

DRAFT

Arlington County Tenant-Landlord Commission

Meeting notes TLC March 11, 2020

Meeting began at 7:03 p.m. and was chaired by David Timm (Vice Chair)

Commissioners present: David Timm, Bismah Ahmed, Elyse Hayes, Kristin Clegg, Kirit Mookerjee

Absent: Chris Bruno, Zachary Butler, Matthew Whitefield, Kellen MacBeth.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Meeting Minutes: corrections to the minutes including spelling of Kistin Clegg, David Timm was absent from February's meeting.

February minutes were reviewed and approved. Approval granted for previous minutes-months of December, January.

New Business

FY2021 County Budget presentation

Nicole Harmon, Housing Assistance Bureau Chief, DHS and Jennifer Daniels, Planning and Community Development Supervisor, CPHD presented sections of the County's 2021 as was relevant to their respective departments, highlighting proposed allocations for all housing programs and services. DHS highlights included allocations for a subsidy pilot program for young adults aging out of foster care. The pilot program will serve 17 persons. Proposed allocations for CPHD, included funding for a Principal Planner position and consultant services towards the Housing Arlington initiative. In addition, the allocation for AHIF has increased to 18.7 M an increase of 2.7M from 16M. There was some discussion and questions for clarification from Commissioners.

Housing Choice Voucher Waitlist Update

Vanessa Street, Housing Choice Voucher Program Manager, DHS provided a presentation on the Housing Choice Voucher Program. The waitlist for the program which has been closed since 2012 is expected to be reopened sometime in 2020. The delay is related to challenges with the software conversion. The presentation highlighted program eligibility, new preferences for the upcoming program, a lottery process and use of rent café an online application system. The rent café application process was further detailed. DHS will be conducting an outreach/marketing program to inform residents about the pending waitlist reopening. A short discussion followed the presentation.

2020 TLC Strategy

David Timm, initiated a discussion on what should be the focus of the TLC for the year. Commissioners expressed several views – the need to hear more from individual tenants about their concerns and experiences; the Commission is a resource for tenants, and this should be promoted to tenants.

Establishing and maintaining connection to the community is necessary and there should be a focus on how best to do this. The following points were made

- Increase visibility
- Develop marketing materials (update brochure) including resources, library posting of flyers etc.
- Identify resolutions for tenant problems and continue follow up actions
- Utilize County resources/tools such as Housing Matters Forum to promote the Commission
- Perhaps form a subcommittee of two members to brainstorm publicity ideas
- Collaboration with other Commissions on rent affordability
- Better relationships between landlord and tenant representatives on the Commission

There was discussion of items on the approved TLC work plan and the possibility of changing the timing of the legislative priorities to a later time, when recommendations can be more timely. Commissioner Clegg suggested there is need to establish a better relationship with NVAA and also to share resources.

Commissioner Mookerjee thought it important to maintain contact with the Planning Commission to be appraised of site plans with affordable housing projects.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.