

Town of Richmond Housing Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 31, 2024

Time Started: 5:48p

Time Ended: 6:35p

Keith Osborne, Host, Director Planner and Zoning

Present: Mark Hall (Chair), Matt Parisi, Connie van Eeghen

Guests: Jay Furr, Fran Thomas, John's iPhone, Martha Nye, Marianne Barnes, Lisa Kory, Kea Kohlmeyer

Absent: Virginia Clarke

Committee is approved at 5 members, 2 alternates (5/16/22); quorum is 3

1. Welcome and troubleshooting: Meeting convened at 5:48p
2. Adjustments to Agenda - none
3. Approval of December 13, 2023 meeting minutes
 - a. Accepted as written
4. Browns Court Housing/Participation of the Housing committee on Town Meeting Day
 - a. Informal meeting last week re: a role to play in the upcoming Town Meeting as relates to housing
 - b. Review of Connie van Eeghen's report on her conversations with SB members
 - c. Some ideas on sharing information
 - i. Focused summary of Brandy Saxton's report, covering housing in Richmond generally
 - ii. Outline of possible presentation, including Brown's Court specifically
 - iii. Committee members could support in different ways
 - d. Discussion
 - i. Jay: background of motion to allow 3 Parks Committee to go forward and general discussion of housing in Richmond. Hopes that Clint Buxton introduces item, Jay introduces goal to include general and specific discussions about housing, offer a motion, second, then citizen discussion. Would like an information sheet at start of day to streamline and support the citizen discussion.
 - ii. Matt: Planning Commission has worked hard to update zoning in specific dates. Many people are concerned about housing and density changes.
 - e. Response to draft flyer
 - i. Matt: Good. Need more information from Zoning about permit applications/DRB submissions
 - ii. Jay: Agreed. Add housing starts
 - iii. Lisa: Would be good to know number of houses built in village vs outlying. Also, on Browns Court, would like to see more Affordable Housing in village, what alternatives are there to the 20 unit building in the BC Park. Have we really investigated this enough? What are the options?
 - iv. Jay: There are only 2.1 acres of land available for building, a combination of housing/recreation does not look feasible. The Article on housing is advisory only, not binding.
 - f. Draft on housing summit: can be a presentation or a flyer
 - i. Connie: liked the flow and the mix of narrative and numbers
 - ii. Matt: liked the stats; can the two drafts be combined and be simple?
 - g. Mark and Connie will share their draft documents with the rest of the Committee and work on an infographic-like flyer, to be shared at next Housing Committee meeting
 - i. Jay: in support. Could there also be a map of Richmond identifying available spaces for development?
 - ii. Matt: available space can change based on zoning changes, but there are geographic limits.
 - iii. Mark: there are also limits based on expansion limits of water/sewer system.
 - iv. Keith: requested that the Committee communicate with his office
5. Other business, correspondence, and adjournment
 - a. Next meeting: February 28, 2024
 - b. Proposed agenda to include: Town Meeting flyer/presentation
 - c. Agreed to adjourn at: 6:35p

Recorded by Connie van Eeghen