

# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

DELEGATE TERRIE L. SUIT, CHAIR

ELIZABETH A. PALEN, Director



GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING  
910 CAPITOL STREET, SECOND FLOOR  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219  
(PHONE) 804-786-3591  
(FAX) 804-371-0169  
epalen@leg.state.va.us  
<http://dls.state.va.us/houscomm.htm>

## VIRGINIA HOUSING COMMISSION

### Meeting Summary April 22, 2008; 10 AM House Room C, General Assembly Building Richmond, Virginia

**Members Present:** Delegate Suit (chair), Senator Watkins, Senator Locke, Senator Whipple, Delegate Cosgrove, Delegate Hull, Delegate D. Marshall, Mr. Heatwole, Mr. Somanath.

**Staff Present:** Elizabeth Palen, Patrick Regan and Stephanie Kerns.

#### 1. Welcome and Call to Order-Delegate Suit (chair)

- Meeting was called to order by Delegate Suit at 10:12 AM.
- Please see the 2008 Housing Commission Work Plan posted on the website.
- People interested in receiving appointments to a work group should submit the applications that are found online to Elizabeth Palen no later than today.
- Work group assignments will be determined tomorrow, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Senator Whipple**-*The Housing Trust Fund is something that the Housing Commission has worked on for several years now and it is important that a resolution be completed.*
- **Senator Whipple**-*The Housing Commission should take the lead on promoting energy efficient home design and Universal Design concepts.*

#### 2. Bill Shelton, Director, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

- Please see the Power Point presentation posted online.
- **Delegate Marshall**-*Does VHCD adopt International Code Commission (ICC) recommendations automatically?*
- No, there are Virginia specific amendments that must be made to ICC Regulations and sections of the ICC Regulations are amended when adopted to reflect Virginia Regulations. This is all done through the administrative regulatory process.
- **Delegate Hull**-*Are there any new processes for building codes that are going to be coming down from the ICC?*
- One example is regulations dealing with sprinkler systems of single family residences. However, those may only be for attached homes, and the federal changes may be adopted or amended by Virginia.

DELEGATE JOHN A. COSGROVE  
DELEGATE ROBERT D. HULL  
DELEGATE DANIEL W. MARSHALL, III  
DELEGATE TERRIE L. SUIT  
DELEGATE ROSALYN R. DANCE

SENATOR MAMIE E. LOCKE  
SENATOR JOHN C. WATKINS  
SENATOR MARY MARGARET WHIPPLE

F. GARY GARCZYNSKI  
F. ANDREW HEATWOLE  
T. K. SOMANATH

- **T.K. Somanath**-*With the slow down in construction, there may be challenges in adding costs of sprinklers to home construction. Can those changes be postponed?*
  - The costs of implementation are evaluated at the national level before they are voted on by the ICC. The same will be done at the state level and all interested parties will be consulted. Even if the regulations went through the ICC in 2009, they would not be implemented in Virginia until 2011.
  - Many steps still need to be taken before we get there and there is no guarantee that they will go through at the federal level by 2009.
  - **Delegate Suit**-*Could VHCD give us an inventory of what tools are available for localities to address derelict structures? This is something that will be beneficial to the Derelict Structures Work Group.*
  - That inventory is already in the works and VHCD is happy to assist the work group.
  - The definition of derelict structures is not clear in the Code of Virginia and it needs to be addressed.
  - The Governors Foreclosure Prevention Task Force had three work groups. They are Foreclosure Impact-Bill Shelton (Chair); Education and Outreach-Susan Dewey (Chair); and Regulatory Reform-Jay DeBoer (Chair).
  - **Delegate Suit**-*It is also important to note that Delegate Marshall's work group will be looking into the credit side of the mortgage issue by looking at the accuracy of credit reports and credit scores.*
3. **Susan Dewey, Executive Director, Virginia Housing Development Authority**
- Please see the Power Point presentation posted on the Housing Commission website.
4. **John McClain, Deputy Director, and Lisa Fowler, PhD, George Mason University, School of Public Policy, Center for Regional Analysis**
- Please see the Power Point presentation posted on the Housing Commission website.
  - **John McClain**-*We can't know if we are in a recession because it is only determinable after there have been two consecutive quarters of negative growth. This can't be determined until it has already happened. We believe we will see when the data comes out that we are in a shallow recession and that there will be a long recovery period.*
5. **Public Comment**
- There was none.
6. **Vote on Leadership for 2008.**
- Nominations for Chair-Delegate Terrie Suit.
  - Nominations for Vice-Chair-Senator Mamie Locke.
  - Delegate Suit was elected Chair, Senator Locke was elected Vice-Chair.
7. **The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.**