Hyattsville Code Compliance Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes 9.18.2024

Members:

- Thoa Hoang (Chair) - Present
- Ian Fay (Vice Chair) - Present
- Stacy Dennery (Recorder) - Present
- Arinee Flurry (Member) – Present
- Kareem Redmond (Council Member Liaison Ward 3) - Present
- Joe Brewer (Staff Liaison)
- Jamie Been (Member) - Present
- Susan Zahran (Member) - Present
- Lena Bradley (Member) - Present
- Gloria Felix-Thompson (Member) - Present
- Jimmy McClellan (Councilmember Liaison Ward 3) – Present

Topics Discussed:

- Minutes from May 2024 Meeting are approved.
- Michael Bonds (member of public) joined the meeting.
- Code Compliance Update (Joe Brewer):
    - Hired a new staff member 1.5 weeks ago (specialize in multi-family properties)
    - October agenda for Council is to purchase a new code vehicle.
    - Transitioning code compliance staff away from zoned areas into specialties (e.g., multi-family, business licenses, property maintenance, SFR rentals especially for basement rentals).
    - Question from K. Redmond: How will a rent stabilization ordinance impact the code compliance team?
        - Joe Brewer: Joe was not involved in the ordinance. As a fire and life safety inspector, he needs to stay impartial. Code Compliance verify complaints and conditions of a property. Code Compliance will have a hard time playing a role in enforcement of rent stabilization. Seems outside the scope. Attorney's office would need to be present for every case. If Code Compliance is expected to write citations for rent stabilization, then they need more staff. Not sure if the County will hire more people. Joe Brewer has not been looped in.
            - Change in time to respond to grass length complaints: This change did not go through. Kareem Redmond started a conversation on this topic with the City Clerk, but other topics took priority. Kareem Redmond will pick this topic back up. Now that City Clerk is staffed with more hands, they can engage again. It may help if the Code Advisory Committee made that request to the City. Council usually sees a written request. The Council's October agenda is already set, so this will not get on the October Council agenda.
        - Action Item:

- At the next meeting, the Code Compliance Advisory Committee will vote on recommending the following language change to the Council:
    - Current code: [City of Hyattsville, MD Brush, Grass and Weeds (ecode360.com)](ecode360.com)
    - Suggested Change: Ch. 65-26 section A - The number "14" is suggested to be changed to "7" days.
- Committee News and Updates:
    - Chicken/Fowl:
        - Months ago, this Committee discussed making a recommendation to the City to approve a code language change to reflect the County's policy to allow for chicken/fowl (no roosters). We recommended creating a 1 pager of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to help Council Members respond to questions during Council meetings.
        - Gloria also wanted to see language that the coops were humane and met the standards of the Agricultural Department. MD's Health and Agricultural page has good materials that the Committee can use for the language.
        - Avian Flu was in the news and did not want at the top of the committee's list until after the 1 pager.
        - The 1 pager recommendation memo was created by Thoa, but the Committee felt that it did not include enough prior research (which the FAQ could include). The FAQ is a potential compromise to accompany the 1 pager.
        - We now have an animal control liaison for the City who can report the issue to animal control or the appropriate department.
        - There's already an Urban Farm FAQ that the County developed.
        - Within the Q&A Brainstorming doc, the Advisory Committee added new questions to the FAQ.
        - Next Step: Volunteers to insert answers to FAQs before the next meeting or during the meeting?
            - Ian Fay will add first draft answers to the FAQs using the FAQ and Prior Research docs. The Advisory Committee will review and discuss at the next meeting.
    - New Business:
        - Committee worksheet requires that we have a minimum of 10 meetings per year? The worksheet version on the website may be out of date (needs to be changes – Thoa will do this). Revised version says minimum 6 meetings per year. See revised version from April 2023.
    - Next Meeting October 16, 2024 at 7:15pm
    - Meeting adjourned 8:39pm