

Northern Virginia Regional Commission

Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission February 27, 2020

Committee Members

(Those members present have their names highlighted)

Honorable David Tarter, Chairman – City of Falls Church
Honorable Cydney A. Neville, Vice Chairman – Town of Dumfries
Honorable Kathy Smith, Treasurer – County of Fairfax
Honorable Laurie DiRocco – Town of Vienna
Honorable Matt De Ferranti – County of Arlington
Honorable Penelope A. Gross – County of Fairfax
Honorable Jeanette Rishell – City of Manassas Park

Staff Present

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr., Executive Director
Linda Tenney, Deputy Executive Director
Gina Kesselmann-Smith, Management Analyst

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman tarter opened the meeting at 6:44 PM.

JANUARY 2020 FINANCIALS

Mr. Lazaro presented his financial report for January 2020 to the Executive Committee.

UPDATE TO JANUARY 2020 MEETING RE: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- **State of Current Affordable Housing Affairs**
 - Lots of innovative work going on; one size does not fit all.
 - Various localities have different revenue streams to help support affordable housing in region e.g. Fairfax County dedicates 1 cent of property tax; Alexandria dedicates 1 cent of meals tax; Loudoun utilizes revenues from sale of units that are split with developer and County.
 - Federal government leadership has waned.
 - Virginia state government taking a more active role.
 - Number of residents of the region who are housing stressed continues to grow.
 - Community opposition to projects is a problem.
- **Discussion with VHDA**
 - **Items Discussed**
 - Best practices manual
 - Inventory of institutional properties in NoVA
 - Communications – Telling the Story
 - Quarterly meetings with VHDA staff
 - **Potential Outcomes**
 - Potential opportunity to house NoVA VHDA office at NVRC
 - Funding opportunity with respect to communications

Northern Virginia Regional Commission

- **Proposed Actions for Discussion**

- Develop a Telling the Story campaign – as opposed to NIMBY framing the affordable housing issue positively; highlighting successful projects.
- Create Commission Task Force comprised of Commission jurisdictions, staff, housing providers, business leaders and advocates.
- Update the Best Practices Manual local staff find useful e.g. funding sources, zoning changes, the “missing middle” (also look outside of NoVA, but in Virginia).
- Look at what resources required to develop a mechanism for bringing private developers, new financing to co-location of affordable housing units on public properties.
- Develop larger communications effort contingent on availability of funding.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY – FUNDING FOR PDCs

Mr. Lazaro reported that NVRC participated in the VML, VACO, Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions Day in Richmond and met with key legislative leaders relative to increasing the funding to PDCs statewide. Proposed increase would provide \$14,000 more in state funding to NVRC. Funding increase has been frozen since 2012.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REVIEW IN MARCH – meeting to start at 6pm

Mr. Lazaro informed the Executive Committee that the March 26 Executive Committee will begin at 6pm.

Chairman Tarter proposed a plan regarding the Executive Director review process.

APPROVAL OF THE October 24, 2019 MINUTES

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the October 24, 2019 committee meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.
Executive Director

Approved by:

P. David Tarter
Chairman