

Minutes of the Fairfax County Tenant-Landlord Commission

February 15, 2018

Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Conference Room 9/10
Commissioner Fielding presiding

Attendees:

Commissioners Fielding, Harberg, Geier-Smith,
Purnell

Absentees:

Kocsis, Park, Gomez

Staff Attending:

Michael S. Liberman, Director
Cable and Consumer Services
Rebecca L. Makely, Director
Consumer Services Division
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief
Consumer Affairs Branch
Vee Johnson, Consumer Specialist
Consumer Affairs Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Chairman Fielding.

Minutes

- A motion was made by Commissioner Geier-Smith and seconded by Commissioner Purnell to approve the minutes from December 21, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- Chairman Fielding discussed the Mental Health First Aid Class he attended in January. He described the training as outstanding.
- An update was provided regarding the Herndon Downtown Redevelopment. The agreement between the Town of Herndon and Comstock Herndon Venture LC, proposes a redevelopment project comprised of approximately 281 residential apartments, retail space, an Arts Center and an approximately 761 space parking garage. Information about the site plan and proposed design was shared. Chairman Fielding will keep the Commission updated.

Director's Report

- Director Makely outlined the FY 2019 budget process. On February 20th, the County Executive will present the FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan. The Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings on the budget from April 10-12th. The budget mark-up, which determines the budget package and tax rate is April 24th. The adoption of the FY 2019 Budget is May 1st and will go into effect July 1, 2018. A budget priority for the Board is a full compensation plan for employees.
- Director Liberman shared information about the County priorities in response to the opioid crisis and the Diversion First Program.

- Branch Chief Jones shared information about National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW), which is March 4-10th, 2018. Event information was distributed and would be emailed to Commissioners. They were encouraged to visit Consumer Affairs on Facebook and listen to consumer podcasts.
- Consumer Affairs' participation in the Silver Shield campaign was highlighted. Educational information developed by Silver Shield was distributed to Commissioners.

Staff Report

- A summary was provided regarding a private landlord who was not maintaining the plumbing and mechanical systems in a condominium, which resulted in the growth of mold. After intervention from Consumer Affairs and a notice of violations issued by the Department of Code Compliance, repairs and replacement of fixtures were completed by the landlord over a period of four months.
- Consumer Affairs will be an exhibitor at the 8th Annual Northern Virginia Housing Expo on Saturday, March 24, 2018 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the George Washington Middle School. Commissioners were invited to join Consumer Affairs at this event.

Commission Matters

- The calendar was reviewed. No updates at this time.
- Commissioner Geier-Smith confirmed the importance of the Mental Health First Aid course. Staff is available to make arrangements for Commissioners interested in the class and will email a schedule of upcoming classes.
- Commissioner Geier-Smith inquired about Inova Health System's development of land in Merrifield. Director Liberman shared information about the Board of Supervisor's approved zoning changes that will transform the area into an advanced research and treatment center.
- Commissioner Purnell will share information about NCPW and requested digital copies. Hard copies were provided and event information would be emailed to Commissioners for distribution.

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- Pursuant to Article IV of the ByLaws, Chairman Fielding made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Harberg to elect the following slate of candidates:

Commissioner Geier-Smith	Landlord Vice-Chair
Commissioner Purnell	Tenant Vice-Chair
Commissioner Harberg	Secretary

The slate was elected unanimously.

A summary of amendments related to landlord and tenant laws under consideration by the 2018 Virginia General Assembly were distributed. Commissioners were encouraged to visit the Virginia Legislative Information System to track or follow bills of interest.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Geier-Smith and seconded by Commissioner Purnell to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.