

Resident Advisory Council
Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority
Minutes of Meeting, February 23, 2005

Chairman Vaughn called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

PRESENT: Nancy Vaughn, Paulette Whiteside, Lisa Bathen, Sandie Simpson, Kadajah Baltrop, Cynthia Thompson, Gulshan Khan, Jerusalem Tegbaru, Donna Dye, Charlen Kyle, Vasantha Mba, Pam Cave and Jennifer Waitt.

ABSENT: John Croley, Calvin Nokes

Council discussed the issue of John still resuming his duties when he returns from his volunteer work.

Council members felt December and January minutes were too tailored to certain specific issues and did not cover the meeting broadly enough. The Council deferred approving both the December and January minutes until the May meeting when they could discuss with Mr. Croley how they would like to see the minutes presented.

Sandie Simpson made motion to table the December minutes until the May meeting and Paulette Whiteside seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Paulette Whiteside made motion to table the January minutes until the May meeting and Sandie Simpson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Council requested that they be sent the December and January minutes so that they could review and edit before the May meeting. Council also requested that a brief not be attached so that those that were not at the meeting would know what they needed to do.

Council reviewed the Community Service Board comment letter that Charlen requested the Council receive.

Noted that it was listed about homeownership opportunities for people with disabilities. The Council requested that the Homeownership Division present their findings, to the Resident Advisory Council, once they have done their evaluation of the Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership program. The Council also thought it was a good idea to have citizen time at every FCRHA meeting, which will start at the March FCRHA meeting.

Mr. Finkle reviewed the community service item going to the FCRHA, March 10, 2005 meeting.

It was recommended that this issue be put into the Housing Highlights newsletter.

The Council questioned and discussed why only Public Housing participants were required to participate in community service.

Paulette Whiteside made a motion to add an addendum regarding why the Housing Choice Voucher program participants were not required to perform community service,

to the Council's January comment letter and Sandie Simpson seconded. The Council decided to take their break and work on the addendum to the letter once they returned.

After coming back from break before further business was discussed Lisa Bathen stepped down from the council. It was also decided that before the addendum was discussed that Laura Nabili, attending the meeting on behalf of the Tenant Relations Committee, would present her information and survey.

Laura Nabili presented a survey from the Tenant Relations Committee that she requested council members in attendance fill out. These surveys could be given back to Laura at the meeting or be sent to the Department of Housing attention Jodi Cienki.

The Council then worked on the addendum to their comment letter. They added the following to the Community Service section of the letter:

The RAC added an Addendum to this comment letter at their February 23, 2005 RAC meeting.

The Council would like to comment on the requirement of the Public Housing Community Service Program. The Council feels that the community service requirement should be required for all HUD funded housing programs not just the public housing program. The Council feels that the program should follow the same guidelines as is currently followed. The Council also feels that only the person who does not perform the community service should be displaced not the whole family.

The updated approved letter will be distributed with the next meeting package.

John Turner announced that Cynthia Thompson was selected for the South County Hearing officer that he announced and requested resumes for at the last meeting.

John Turner then started his presentation on the informal settlement of grievance process by distributing informal settlement of grievance conference paperwork as well as CFR requirements. He went through the handouts and reviewed them with the Council.

Pam Cave then contributed to the presentation. She talked about how hard it is to be objective since we are participants but regardless of that there are rules and all tenants need to follow them so we need to remember to be objective and look at those rules and not the individuals. She stressed the point that If the council is going to participant in this process that they need to be committed to being objective and look at the rules and not the difficulties of the individual cases that we will hear. We need to remember not to react emotionally.

The Council requested that Lisa Bathen be sent a certification for her participation on the Council.

Sandie Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Kadijah Baltrop seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Next RAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 2005.