

Town of Richmond Housing Committee Notes

Date: June 9, 2022

Time Started: 7:35p

Time Ended: 8:48p

Ravi Venkataraman (Host)

Present: Mark Hall, Sarah Heim (Chair), Connie van Eeghen

Guest: (none)

Absent: Virginia Clarke

Quorum is 3; 3 votes to pass any motion

1. Welcome and troubleshooting
 - a. We are now a committee of four members and one vacancy; Kristen Hayden-West has resigned
2. Approval of May 26, 2022 meeting minutes
 - a. Moved to accept: Connie van Eeghen
 - b. Seconded: Mark Hall
 - c. Unanimously passed
3. Adjustments to Agenda - none
4. Reorganization Meeting
 - a. Sarah Heim will not be able to serve on the committee past November
 - b. Chair: moderates the meeting, approves the agenda, end of the year report, back up note taker: Mark Hall volunteered
 - c. Clerk: Connie van Eeghen volunteered
 - d. Moved to nominate Mark Hall for Chair: Sarah Heim, seconded by Connie van Eeghen, unanimously passed
 - e. Moved to nominate Connie van Eeghen for Clerk: Sarah Heim, seconded by Mark Hall, unanimously passed
5. Discuss Advocacy Plan for the issue of 3-4 unit multifamily dwelling uses
 - a. Housing Committee Talking Points draft:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VR4HctRTpj2Fatpu7E9kYsNsZwNktzvAcPQcvmtZO6g/edit>
 - b. Mark: missing data about how distribution of tax burden affects Richmond residents and households
 - i. Ravi: data are not easily available but could be put together
 - c. Sarah: Virginia previously noted that further development in dense areas (Village) support climate change solutions
 - i. Ravi can access this information and will send to Sarah
 - d. Sarah: could include stats on homeownership, disabilities and equity issues
 - i. CvE: will seek data reflecting the status of those with disabilities
 - ii. Sarah: could also add information related to low income and affordable housing
 - iii. Mark: emphasize affordable housing or all housing
 1. Sarah: the current need is for both; 3-4 unit dwellings do not necessarily meet the definition of "affordable" housing
 - e. Use these talking points: moving forward to support upcoming Planning Commission decision about multi-unit housing
 - i. More outreach activities planned, especially around Gateway (to support sewer expansion at least to the Reaps) and Business districts, followed by residential areas in Village (Tilden, Bridge Street)
 - ii. Past Planning Commission activities were in 2020-21 included outreach meetings for residents and neighborhoods in specific parts of the Village at which the PC presented ideas for future plans. Intended to get feedback through additional meetings. Reached out to neighborhood leaders and surveys to elicit more input. Will happen again when the PC presents it plans. The focus is on the 3-4 multi-unit housing as infill development: the middle ground of the progression of density-building. Also pushing for permitting the 3-4 unit structures the same way single family dwellings are permitted (exempted from certain review requirements).

- iii. We can participate in these outreach events, understanding what we want to support in the context with specific efforts to move forward. It will be a few months before this gets started; this work helps us get ready.
 - f. Draft an op ed letter for future use: Connie volunteered to draft; Mark will draft a communications
- 6. Discuss priorities from the Housing Study
 - a. Recommendations 2 (Advocacy) and 3 (Metrics for an annual report) are two high priority actions
 - i. Recommendation 2 (Advocacy)
 - ii. Recommendation 3 (Metrics) can be supported by an annual fall intern
 - iii. Outcomes: spreadsheet, narrative report, year over year changes, include community demographics, a storymap showing geographic areas to support interactive presentations, a dashboard (in Tableau); must be sustainable over future years with instructions/guide
 - 1. Intern expected in fall 2022
 - 2. Sources: Brandy's report, past housing reports, permit ledgers for the past 5 years
 - 3. Missing: homeownership market (talk to realtors) and rental market
 - 4. Discuss in September meeting
 - iv. Other priorities to be considered in the future
 - b. How should we share Brandy's Housing with the larger community
 - i. Shared with Planning Commission, Selectboard, and AARP committee
 - ii. Planned for DRB next via Planning Commission
 - iii. Sarah will share on FPF: overview and link and plug for recruitment
 - c. Recruitment: need to include voices not present on the committee right now
- 7. Update from the Planning Commission
 - a. Ravi shared some of the Planning Commission's activities under 5e above. Some priorities:
 - i. Keep the scenic image of the entry (Gateway) to Richmond via additional building standards
 - ii. Specific areas around center of Village/commercial areas becoming more mixed (residential) in use via up-zoning (4 units/acre to 8 units/acre)
 - iii. Allowing for multiple buildings on a property without going through a subdivision process
- 8. Other business, correspondence, and adjournment
 - a. Next meeting: July 14, 2022 (no Connie)
 - b. Proposed agenda to include: Advocacy Talking Points, Communication Plan, Draft Write Up
 - i. Moved to adjourn: Connie van Eeghen
 - ii. Seconded: Mark Hall
 - iii. Unanimously passed

Recorded by Connie van Eeghen