present need with future needs.

Item # 3

Discussion on Civic Engagement article from ARLNow. This discussion centered on how to encourage renters to participate in Commissions such as TLC. How to provide education and share information on resources and services.

The issue of the Outreach Subcommittee preparing information for renters was discussed. Staff will provide subcommittee meeting minutes, lawyer's opinion on distribution of materials to renters and information package distributed to CAF renters for the Commission to review.

Actions:

Staff to follow up on several Budget questions.

Staff to send Outreach subcommittee meeting minutes, County Lawyers response and invitation to whole Commission for subcommittee meetings.

Commissioner Andrew Ferreira was named as Vice Chair.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 motion made by Commissioner Lanford and seconded by Commissioner Ferreira.