

Oakland Mills Village Board Housing Committee

Housing Committee Minutes, November 19th, 2019

Attendees: Bill McCormack Jr., Don Andberg, John DiTimosso, Judy Gottsagen, Doris Morgan, Edward Morgan, Lee Scaggs, Chuck Thomas

Important Points made during the meeting

Bill McCormack – Provided the committee with an update on progress made on pursuing the Oakland Mills Housing Goals and Plans.

Howard County Rental Survey – 2018 is available on the Howard County Housing Commission website. The last published survey was 2012.

Attended Housing Affordability Coalition meetings.

- In a discussion on building new affordable housing many of the areas not closed to development by APFO already have significant affordable housing. Many of those areas are in Columbia.
- In the discussion on the proposed Robinson Overlook mixed income town homes project, questions were raised about the elementary, middle and high schools serving RO and FARM percentages. The forecasted number of RO students would have minimal impact on the Free and Reduced Meal student numbers. The existing FARM percentages are well below the county averages for each type.

Held meetings with Housing and Community Development and Housing Commission officials.

- Held a series of meetings with the officials. The OM Housing Goals and Plans were presented, and how many of the plans could be used to achieve an equitable spread of affordable housing throughout the entire county. All parties agreed on the need for a comprehensive housing opportunities master plan for the county.
- Discussed Fee-in-lieu and alternative compliance and made the point that money paid into fee-in-lieu needed to be used in the same elementary school district as the forgone MIHU's. He did not want an effective migration of affordable housing from the west side of Rt. 29 to the east side of Rt. 29.
- Discussed the Housing Commission Robinson Overlook project. OM support for the plan was requested. Plans were made for a presentation by the Housing Commission to the OM Board. The Village Board voted to support the project. The OM Chair testified in favor of RO in a County Council hearing on the project. The testimony covered RO and the larger issues of housing decisions impact on education (FARM students) and the need for a comprehensive housing opportunities master plan and additional housing considerations to equitably spread affordable housing throughout the county.
- Invited OM Board/Education Committee Chair to present research on the relationship between housing policy and education. A key point was the inverse relationship between FARM students and test scores. The presentation was very enlightening for all attendees.

Howard County Housing Opportunities Master Plan Task Force

- Announced my appointment by County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball as Co-Chair of the Task Force. Stated the Task Force is a very diverse group of community leaders and stakeholder. The process will employ a consultant to create a draft plan, solicit community engagement, refine the plan, and create time lines to achieve the goal of housing opportunities for residents of all income levels. Dr. Ball stated at the kick-off meeting that he wanted this plan to serve as a model for the nation.