

Attendance:

(See Sign-In Sheet for list of attendees)

Summary Notes:

1. Welcome & Convening- Kerri Wilson
  - a. Membership Updates
    - i. Rev. Walton has resigned from his position.
  - b. Announcements
    - i. Marci Forster from the Providence District and James Gillespie, a representative from Coordinated Services Board (CSB) were introduced.
  - c. Administrative items
    - i. Review and approval of meeting minutes
      1. Meeting minutes from the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting were presented.
      2. Kerri motioned to approve and upload the meeting minutes online. Merlene and Jerry, second. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Director's Update- Tom Fleetwood
  - a. Manufactured (Mobile) Home Repair Program (Pilot Program)
    - i. Jerry asked if the program would expand to the other MHCs and if the summer A/C program will expand to the winter as we hyperthermia season.
      1. Ivana answered: HCD has requested additional funding for repairs and rehabilitation services through the PRICE application. If awarded, this would expand program to include all MHCs. Regarding the A/C program expanding to winter, we are working on the logistics to support those in the winter.
    - ii. Mary asked about the timeline and criteria for the program.
      1. Ivana answered: We are hoping to release the RFP in November, with the program officially starting in December.
      2. Tom F. chimed in: We have a list eligible repairs proposed and we can share them offline.
    - iii. Fairfax County Redevelopment Housing Authority Public Hearing Franconia Government Center Site
      1. In partnership with SCG Partners, Good Sheperd Housing & Family Services, and FCRHA held a public hearing for the

development of the 3.26-acre property at 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria.

2. No action was taken, RHA cannot make a decision until 30-day period has passed. The RHA will negotiate a deal after the 30-day period if it grants the developer license for approval.
3. Jerry asked: Will there be another round of public comment.
  - a. Tom F answered: No, the RHA only requires conducting one public hearing, which they have earlier in the year.

iv. FY2025 NOFA Availability

1. The Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) has issued a request for proposals for affordable housing with a notice of more than \$50 million in local funding available for affordable housing projects.

b. AHAC Subcommittee Updates-Jery Poje

- i. Jerry presented on the legislative subcommittee for approval and provided a copy of the legislative package for review.
  1. Marlene made a comment on the second page, she requested for a reference link and asked why there was reference to other states/jurisdictions.
    - a. Jerry answered: It was intentional to put other states in the report. Massachusetts is doing great work for affordable housing. Also, mentioned that the commonwealth has long road ahead and that next year, we will have to vote for another governor.
    - b. Tom chimed in: It would be good to draft a letter and get Supervisor's Walkinshaw perspective on the topic.
  2. Raymound asked: is Fairfax behind the curve, or is Massachusetts ahead of its time?
    - a. Jerry answered: Massachusetts has specifically chosen because of their work in housing. They are ahead of their time, and they are similar size with Fairfax County.
  3. Kerri motioned to approve the legislative packaged. Marlene and Jerry second. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Private Sector & Corporate Fund-John Boylan

- i. John met with Victor Watson on building public and private partnerships.

d. Homelessness Updates- Tom Bernett

- i. Tom gave a shoutout to the outreach team and others that assisted with the closing of the two encampments.
- ii. On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, the encampment on Towers Park officially closed, a “No Trespassing” was placed to give individuals a warning. The OPEH outreach team connected individuals to shelters and services.
- iii. In Reston, after several years of encampment, the Hill also closed on September 10th.
  1. Tara asked: how many units are there in the temporary overnight shelter?
    - a. Tom B. answered: There are 99 units, but keep in mind that in morning the space turns into a office space.
    - b. Mora chimed in: The building can hold capacity up 99 but includes staff too. We typically get 35 unduplicated individuals coming in, but we expect the numbers to raise the weather gets colder.
  2. Tara asked: What about hyperthermia?
    - a. Mora answered: When the Hyperthermia Prevention program starts, they will have to be sensitive on those who are coming since space is limited. They are keeping track of individuals by checking for IDs.
  3. Cookie Blitz mentioned: she talked to a young man who she did not get his information but reported to be banned from the shelter. She asked if they are banned from the shelter, are they allowed to attend the overnight shelter?
    - a. Mora answered: They do not banned individuals while rather it is a case-by-case basis. Suspensions can be from 10 days to 30 days. But everyone is allowed to come to the overnight shelter.
  4. Jerry asked: as the growing number of people needing to utilize the shelter, will there be enough staff to support this efforts?
    - a. Mora answered: the Embry Rucker Community Shelter has a lot of staff including outreach coordinators, housing locators, and directors. However, the staff must be counted for capacity.
    - b. Kerri chimed in: During COVID, the shelter was running 24-hours but they had fortune to work OPEH and Cornerstone stone staff to help them with capacity.
- iv. Conclusion: Q/A

1. Tara:
  - a. Reported that Fairfax police has pushed people out from Pump House. Many of those individuals are now sleeping in front of the Home Depot. Leadership from Home Depot have been compassionate with those sleeping outside. However, a few individuals are knocking at car doors.
  - b. We are seeing a 10.5% increase rise in individuals who are experiencing homelessness. This is an equity issue, why does one community get an overnight shelter while other communities do not?
2. Mary: NAACP is looking at this issue and has developed guidelines. The NAACP has asked the Board of Supervisors to put a policy and recommendations when it comes to the removal of encampments. There needs to be additional funding for housing. Moving people from place to another is harmful. We need more temporary shelters and housing. Getting housing can take months sometimes years, there needs to be a better way to help those, even providing them with cots. The NAACP has proposed the following:
  - a. Prevention to help those from eviction. Eviction labs recently reported that those who have representation at court are less likely to be evicted.
  - b. Providing shelter, including temporary shelter options.
  - c. Providing affordable housing.
3. Marlene: There needs to be more communication between Fairfax City and Fairfax County for assisting individuals who are experiencing homelessness. The boundaries should not make a difference, people just want help. Should we consider having representatives from Fairfax City?
  - a. Tom F answered: Continuum of Care (CoC) has representatives from Fairfax City.
4. Jerry: The Supreme Court ruled that people without homes can be arrested and fined for sleeping in public spaces.
5. Joe Fay: Is there a possibility to get more information on how CoC determines when to set up a temporary shelter, and when do they not? We know we do not have enough shelters. We

also understand that there are reasons to close encampments based on safety and health issue.

- a. Kerri answered: We may need to develop a working group to address this specific issues. The Lamp Center will open 54 units, but it is not enough. We want to keep advocating for more shelters to the BOS.
6. Joe: It is difficult for individuals to access permanent affordable housing.
  - a. Tom F.: This is a rising issue across the nation.
7. Raymound: Are there membership opportunities for Falls Church and Fairfax City staff to attend potential future AHAC meetings?
  - a. Kerri: There is membership from both counties in the Continuum of Care (CoC).
  - b. How do we get more day shelters? Should each marginal district get more shelters?
  - c. Kerri: We need more housing across all the marginal districts to support individuals who are experiencing homelessness.
  - d. On November 7<sup>th</sup>, the Dulles Chamber of Commerce will host a Workforce Issue & Housing Solutions event. Everyone is invited to attend.
8. Sherri: The faith-based community must take some responsibility to help support with housing. We don't see much support from them.
9. Mora: Celebrated her five-year anniversary with Cornerstones.
10. Mary: The NACCP cosponsor a meeting that focused on the segregation that occurred in Fairfax County. The first step to create change is to understand how the issue occurred in the first place. Fortunately, we can make change in land use. Looking at land use from an equity lens, and look back at history. The BOS has agreed to look at all the county deeds, there are about 750 deeds in the county and we have the opportunity to revised them.
11. Dominique: The fair housing committee is struggling to find right ways to provide resources and capital to affordable housing.

12. Kerri: There is proposed meeting to meet with Supervisor Walkinshaw to brief him on all the work AHAC is doing.
13. Next AHAC meeting will be **on Friday, December 13, 2024,** Fairfax County Government Center, 1200 Government Center Parkway, Room 9/10
14. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am