

## **Arlington County Tenant – Landlord Commission**

### **Meeting Notes – February 12, 2020**

**Commissioners Present :** Kellen Macbeth, (Chair), Matthew Whitefield, Bismah Ahmed (phone), Kirit Mookejee, Kristin Klegg.

**Commissioners absent:** Elyse Hayes, Christopher Bruno, Zachary Butler.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair, MacBeth at 7:06 p.m.

Public Comment: There was no one for public comment.

Approval of Meeting minutes: Due to the lack of a quorum, this agenda item was postponed.

#### **New Business**

**Affordable Housing Master Plan Annual Report-** Rolda Nedd, Housing Staff presented the Arlington Annual Housing Report (presentation available). The presentation provided a summary of accomplishments for the past fiscal year and centered around the three Goals of the Affordable Housing Master Plan – Supply, Access and Sustainability. New rental and homeownership projects were highlighted, as well as other highlights such as Housing Matters Forum, ongoing Analysis of Impediments and Housing Arlington. There was a short discussion related to data sources and who is responsible for producing data for the County.

**Proposed 2020 Housing Matters Forum –** Rolda Nedd, Housing Staff shared information on proposed topics for the Housing Matters Forums. Three forums are proposed March 26, June 2, and September 24. Staff received feedback on the topics, translation into different languages, messaging and marketing suggestions. In addition, it was suggested to include an announcement on the Census in the materials for the March forum. It was recommended to better define “Community Development” as this term maybe different depending upon the audience. The TLC will be kept informed as planning for the forums take place.

Chair, MacBeth reported on his attendance at a happy hour hosted by the Crystal City BID and the Crystal City Civic Association. He suggested that the TLC could use informal occasions such as this to connect with renters and hear their concerns. How to get renters involved and aware of the TLC is an ongoing concern. Suggested a partnership with Civic associations as a future event.

#### **Subcommittee Updates**

Proposed Rental Affordability sub-committee Charter – There was significant discussion on the purpose of this subcommittee and the need in general for the use of subcommittees to advance the work of the TLC. Chair, Kellen was in strong support of the work of the current sub-committees and the use of subcommittees in general to explore topics in detail, allow members of the public to participate and bring information back to the full commission. Commissioner Ahmed, provided her concern about the how the current committees function regarding the larger commission. She would prefer that the entire Commission be involved in any policy development. Commissioner Klegg added that County staff is

better resourced to handle the topic of Rental Affordability, and that the Commission maybe more successful at providing support or working with tenants or attending and participating in more events. Commissioner Whitefield added that subcommittees should be viewed as fact finding and research, it is not a decision making body and will report to the larger Commission. Commissioner Mookerjee, suggested that the subcommittee, brainstorm ideas around the proposed topic which should be brought back to the larger Commission for discussion. After much discussion from all Commissioners present, Chair MacBeth, decided to revisit this idea after speaking with Commissioners who were absent.

Housing Discrimination subcommittee – work ongoing.

**Chair Report** – Chair, MacBeth said that he will be addressing the Arlington Re-entry Council and is discussing a community event, to be hosted by OAR in the coming year.

He announced that Arlington Court Judges agreed with the proposal put forward by TLC and DHS on unlawful detainers and that an information sheet on eviction prevention resources will be prepared by DHS for the Courts.

Based on discussions with Matt deFerranti, he conveyed the decision to postpone a Commission decision on the proposed SOI policy, perhaps until early Summer. He will focus on housing grants for the budget cycle.

**Staff report** – Hector Mercado announced that relocation for the Ellis Arms project was completed and that demolition will take place soon.

DHS – Nicole Harmon, announced that the Housing Choice Voucher wait list opening is being planned and will take place soon.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.