

**TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN
HOUSING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
October 19, 2010**

The **Black Mountain Housing Commission** held its regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Town Hall at 160 Midland Avenue, Black Mountain, N.C.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order with the follow members present:

Joanne Brannon, Chair
Connie Pruitt, Vice Chair
Philip Bisesi (arrived at 10:30 a.m.)
Carolyn Copeland
Chad Knight
Levon Lindsey
Ruth Norton

Absent:

Jeff Hunter
Peter Vazquez

Staff:

Elizabeth Teague, AICP, Planning Director
Rosa B. Hilbert, Senior Administrative Assistant

Other (s):

Joan Brown, Vice Mayor

Chair Brannon called the meeting to order with six regular members. The meeting was duly constituted and opened for business. She introduced and welcomed Chad Knight who was recently appointed to the Housing Commission by the Board of Aldermen.

II. BUSINESS

1. Information on Buncombe County Development Programs (Donna Cottrell)

Chair Brannon introduced Donna Cottrell with Buncombe County Planning who oversees housing grants. Ms. Cottrell said that her department administers CDBG (Community Development Block Grants), Home and Housing Trust funds. The housing trust money (approximately \$300,000 yearly) is from the county and is allocated by the Buncombe County Commissioners. A portion of this money is designated for emergency repairs on a loan basis for 5 years with an interest rate of 2% to ensure that money is available for redistribution. Emergency repair money is not replaced and is depleted quickly.

Ms. Cottrell gave several examples of situations to illustrate how the CDBG money is used. CDBG funds are from the Department of Community Assistance and Buncombe County is eligible to apply for these funds every three years. The rehab funds require a lien to be placed on

the property until the loan is paid. Applications can be processed through Mountain Housing Opportunities. Ms. Cottrell briefly reviewed the income guidelines to qualify for the programs. She said that the main focus for housing funds is supporting rental projects, single family housing and emergency repairs. The money is channeled through an organization, not to an individual.

Ms. Teague said that the Housing Commission can be a resource to identify agencies to assist property owners with home repair needs. The Commission discussed ways to effectively communicate with people in need, particularly the elderly and disabled, to assure them that the help offered is genuine. Ms. Teague said that there is an effort in the community to establish a transitional residential facility for women coming out of prison to renovate an existing structure or construct a new structure. Ms. Cottrell said that this project can be reviewed and referred to the housing funds program.

2. Resolutions of Appreciation for out-going Commission members

Chair Brannon recognized Ellen Farrow, Dot Jones, Jessie Sherrill and Dawn Wilson for their professional and faithful service as members of the Black Mountain Housing Commission. Resolutions of Appreciation were approved by the Commission and mailed to each out-going member.

3. Presentation on the Housing Voucher Program at 5:30pm (today) October 19, 2010 in the Town Hall

Ms. Teague reminded the Commission of the Housing Voucher Presentation today at 5:30 p.m. She said that Mr. Anthony Goodson, Director of Assisted Housing, will present information and answer questions about the Voucher Program including the application process for renters and landlords.

4. Discussion of Goals and focus for the coming year

Ms. Teague recapped some of the past goals which resulted in changes in the Land Use Code beneficial to property owners. Some of the Commission recommendations were:

- Extending or creating sidewalks for accessibility to downtown
- Long term transit services
- Continue being involved in the town square activities
- Continue with identifying and providing assistance through volunteer groups to residents in need of home repairs

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Connie Pruitt made a motion to adopt the agenda. Ruth Norton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

June 15, 2010 – Ruth Norton made a motion to adopt, seconded by Connie Pruitt and unanimously passed;

July 20, 2010 – Ruth Norton made a motion to adopt, seconded by Carolyn Copeland and unanimously passed;

September 21, 2010 – Ruth Norton made a motion to adopt, seconded by Levon Lindsey and unanimously passed

V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ruth Norton made a motion to nominate Connie Pruitt as Chair. There were no other nominations. Carolyn Copeland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Connie Pruitt made a motion to nominate Ruth Norton as Vice Chair. There were no other nominations. The motion passed unanimously. Carolyn Copeland made a motion to nominate Levon Lindsey as Secretary. There were no other nominations. The Board passed the nomination by acclamation. The new officers are Connie Pruitt, Chair, Ruth Norton, Vice Chair and Levon Lindsey, Secretary.

VI. STAFF AND MEMBER COMMENTS REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS – none

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT – none

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11:10 a.m.

Connie Pruitt, Chair

Levon Lindsey, Secretary

Rosa B. Hilbert, Senior Admin. Assistant