

Board Matters

June 15, 2023

Fairfax County Celebrates the Opening of Residences at North Hill

Commissioner Lardner thanked Chairman McKenna, Tom Fleetwood, Director, Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), and HCD staff for attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony held to celebrate the grand opening of North Hill.

Commissioner Lardner noted that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has agreed to make a movie and conduct a case study, highlighting the North Hill development.

Director Fleetwood expressed his gratitude with respect to the incredible work that brought the North Hill project to fruition. Director Fleetwood thanked Commissioner Lardner for the many years of hard work that went into making the project happen; Chairman McKenna for her support through the ups and downs experienced throughout the project; Ryan Wolf, Assistant County Attorney, for everything he did to make the project possible.

Director Fleetwood also acknowledged the tremendous HCD staff who worked around the clock to make North Hill a reality. Director Fleetwood noted the work done on the development side under multiple HCD deputy directors, in addition to the incredible work done to ensure that all the subsidies were done the right way. Director Fleetwood recognized Amy Ginger, Deputy Director, Operations, and her team for their contribution, as well as Linda Hoffman, Associate Director of Policy, for the unbelievable work in helping prepare such a wonderful event to close an era-making project.

Chairman McKenna, in return, thanked Director Fleetwood for his hard work over the years on the North Hill development, and highlighted the outpouring of support that was present at the ceremony to celebrate both the project and Director Fleetwood's leadership on the project. Chairman McKenna recognized Ryan Wolf for his contributions. Chairman McKenna also thanked Commissioner Lardner for following North Hill through to the end.

Motion to Amend the Approved 2023 FCRHA Scholarship Program

Commissioner Feng expressed concern that the FCRHA 2023 Scholarship Program, approved to begin in calendar year 2023, will automatically renew annually without the inclusion of a sunset rule.

Commissioner Feng made a motion to amend Resolution 11-23, approved by the FCRHA on March 16, 2023, to ensure that the FCRHA 2023 Scholarship Program would terminate at the end of calendar year 2025, so that the FCRHA could reassess and review the program's viability after that time. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

Appreciation Expressed on the 2023 FCRHA Scholarship Program

Commissioner McCoy thanked staff for their work to prepare the binders of scholarship applications for the FCRHA Scholarship Program, as well as the outreach conducted. Commissioner McCoy noted that there were a high-quality of applications received from very talented applicants.

Commissioner McCoy stated that giving this opportunity to the community and expanding on the FCRHA's outreach on how affordable housing might affect and improve lives is important.

Chairman McKenna expressed that she was honored and humbled, like Commissioner McCoy, to be able to read the scholarship applications and to work through the process. Chairman McKenna thanked Vin Rogers, Director, Policy and Compliance and Linda Hoffman, Associate Director of Policy, for their hard work on assembling the applications, and the whole process.

Director Fleetwood thanked both Chairman McKenna and Commissioner McCoy for being willing to assist with the review of the approximately 40 scholarship applications received.

FCRHA New Meeting Format

Chairman McKenna acknowledged the FCRHA's new meeting format without work sessions or committee meetings. Chairman McKenna reminded Commissioners to reach out to HCD staff and schedule some time to speak with them regarding matters along the way.

Groundbreaking Ceremony for Autumn Willow

Director Fleetwood asked the Commissioners to save the date of July 20, 2023, for the groundbreaking of the Autumn Willow development in the Springfield District. More information to come soon.

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Oakwood

Director Fleetwood asked Commissioners to save the date of August 24, 2023, for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Oakwood project in the Franconia District. More information to come soon.

FCRHA Annual Meeting

Director Fleetwood reminded the Commissioners that next month's meeting is the annual meeting of the FCRHA which is characterized mainly by the election of the Chairman and Vice Chair. Director Fleetwood expressed to the Commissioners the importance of attending the annual meeting.

Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration

Director Fleetwood noted that HCD staff plan to apply for the Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration. Amy Ginger is available to answer questions regarding this process.

Forthcoming Action Item

Director Fleetwood notified the Commissioners that HCD staff will be presenting an action item to the FCRHA regarding the County's legislative program. Director Fleetwood stated that there are some important items to be covered with respect to some changes that have been proposed with respect to the federal program. Those items include the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program and, also how the state manages the bond volume cap.

One University Highlighted at National Conference

Commissioner Solomon reported that he attended a national Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) conference earlier in the week, and the director of the national office led a session about post-RAD redevelopment using One University as an example.