

**TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN
HOUSING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
March 17, 2009**

The **Black Mountain Housing Commission** held its regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday March 17, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Carver Community Center, 101 Carver Avenue, Black Mountain, North Carolina.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Joanne Brannon, Chair
Ellen Farrior, Vice Chair
Ronald Krantz
Connie Pruitt
Jessie Sherrill
Dawn Wilson

Absent:

Dot Jones

Staff:

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

Other (s)

Joan Brown

Chair Brannon declared a quorum present and the meeting was duly constituted and opened for business.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Connie Pruitt made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. The motion passed unanimously.

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Connie Pruitt made a motion to adopt the minutes of February 17, 2009 with a correction noted on page 4. Vice Chair Farrior seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on Land Use Codes Process

Elizabeth Teague distributed the schedule of joint meetings between the Board of Aldermen and Planning Board to review the Land Use Codes revisions. The Minimum Housing Code revisions will be discussed at the April 27, 2009 meeting. The boards supported the inclusionary housing bonus in Chapter 4. She encouraged Commission members to attend as many meetings as possible.

2. Homeowner Assistance Program

Ms. Teague said there is a group of volunteers sponsored by the Office of Community Service at Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts in a program called "LeaderBUILD". It is similar to an Alternative Spring Break trip in that it is a week-long group service trip. She said

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the group will be participating with MHO (Mountain Housing Opportunities) on the Central Avenue project. There will be 10 volunteers in the group seeking housing from May 17, thru May 23, 2009.

Dot Jones and Dawn Wilson will coordinate summer work groups to do small repairs for homeowners, particularly for the elderly or disabled who are unable to maintain the upkeep of their homes. Ms. Teague said if the Housing Commission could provide a list of addresses of homeowners in the community in need of home repairs that the Warren Wilson College Work Service Program volunteers may be able to help. The Commission discussed other resources in the community available to assist with these needs.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Current Economy and Stimulus

Ms. Teague said there is uncertainty about how the ARRA (American Recovery and Reimbursement Act) will be administered and implemented locally. At the federal level, funds are going to various agencies with a focus on infrastructure projects that could create jobs. The government is encouraging green construction and a variety of loans are available at the private sector. Funds are filtered down through state agencies to implement money to local governments and other qualifying agencies. The agencies have asked for letters of intent. The Town of Black Mountain has responded with letters of intent for the stormwater, water, sewer and sidewalk projects. Ms. Teague said they do not have any figures on the employment opportunities if the funds are made available for the projects.

Vice Chair Fariior said she attended a meeting about the current economic status and stimulus at the Whitehorse Black Mountain facility. The emphasis is to look for opportunities to become involved with people through community projects such as the Community Gardens or organizing a free clinic for medical care.

VI. STAFF AND MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

Vice Chair Fariior said the Ministerial Association is aware of the Housing Commission's efforts to provide assistance for the elderly or disabled with home repairs through referrals.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 11:00 a.m.

Joanne Brannon, Chair

Rosa B. Hilbert
Administrative Assistant