

Town of Richmond Housing Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: August 11, 2022

Time Started: 7:34

Time Ended: 8:43

Ravi Venkataraman (Host)

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

Guest: Jay Furr

Absent: (none)

Quorum is 4; 4 votes to pass any motion (we think)

1. Welcome and troubleshooting
2. Approval of July 14, 2022 meeting minutes
 - a. Moved to accept: Connie van Eeghen
 - b. Seconded: Virginia Clarke
 - c. Unanimously passed
3. Adjustments to Agenda
 - a. Jay is present to join in on the next agenda item
4. Habitat for Humanity
 - a. There are many misconceptions: it is not funded by the national level and they do not have special access to real estate
 - b. They are looking for opportunities to present their work and answer questions, including opportunities to donate land
 - c. Invite H4H for 30 minutes, with five minutes Q&A, and invite the public
 - i. First item on agenda for September 8
 - ii. Mark will send an invitational email
 - d. Promotion ideas
 - i. PPF: get a brief statement from Habitat for Humanity; Connie to publish
 - ii. Town Website: Ravi Venkataraman will add the statement
 - iii. Duncan's weekly update
5. Review Advocacy Materials
 - a. Richmond Times Ink did not include our letter in August; Connie van Eeghen is working on publication in September
 - b. Farmer's Market: can have a booth any time; needs a few weeks' notice in advance
 - i. Best if we set up our booth end of September or early October (Sept 16 or 23 or 30)
 - ii. Decide at our September 8 meeting
 - iii. Virginia can get the Land Trust's tent
 - iv. Reuse the Richmond Planning banner for our work
 - v. Handout
 1. Information: Sarah's information talking points – Mark will work on this
 2. Question: How do you want to see housing evolve in Richmond?
 - c. PPF posts, broken into five categories to post separately – copy the posts to Mark to add to the handout
 - i. Sept 5 Scarce housing is expensive housing – Connie van Eeghen
 - ii. Sept 12 Business and local economy – Sarah Heim – and will provide an example by the Aug 29
 - iii. Sept 19 Equity Goals – RRE member (Connie to ask for a volunteer)
 - iv. Sept 26 More diverse housing for aging pop – Virginia Clarke will ask Miranda
 - v. Oct 3 Climate change – Mark Hall
 - vi. Planning Commission plan for public hearing – Virginia Clarke
6. Review Internship Description
 - a. Reviewed description
 - i. Consider including a conversation with a professional (see Sarah)
 - ii. Include statement about ownership of outcomes being the property of Richmond Town
 - iii. Consider recruiting through CDAE at UVM, also Stats department

7. Update from Planning Commission
 - a. Multi-family housing standards – Virginia will share these drafts next week, along with YIMBY perspective, e.g. more diverse housing both stabilizes housing, raises prices, and reduced foreclosures
 - i. Ravi Venkataraman will find sources for this information
 - b. PC is moving forward on these standards for two districts: Gateway and Village districts, so that 3-4 units is as easy as duplex, and introduce even larger family units (as being contemplated by REAP/Willis property)
 - c. Commission is considering allowing owners to live in campers on property while home is being built
 - d. Commission is also grappling with short term rentals (AirBnB), which has reduced inventory of long term rentals
8. Other business, correspondence, and adjournment
 - a. Presentation by Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity at Sept 8, 2022 meeting (discussed above)
 - b. Next meeting: Thursday, September 8 2022 at 7:30
 - c. Proposed agenda to include: Habitat for Humanity presentation; promotion of Planning Commission work; Expectations of the internship for this Committee if the intern is available (otherwise in October)
 - i. Moved to adjourn: Connie van Eeghen
 - ii. Seconded: Virginia Clarke
 - iii. Unanimously passed

Recorded by Connie van Eeghen