

## Town of Richmond Housing Committee Notes

Date: Dec 9 2021

Time Started: 7:36p

Time Ended: 9:15p

Ravi Venkataraman (Host)

Present: Virginia Clarke, Sarah Heim (Chair), Miranda Lescaze, Connie van Eeghen, Kristen Hayden-West

Guest: (none)

Absent: Mark Hall, Zachary Maia

Quorum is 4; 4 votes to pass any motion

1. Welcome and troubleshooting
2. Approval of November 11 2021 meeting minutes
  - a. Moved to accept: Virginia Clark
  - b. Seconded: Kristen Hayden-West
  - c. Unanimously passed
3. Adjustments to Agenda
  - a. Reminder: if we exchange information as a committee by email we can share the information but not discuss it, which can happen only on the record, at a record
  - b. Water and Sewer Vote
4. Water and Sewer Vote
  - a. Well attended
  - b. Opposed by trailer park and Governor Peck Road attendees; significant concerns that they would not be treated fairly
  - c. Amendment written that excluded this geographic area; about half of the attendees then left
  - d. Vote approved expansion of district by voice vote
  - e. Discussion
    - i. The language was confusing: district expansion and district line extension
    - ii. Belief that residents that they could be forced to do something; not possible to promise that they would never be required to hook up
    - iii. Attendees were able to express opinions, be heard, and modify the outcome
    - iv. Next day, REAP was contacted for a building project based on this vote (Richmond commercial rates are considered very competitive)
    - v. Sizing the new system will be based on a decision of whether future expansion is included; the Water/Sewer Commission will determine this
  - f. Any future communications on this would require an extensive education process with the community
5. Update on the Zoning for Affordable Housing study – Ravi Venkataraman
  - a. Another round of interviews anticipated
    - i. Have gone well so far, with those that showed up
    - ii. Have enough people; need to organize availability to capture group discussion
  - b. Updates from Brandy next meeting
6. Discussion on FY23 Unified Planning Work Program or UPWP – Ravi Venkataraman
  - a. Background
    - i. Required by US Highway Administration for transportation planning; determines funding
    - ii. UPWP manages project related to transportation for towns
    - iii. Funds flow to CCRPC which manages the projects, usually by hiring a consultant. These projects include land use planning such as zoning revisions, Town Plan updates, etc. All requests for the year must be made by Jan 31 of any year.
    - iv. The Town pays 20% of the cost for transportation projects supported by US Highway Administration and all of the costs for non-transportation projects, at a discount.
  - b. Gateway District

- i. Plan for Gateway would be eligible for Transportation Funds if a transportation nexus is established by the plan.
  - ii. The Transportation Committee wanted to include a bike path and improve connections from Riverview Commons to the Village. Planning Commission wanted to accomplish upzoning (use, density, and other standards).
    - 1. CCRPC indicated that this plan does not have enough of a nexus with transportation funds and that the update to the 2014 project could be smaller
    - 2. However, planning out for new streets or a new streetscape or new street connections would improve eligibility.
  - c. Next week's Transportation Committee will include this project and CCRPC staff, with discussion on what would make this a project eligible for funds. The residential component is core to this project. A master plan will help communicate a cohesive plan to contain sprawl. It may be possible to engage the funding, create a smaller project that accomplishes the goals for an affordable amount, or find alternative grants to support our goals (such as a municipal planning grant).
    - i. Committee members are encouraged to attend the next Transportation Committee meeting on Tuesday, Dec 14 at 4p (Zoom link to be posted in FPF).
- 7. Discuss Letter to ARPA Committee
  - a. Referring to November 11, 2021 Meeting minutes for draft language, Connie, Sarah and Virginia will collaborate on an initial letter to the ARPA Committee that Sarah will sign and send.
- 8. Community Outreach Methods
  - a. Part of our charge is to do outreach about housing and housing issues.
  - b. Community members are demonstrating an interest in learning more about town governance and structure as related to equity and inclusion. Town committees need educated supporters in order to make plans and make changes: multifamily housing, rental properties, and other changes to increase housing and affordable housing.
    - i. Showing up at meetings is important, both for education and decision making purposes. It is important to call out those who speak of "others" to raise awareness and shape action. These comments are direct: "We don't want sidewalks because we don't want others walking in our neighborhood" or "We don't want more housing in our neighborhood because we don't know who those other people will be."
    - ii. Sharing the stories may be more important than presenting statistics. Empathy is needed in these conversations.
  - c. Outreach includes both reaching into committee/commission meetings and reaching into the community.
    - i. Resistance to more housing exists in Richmond.
    - ii. We will need to listen and build understanding ahead of decisions, as well as contribute to meetings that result in decisions.
    - iii. This will require research and resources, but these supports already exist.
    - iv. Some community groups already exist: Richmond Racial Equity, Climate Action, Our Community Cares Camp, churches, and others can be helpful.
    - v. We may have opportunities to create charettes for community conversations. One starting point is an inventory of community resources of interested group, including contacts. In addition, a template for connections: Times Ink!, FPF, school communication channels, and disaster planning. Ravi will share work done on this from a previous grant.
    - vi. Consider a Town Website page to post updates on this work. Ravi is interested in helping in this.
- 9. Other business, correspondence, and adjournment
  - a. Next meeting: Jan 13 2022
  - b. Proposed agenda to include: Update on Zoning for Affordable Housing, UPWP, Transportation Meeting update, Outreach, Planning Commission is tracking progress and coordinating work.
    - i. Meeting adjourned at 9:15p