

Minutes of the Fairfax County Tenant-Landlord Commission

June 20, 2019

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

Attendance:

Commissioners Fielding, Geier-Smith, Gomez,
Harberg, Park

Absent:

Commissioner Kocsis, Purnell

Staff Attending:

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

Guest:

Leah Meyer, Reston, Virginia

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Chairman Fielding.

Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Geier-Smith and seconded by Commissioner Harberg to approve the minutes from April 18, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

Report of the Chairman

Chairman Fielding acknowledged Leah Meyer who attended the meeting as an observer.

Chairman Fielding stated that the application by Comstock Herndon Venture, LC, for its redevelopment project in Herndon's downtown, was recently approved. Currently, the plan does not set aside affordable housing units.

Report of the Directors

Director Liberman did not have a report.

Staff Report

A case was summarized regarding a tenant who alleged their landlord did not promptly remediate a mold issue in the tenant's apartment. The tenant obtained a professional assessment, which confirmed the presence of mold. After the tenant filed a complaint with Consumer Affairs, the landlord contacted the tenant and agreed to remediate the mold. The tenant was satisfied with the landlord's response and requested no further intervention from Consumer Affairs.

Commissioners discussed the impact of mold in rental housing. There was discussion regarding actions needed to reduce the emotional response to mold and how landlords are addressing and remediating mold in rental housing.

Commission Matters

Commissioner Harberg did not present any matters.

Commissioner Geier-Smith inquired about new laws that will become effective July 1, 2019. Staff will provide an update at the August meeting.

Commissioner Park did not present any matters.

Commissioner Gomez did not present any matters.

Old Business

None

New Business

Director Makely provided copies of the Tenant-Landlord Commission FY 2019 Annual Report to the Commission and staff. She reviewed the report and stated that final data will be updated at the end of June, which is the end of the County's fiscal year. She answered questions and responded to comments made by Commissioners.

Commissioner Gomez made a motion to approve the Annual Report as presented with final data to be updated at the end of the fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Geier-Smith. The motion carried unanimously. The report will be distributed to the Board of Supervisors.

Director Makely distributed the approved copy of the Tenant-Landlord Arbitration Rules of Procedure.

Commissioner Gomez announced his resignation from the Tenant-Landlord Commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Geier-Smith and seconded by Commissioner Harberg to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.