

# August 13, 2020 MINUTES

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## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

9820 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia, MD 21046

*WebEx Meeting*

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### Members Present

Maury Zeitler, *Chair*  
Mike Sloan, *Vice Chair*  
Mitra Basu  
Dr. Caroline Harper  
Linda Skelton

### Members Absent

Grace Morris

### Staff Present

Kelly Cimino, *Director*  
Quanita Kareem, *Compliance Officer*  
Faith McCullough, *MIHU Entry Coordinator*

### Guests/Visitors

Nicole Dvorak, *Office of Councilmember Walsh*  
Josh Manley, *Office of the County Executive*  
Kelly McLaughlin, *Community Advocate*

### Recording Secretary

Tracy Deik

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## **I. CALL TO ORDER 6:02 P.M.**

- With a quorum present, Chairperson Zeitler called the August 13, 2020 meeting of the Department of Housing and Community Development Board to order at 6:02 P.M.

## **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- *Dr. Caroline Harper motioned to approve the August 13, 2020 Agenda as submitted. Motion passed 5-0.*

## **III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

- Guests included Nicole Dvorak, Josh Manley and Kelly McLaughlin.

## **IV. APPROVAL OF JUNE 2020 MINUTES**

- The June 2020 Minutes were e-mailed to all board members for review and comments. *Mike Sloan motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion passed 5-0.*

**V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (attached)**

- A copy of the July 2020 Director's Report was e-mailed to all board members in advance of the meeting.
- The County's new fiscal year began on July 1.
- County offices continue to remain closed to the public. Some DHCD staff have returned to the office, and some have continued teleworking. Residents can find COVID-19 updates on the County's website.
- The County awarded \$1.5M in CARES Act funding to 6 nonprofits. These funds will provide housing payment assistance to residents experiencing income loss due to COVID-19.
- Kelly Cimino updated the Board on the State's Housing Needs Assessment planning process. The final report should be completed this fall.
- Lisa Wiseman, Chief of the Housing Opportunities Programs Division, accepted a new opportunity. Her last day was August 3.
- In FY2020, the Settlement Downpayment Loan Program funded over \$1M in loans. During the first month of the new fiscal year (July), the program has funded over \$98,000 in loans.

**VI. MIHU REPORT (attached)**

- A copy of the June 2020 MIHU Report was e-mailed to all board members in advance of the meeting.
- The Department received over 100 applications during its July open-enrollment period. In lieu of in-person workshops, an MIHU presentation /FAQ sheet was posted to the Department's website. Applicants were asked to apply online or by mail.
- All 35 MIHU rental units at the Refinery were leased within 6 weeks.
- The Department continues to complete MIHU rental audits virtually due to the pandemic.
- A lease addendum offering current MIHU renters a month-to-month rental option was initiated due to the impacts of COVID-19.
- Staff will begin processing MIHU resale requests on August 1st. The County Executive's state of emergency order suspended priority period start dates. The resale units will be priced, and priority periods will begin based on the order in which the requests were received.

**VII. HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES MASTER PLAN**

- Dr. Caroline Harper gave an update on the Housing Opportunities Master Plan Task Force, reminding board members to take the public survey and share it with other housing advocates, residents and businesses.
- Three virtual community meetings are scheduled for 8/25, 8/26 & 9/10. Information about upcoming meetings/Master Plan updates are posted on the Department's

website.

**VIII. DISCUSSION ITEM:**

- Community advocate Kelly McLaughlin made a presentation and asked the Board to consider joining a new workgroup to advocate for federal, state and local resources related to rental assistance, eviction prevention, mortgage forbearance and legal aid services for residents struggling due to the COVID-19 health crisis.
- Board members who are interested in getting involved should contact either Kelly McLaughlin or Kelly Cimino.

**IX. MEMBER COMMENTS**

**X. ADJOURNMENT 6:50 P.M.**

- *Dr. Caroline Harper motioned to adjourn the August 13, 2020 HCD Board Meeting at 6:50 P.M. Motion passed 5-0.*

Respectfully submitted by,  
*Tracy Deik*

*Next Meeting:*  
*Housing and Community Development Board*  
*October 8, 2020*