



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

MARBELEHEAD HOUSING AUTHORITY – 5-21-24

LWVM Observers – Cathy Marie Michael and Mimi Hollister Gardner

All Board members present: Kathy Hoog, Executive Director, Jenn Schaeffner, Chair, Pamela Foye, Jean Eldridge, Bill Kuker, Terri Tauro

Broughton Road Reconstruction Project

- Voted to move ahead with Winn, even though it was the only bid received by deadline. All but one board member was comfortable with Winn having received favorable reviews on Winn. This is not the casino company Winn.
- Tenants want to be kept in the know with the upcoming changes, they are concerned about the following;
 - will they definitely be relocated during reconstruction and to where?
 - Will they be able to return to Broughton Rd. upon completion of the project?
 - Yes, Federal law states that they must be relocated to comparable housing during reconstruction and Federal law also states that they have first dibs upon returning, if they choose to do so.
- Winn will hire a relocation company to find comparable relocation such as Salem Affordable Housing Units. Tenants feel they are being kept in the dark. They are receiving only memos, rather than meetings with the board which would be their preference. They are particularly worried they will have to move their kids to different school districts.

Public Comment

- The first agenda item was Public comment
- When a tenant raised hand to speak during the meeting, comment was not permitted.
- Our observation: this ruling could easily be changed to allow tenant comments/questions at several points on the agenda which could possibly address the main complaint that tenants have at meetings about not being heard.

Farewell Celebration -Pam Foy, a longtime member of the board is retiring. This is her last meeting.

Next MHA meeting scheduled for 25June24, place & time tbd.