

Resident Advisory Council
Minutes
July 21, 2015

Meeting started at 7:06 pm

PRESENT: Paulette Whiteside, Sandra Barksdale, Debra Brothman-Mazzarelli, Sydni Marquesas, Michele Bradley, Jerusalem Tegbaru, Barbara Millerton, Bernice Dolberry

ABSENT: Patricia Ryan, Virginia Cyrus, Rose Fieldings, Priscilla Harris-Moss, Karren DuBose

MINUTES:

- Paulette Whiteside called the meeting to order and made a motion to approve the June 2, 2015 minutes. Debra Brothman-Mazzarelli seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.
- Robert Easley introduced himself and discussed his commitment to the residents and staff of Fairfax County Redevelopment Housing Authority. He wanted to remind residents, “If you do not speak up and tell us what is going on in our communities, we will never be able to help solve the issues.”
- Russell Lee established ground rules on addressing the General Housing Issues from the council members.
 - Barbara Millerton: What is the status of retrieving the HCV Housing list online via the housing website?
 - As of today, we do not have the HCV Housing List online; however we will make it a priority to have the listings accessible online.
 - Sandra Barksdale: On numerous occasions, she has had an inspection at her unit but was not informed from housing. She asked the inspector when the notification went out because she never received a notice, the inspector replied she hand delivered the notice herself and therefore she knows she received it.
 - Russell will talk to the inspections supervisor.
 - Council members asked if notifications can be emailed and mailed.

- Michelle Bradley: Landlord/Tenant abuse. Michelle suggested that a handbook be created that is written by the Tenant to the Tenant. The language housing use, most people do not understand.
 - Russell suggested that Michelle take the lead on the project.
 - Sandra agreed to help Michelle. Both members will submit their ideas and plans for the handbook to the RAC and to housing for approval.
 - Russell stated that it is the job of each HSS to explain how to handle certain situations. If the resident still finds it hard to understand, ask the HSS to repeat it until you do understand. Keep in mind, most HSS staff have been in their position for many years and have formed their own jargon.
 - Council members' immediate course of action (until the handbook is completed) is to submit questions that have been conversation topics amongst other residents. Submit all questions to Alicia Swann.
- Additional questions from council members, “How can the negative view/perception of Housing, Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing change?” and “Can we hold a Parents Night?” Russell will respond with an answer at the next meeting.
- Council members asked if we can hold a “General Housing Issue” meeting every other meeting. Housing staff agreed however the September 2015 meeting will continue with other General Housing Issues.
 - Council members agreed to send Alicia Swann questions or concerns. All questions will be addressed at the September 2015 meeting. Questions are due to Alicia Swann at alicia.swann@fairfaxcounty.gov no later than August 31, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

The next RAC Meeting is scheduled for ~~September 8, 2015~~ September 15, 2015 (unless notified otherwise) at **Little River Glen, 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax, VA 22302**. The phone number is 703-503-8700 or contact Alicia Swann at 703-279-7317 before 5:30pm. You will be notified in advance if there are any changes in time or location of meeting.