

Minutes of the Fairfax County Tenant-Landlord Commission

June 21, 2018

Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Conference Room 9/10
Commissioner Fielding presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners Fielding, Harberg, Geier-Smith, Park, Gomez

Absent:

Kocsis, Purnell

Staff Attending:

Rebecca L. Makely, Director
Consumer Services Division
Wil Slaughter, Consumer Specialist
Consumer Affairs Branch
Vee Johnson, Consumer Specialist
Consumer Affairs Branch

Guests:

Josie Ballato, Mason District
Laurie Arrants, Mason District

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Fielding.

Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Geier-Smith and seconded by Commissioner Park to approve the minutes from April 19, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Josie Ballato and Laurie Arrants from the Mason District addressed the Commission about their concerns with Short-Term Lodging (STLs) in their neighborhood. They discussed issues that may be created by the Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments for STLs. Their comments and concerns were heard by the Commission.

Report of the Chairman

Chairman Fielding provided an update regarding the Downtown Herndon Project, which has been officially approved. The Board of Supervisors approved a funding agreement with the Town of Herndon on June 19, 2018. Fairfax County will contribute \$1.2 million in economic development money to the new mixed use project in downtown Herndon. The funding agreement details how the county's funds will be spent on this public-private partnership project between the town and Comstock.

Report of the Directors

Director Liberman announced the recent retirement of Deputy County Executive, David J. Molchany. The Department of Cable and Consumer Services will now report to Joseph M. Mondoro, Chief Financial Officer.

Staff Report

On May 30, 2018, Consumer Affairs facilitated a workshop presented by Supervisor Jeffrey C. McKay for tenants at Manchester Lakes Apartments at Kingstowne Library. Legal Services of Northern Virginia provided information about Tenant's Associations. Information and resources offered by the Departments of Code Compliance and Neighborhood and Community Services were shared. Consumer Affairs provided direct staff contact information to Manchester Lakes residents.

The 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act program hosted by the Fairfax County Office of Human Rights & Equity Programs on April 20th, had over 300 attendees. Channel 16 produced a video to document the event. Staff will share the link with Commissioners so they can view the video.

Commission Matters

Commissioners discussed STLs and will monitor upcoming actions by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. Staff will arrange for the Zoning Administration Division of the Department of Planning and Zoning to provide an update at the August meeting.

The calendar was reviewed. No updates at this time.

Old Business

None

New Business

A draft of the 2018 Annual Report was distributed to the Commission. Director Makely provided an overview of the report. There was discussion and suggested edits. Commissioner Gomez made a motion to approve the Annual Report with discussed edits. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Geier-Smith. The motion carried unanimously. The report will be distributed to the Board of Supervisors in July.

The arbitration hearing held on May 17 was discussed. The arbitration panel awarded the tenant \$3,850, which was paid by the landlord.

Chairman Fielding confirmed with Commissioners their willingness and ability to serve. He suggested arbitration hearing days be expanded to include Saturdays.

Commissioners discussed future meeting guests. Information on county demographics and review of landlord rights and responsibilities were suggested. Staff will research these options.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gomez and seconded by Commissioner Harberg to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.