

Resident Advisory Council
Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority
Minutes of Meeting, January 5, 2005

Chairman Vaughn called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT: Nancy Vaughn, Donna Dye, Paulette Whiteside, Lisa Bathen, Charlen Kyle, Khadijah Baltrop, Vasantha Mba, John Croley, Cynthia Thompson, Calvin Nokes, and Gulshan Khan.

ABSENT: Jennifer Waitt, Jersusalem Tegbaru, Pam Cave and Sandie Simpson

Council was advised that the Council's letter regarding the annual plan for Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) is due.

Mike Finkle, HCD, acknowledged that he had not attended the prior meeting, but nevertheless disputed the accuracy of the meeting minutes as proposed by Secretary Croley. Mr. Finkle expressed objection to the Council's prior discussion of FCRHA self sufficiency programs. Mr. Finkle advised that FCRHA intended to implement programs directed toward social self-sufficiency. For this reason, he suggested that proposed minutes of the prior meeting were in error where the minutes indicated discussion of FCRHA policy to exclude social self-sufficiency programs, which social self-sufficiency programs may have particular benefit for disabled program participants.

Referring to his contemporaneous notes of the prior meeting, Secretary Croley noted that at the prior meeting FCRHA staff had repeatedly and earnestly advised the Council that self-sufficiency programs, by their essential nature, were oriented toward financial self-sufficiency; that social self-sufficiency programs were inconsistent with essential program goals of financial self-sufficiency; that financial self-sufficiency programs were open to disabled program participants, but that disabled program participants did not avail themselves of these programs because disabled program participants lacked capacity for financial self-sufficiency. Then, in the next section of the annual plan, where annual plan guidelines promulgated by US Department of Housing referenced both financial and social self-sufficiency programs, the misdirection of FCRHA policy was apparent. Nonetheless, after a break in the Council meeting, a FCRHA staff member who had missed the prior discussion, again explained to the Council that self sufficiency programs by their essential nature were oriented toward financial self sufficiency to the explicit exclusion of social self sufficiency.

Discussion on this point ensued. Various Council members recalled the discussion. Except for Mr. Finkle, no one--neither Council members who had attended the prior meeting, nor FCHRA staff who had so persistently and so earnestly explained that social self sufficiency was inconsistent with the essential goals of self-sufficiency programs--disputed the proposed minutes.

Ms. Baltrop moved to table approval of the minutes of the prior meeting, since the minutes had not been available in advance of the present meeting. Ms. Whiteside seconded. The Council tabled approval of the minutes of the prior meeting until the next meeting.

Old Business

Chairman Vaughn reviewed the various program issues raised by Council members at the prior meeting. Council members reported that FCHRA staff had resolved all issues.

New Business

Ms. Baltrop asked about the change of Council meetings to Wednesday evenings. Discussion ensued. After discussion, the Council decided to maintain the Wednesday evening schedule.

Secretary Croley had prepared a draft of the Council letter concerning the FCRHA annual plan. With discussion and changes suggested by the Council, Ms. Baltrop moved adoption of the letter, with second by Ms. Kyle. The Council adopted the letter which Chairman Vaughn subsequently signed. A copy of the letter accompanies these minutes and is incorporated herein by reference.

Ms. Mba moved that RAC meeting participants turn off cell phones during each RAC meeting. Ms. Kyle seconded. The motion passed.

Ms. Deol moved to adjourn the meeting with second by Ms. Baltrop. With concurrence of the council, Chairman Vaughn adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Croley, Secretary

Next RAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 23, 2005.