

Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA)  
Resident Advisory Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FCHRA RESIDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thursday, November 18, 2004

On November 18, 2004, the members of the FCRHA Resident Advisory Council met at 3700 Pender Drive, Fairfax, VA at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Nancy Vaughn, Donna Dye, Paulette Whiteside, Lisa Bathen, Jennifer Waitt, Sandie Simpson, Charlen Kyle, Jersuaem Tegbaru, Pam Cave, Khadijah Baltrop, Vasantha Mba, and John Croley.

ABSENT: Cynthia Thompson, Calvin Nokes, and Gulshan Khan.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Vaughn convened the meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Council approved the minutes of its meeting held on October 12, 2004.

NEW BUSINESS:

On November 4, 2004 the Council had scheduled a regular meeting. Lacking a quorum, the council did not hold a regular meeting. Council members held informal discussions among themselves and with FCRHA staff. Mr. Croley moved that the Council incorporate notes of the informal discussions into the record of the present meeting. Ms. Baltrop seconded. Motion carried.

The position of council Secretary being vacant, Chairman Vaughn asked for nominations. Mr. Croley was nominated, seconded and elected; whereupon Mr. Croley assumed the duties of Secretary.

Ms. Kay Robertson, Strategic Planner, Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) staff person advised that Council had completed discussion of the FCRHA 5-year plan.

Chairman Vaughn asked whether Council members had any further questions or comments on the 5-year plan. No questions appearing, Ms Robertson proceeded with discussion of the plan update for the FCRHA Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2006. A copy of the plan update as presented to the Council is incorporated herein.

Ms. Robertson advised that the plan update was similar to the prior plan. She explained her intent to identify various changes from the prior year, then preceded so. During Ms. Robertson's presentation Council members asked various questions and suggested minor text changes. Ms. Robertson generally accepted suggestions.

Ms. Baltrop advised that in lieu of Section 8 [Housing Choice] vouchers, the Manassas Housing Authority was building housing units, perhaps cooperative housing units. She requested that FCRHA ascertain the nature of the Manassas program, then consider the viability of such a program in Fairfax County. Ms. Robertson accepted this request and promised to provide the Council at the next meeting with any information she could find.

Section 6.A.1 of the plan update specified:

- HCD established a pilot program to provide the Resident Advisory Council the opportunity to become more involved with the receipt of tenant grievances as well as the resolution of those grievances.

Council noted absence of the specified pilot program.

Mr. John Turner, Senior Program Compliance Specialist, HCD staff, explained the discrepancy. Mr. Turner advised that FCRHA Housing Specialists declined to participate in the pilot program formulated with the Council. Hence, HCD implemented a different grievance procedure, a grievance procedure that entailed employment of outside hearing officers without Council participation. Thus, while the Council was awaiting promised training to participate in the pilot program--the pilot program specified as established in the draft annual update--HCD instead provided training to newly hired hearing officers.

Ms. Robertson suggested modifying §6.A.1 to indicate that HCD [Housing Compliance Division] will establish a pilot program ... rather than HCD established a pilot program ... . Council concurred.

The time being approximately 8:00 PM, Chairman Vaughn announced a brief adjournment.

At approximately 8:15 PM, Chairman Vaughn reconvened the meeting. She asked whether the council had further comments on the prior topic.

Mr. Croley moved that the Council object to HCD disregard of Council advice and participation in the cited pilot program. Ms. Baltrop seconded. Discussion ensued. Mr. Croley accepted a friendly amendment that the Council alternately request timely notice of the status of Council advice and participation in the grievance pilot program. Ms. Baltrop seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Turner asked that Council members willing to participate in the grievance program once again indicate such willingness. To facilitate this indication, he agreed to provide a sign-up sheet at the conclusion of the meeting.

Ms. Robertson continued with her presentation, with discussion and suggestions as before.

At §11.B Housing Choice Tenant Based Assistance, Ms. Robertson noted that the Council had previously made specific recommendations on this point.

Mr. Croley moved that FCRHA make rental home choice vouchers freely convertible to home choice mortgage vouchers at the request of the voucher holder, provided requester has participated in the home choice program in good standing for at least a year; also provided that mortgage and real property conform to established criteria consistent with program objectives. Ms. Baltrop seconded. Discussion ensued. Ms. Whiteside moved to table motion until the next meeting. Mr. Croley accepted motion to table as a friendly amendment. Council concurred.

Ms. Robertson's presentation of the draft plan update had extended into §11.

Upon motion, second and vote of the Council, Chairman Vaughn adjourned meeting at approximately 9:00 PM.

Next meeting of the Council is set for December 16, 2004 at the FCRHA Building located at 3700 Pender Drive, Fairfax, VA.

Minutes respectfully submitted by John Croley, Secretary