Prince George’s County Housing Committee Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2023 from 3:00 to 4:30 pm via [Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81535608192?pwd=eldaK0tQNVhuWGh6OCtzakE1ckxDdz09)

**Attending**: Howard Burnett, Ray Adams, Yolanda Burgess, Christina Geller, Pat Fletcher Diane Dressler, Sarah Basehart, Stephanie Jones, Nicole Garrett, Chaunita Clardy, Christina Bolyand, Kane Levings, Tim Wiens, Sharonda Huffman, Andy Krauss, Tierra Medley, Lauren Silverstone, Terri Bradford

1. Welcome
   1. Each member on the call introduced themselves.
2. Review of Minutes
   1. The minutes were reviewed and no corrections were made.
3. Potential Partnership with Prince George’s County Housing Authority – Nicole Garrett
   1. The school system students has built their 46th house this year. Students have received $6700 in scholarships.
   2. They have the capacity to build all types of homes.
   3. The housing authority is interested in building homes because they have experience building them in the range. Students may not be able to live in the homes built and they would like to build affordable homes that students could potentially live in.
   4. Question: What about seniors who want to age in place but can’t afford to do repairs due to fix income?
      * The department of housing and community development has a program that has just started. It’s called [Housing rehabilitation assistance](https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/986/Housing-Rehabilitation-Assistance-Progra) program.
      * Department of family services that contains the department of aging has ways to helping seniors. Check out the [Habitat for Humanity](https://habitatmm.org/how-to-apply/home-repair-services-for-homeowners/home-repair-program.html) website.
      * Picket Fences is another org that helps Seniors with housing repairs [www.pickettfences.org](http://www.pickettfences.org)
   5. Question: Can housing specialists check the position of an individual on the list or would it have to be the individual themselves?
      * Send over an authorization form from the client to say that you have the authority.
4. Discussion of Barriers to Housing (Criminal Background, Wait Lists, Credit) Delegate Tiffany Alston and Nicole Garrett (Prince George’s County Realtors)
   1. Just because you have a criminal background, it may not be a reason to deny someone renting a home.
   2. Make sure that agents and landlords get information.
   3. Making sure that houses are accessible to individuals with disabilities is one of the biggest challenges.
   4. There was an idea to have a webinar for realtors regarding accommodation, etc. Ms. Burgess said she will investigate how we can present to PGCAR.
   5. You must be on one of the lists in Prince George’s (voucher or public housing) to be on the project-based voucher list.
      * Email waitliststatus@co.pg.md.us to find out your position on the waitlist.
5. Housing Expo Prince George’s County
   1. There were over 60 vendors of all types of services relating to housing and home ownership at the expo last weekend. The idea is to have all things housing related in one place so that people can get the information they need without going all over the place.
      * They are planning now for next year. They would like ideas. They would love to raffle off a house at a low discounted rate!
6. DDA Rent Subsidy – Stephanie Jones
   1. MOU has been finalized and executive with DHCD with a start date of July 1, 2023.
      * This means they can start looking through the waitlist and prioritizing people based on documentation and information that they currently have.
      * We will provide subsidies for between 20-50 people.
      * People will not receive award letters on July 1. It will take some time to go through the lists.
      * They have 90 days to find a place to live with an extension of 60 days.
   2. Rent subsidies in a cooperative seem to be confusing as to whether or not vouchers can be used in them.
      * Stephanie said that the program language says that it is for people to live where they choose to live. This would include cooperatives.
7. Updates from MDOD – Christina Geller
   1. Federal Housing Finance Agency issued a request for input on how the agency can create and enforce renter protections for households living and rental properties with federally back mortgages. Comments due 7/31.
   2. Debt limit is suspended through 1/1/2025. FY24 spending is capped at the FY23 levels and spending increases in FY25 are limited to 1%.
   3. Housing for person with disabilities would be phased in for food assistance program if they don’t meet certain work reporting requirements.
   4. Neighborhood homes investment tax credit was reintroduced by Mike Kelly and Brian Higgins to spur rehabilitation and development of 1 to 4 unit homes to create new housing production.
   5. MDHCD will provide 3.5 million through their rental housing works program and 2.8 million from the partnership rental housing program to support affordable housing projects in silver spring. One of those is Park Montgomery. They have 3.5 million in funding to support the new construction of 141 housing unit development. The units will be a mix of 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units restricted to households earning 30%, 50% and 60% of AMI or less. The other priority is Sligo apartments. It will be a 56 unit mid-rise apartment community. It will offer 1- and 2-bedroom units and will serve households with incomes between 30%-80% AMI.
8. MIH Updates – Training/Event Calendar – Andy Krauss
   1. MIH is sponsoring a [webinar](https://forms.office.com/r/MnX8nkgvMu) on 6/29 from 2:00-4:00 pm on the DDA/DHCD rent subsidy program. Please share with interested people!
   2. We have added a dedicated [trainings page](https://mih-inc.org/trainings-overview/) as well as a [training calendar](https://mih-inc.org/mih-partner-events-calendar/) to our website for people working on affordable housing for people with disabilities in Maryland. Check it out! You’re also encouraged to sign up for our newsletter so that you can obtain and share information.
9. Open Forum
   1. Tech Tuesday webinar at noon. Topic is technology and inclusion. Register at the [DDA website](http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=pce56arab&oeidk=a07ejpzdrqua89f89c5).
10. Next Meeting Date
    1. August 15, 2023 from 3:00 – 4:30 pm via Zoom.