

Minutes of the Fairfax County Tenant-Landlord Commission

January 20, 2011

Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Pkwy.
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Conference Room 9
Chair Liff presiding

Attendees:

Commissioners: Geier-Smith, Liff,
Gomez, Kocsis, McEneaney, Vogl,
Denton

Absentees:

Kiffney, McRae

Staff Attending:

Michael S. Liberman, Director
Cable and Consumer Services
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief,
Consumer Affairs
Vee Johnson, Staff Liaison
Consumer Affairs Branch

Guest:

Jeff Blackford, Director
Department of Code Compliance

The meeting was called to order at 7:32PM by Chair Liff.

Minutes

- A motion was made by Commissioner Kocsis and seconded by Commissioner Geier-Smith to approve the minutes from November 18, 2010, meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- Chair Liff shared information from the Tysons Workforce Housing Summit she attended on December 3, 2010. According to Chair Liff, plans regarding the availability of workforce housing were general.
- Chair Liff will invite John McClain from the George Mason Center for Regional Analysis to talk about regional trends he is researching at the May or June meeting.

Director's Report

- Director Liberman contacted the Fairfax County Office of Community Revitalization and Reinvestment (OCRR) regarding workforce housing plan. According to Barbara Byron, OCRR is tangentially involved in the workforce housing issue and recommended contacting the Department of Planning and Zoning.

Committee Report

- The Channel 16 committee did not have a report.

Staff Report

- The EPA and other federal agencies are holding a Bed Bug Summit February 1-2, 2011, at the Georgetown University Hotel & Conference Center in Washington, DC. Copies of the agenda and registration information were provided to the Commissioners.
- Staff continues to provide assistance regarding maintenance and repair issues at Lafayette Apartments. A meeting with Eagle Point Management, and county and state agencies was conducted on Wednesday, January 19, 2011, with Supervisor McKay. Consumer Affairs will continue to facilitate communications between V.O.I.C.E., the tenants and Lafayette Apartments.
- Commissioners were reminded to notify their Supervisor of their desire to be reappointed.
- Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the county's lobbying policy. Commissioner Vogl asked if the county's lobbying policy prohibits a Commissioner from lobbying the Virginia General Assembly or at the federal level if lobbying is a duty of their employment that is independent of the county. Staff will seek a response on behalf of Commissioner Vogl.

Commission Matters

- The calendar was reviewed. No changes or additions at this time.
- There is currently one tenant vacancy.

Old Business

- Discussion of the lease checklist will resume at the March 2011, meeting.

New Business

- The following slate of candidates was nominated:

Chair	Chair Liff Commissioner
Tenant Vice-Chair	Denton Commissioner
Landlord Vice-Chair	Kocsis Commissioner
Secretary	Geier-Smith

- Elections will be conducted at the February 17, 2011, meeting.
- Jeff Blackford, Director of the Department of Code Compliance (DCC) discussed the mission of the department which consolidated many of the county's enforcement activities into a single agency. He discussed the benefits of having staff that is cross trained and ce liified because they can respond, inspect, and enforce multiple code issues quickly and effectively.

- A summary of current DCC caseloads was reviewed. The highest percentage of cases in the Mason and Lee Districts. The most frequent complaints and violations are property maintenance issues and overcrowding.
- Questions and answers regarding the department's investigation and enforcement activities were shared.
- The Annual Year End Review meeting will take place in February. The regular meeting will start at 6:30p.m.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Denton and seconded by Commissioner Vogl to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.