

Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB)
Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, October 5, 2021, 7:30pm-9:30pm
Meeting held electronically due to the COVID-19 pandemic
By ZOOM video/audio platform

The meeting was called to order around 7:32pm by Chair Michelle Jefferson, who announced she would be doing the roll call.

Approval of Minutes: one correction from last minutes, change the name “Ken Rosenthal” to “Phil Rosenthal”. Phil Rosenthal moved to approve the minutes as amended and was second by Ben Zuhl.

Members in attendance with locations: Cookie Hymer Blitz, Herndon, VA; Elethia, Reston, VA; Morgan Jameson, Fairfax VA.; Michelle Jefferson, Fairfax County; Debbie Kilpatrick, Clifton, VA; Michael Mahrer, Falls Church; Marcia McDevitt, Reston; Michele Menapace, SE Fairfax, VA; Phil Rosenthal, Fairfax Station; Heather Thomas, Centreville, VA; Walewska Watkins, Ashburn; Shari Zamarra, Fairfax; Benjamin Zuhl, Drainesville, VA, Isaac Oreomonte, Fairfax, VA; Hari Kurup, Falls Church, VA; Melandee Jones Canady, Lorton, VA; Whitney Richardson, Herndon, VA; Gene Pettit, Burke, VA; Jim Edwards-Hewitt, Mason District, Fairfax, VA, Alicia Doe, Lorton, VA

Chair turned to Phil Rosenthal who moved that all members’ voices may be heard by all others. Motion was second by Melandee Jones Canady and carried. Chair also made the requisite VA FOIA motions governing virtual meetings which were seconded and carried.

Member Sharing

Morgan Jameson asked for people who can speak on DEI to consider appearing on the Fairfax Cable Access Inside Scoop program.

Shari Zamarra mentioned faith communities not being approached for affordable housing opportunities. She also brought up childcare. Shari serves on the Land Use Committee for Braddock District. Potential affordable housing at Government Center in parking lot space. Potential childcare facility which might be turned down. Wants to know for information about the need for childcare on Fairfax County and if they need another facility.

Heather Thomas mentioned October is Head Start Awareness Month. She also announced she is part of the Virginia Promise Partnership – working to achieve affordable universal childcare for all Virginians, who have a call this Friday, October 8, 2021, at 1:00pm

Michele Menapace mentioned Virginia Hills Baptist Church is redeveloping land, possibly for senior housing. October 6, 2021, the library is hosting a discussion with the author of The Color of Law. She announced she was elected chair of Human Services Council. One of their priorities is reestablishing relationships and interactions with all BACs that have capacity with Health and Human Services (HHS).

Ben Zuhl mentioned a show he did about a Church in Fairfax City donating land for affordable dwelling units.

Phil Rosenthal mentioned that Will Bailey informed him of a food drive this Saturday (Station 5 in Franconia, and Station 9 in Mt. Vernon). Some of the food will go to Food for Others. This might be in coordination with “Stuff the Bus” which is happening across the County.

Program Report: CSP Eviction Prevention-Keesha Dodson, Division Director, Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), Coordinated Services Planning (CSP)

Keesha provided an update on how CARES Act funding is being used to assist residents with various emergency services and how residents can reach out for assistance to CSP.

CAAB Strategic Planning Update, Melandee Jones-Canady, Chair CAAB Strategic Planning Committee

Kristi Dooley, consultant, introduced herself and her role working with the CAAB in developing the strategic planning.

The Committee provides an overview of proposed action items the committee developed for Key Strategy #1- Influence decision makers and take actions that address the root causes and conditions of poverty and injustice. CAAB members provided comments and suggestions. The Committee will return in December with proposed action items for Key Strategy #2 - Strengthen the capacity of community-based organizations to create equitable opportunities for people to thrive.

DEI Committee Report, Michelle Jefferson, Chair

Michelle Jefferson began presenting the draft recommendations the CAAB DEI Committee, for the CAAB Bylaws and Recruitment, but deferred presenting the recommendations on CSBG Administration and Advocacy until the December meeting due to the lateness of the hour.

Membership & Elections Committee Report, Shari Zamarra, Chair

Shari reported that there are new vacancies for Mt. Vernon and Providence districts in the Appointed Sector and one Representative Sector seat remains open. A New Legal Services of Northern Virginia representative and a designated alternate are coming on board as recommended by Dipti Pidikiti-Smith who recently stepped down.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Phil, was second and carried without objection.
Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Morgan Jameson and reviewed by John Ruthinoski