

Monday's Selectboard Meeting

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Dear Selectboard Members,

After a 72 hour cooling off period, I do need to send this note regarding the ARPA parks committee agenda item. To say the least, it was an exasperating, numbing experience to watch. Yeah, you are going to say this guy's the husband of one the hard working committee members, and thus, is biased. Other than the chair, who was quite clear about his position of moving ahead without any further consideration for housing in the park, I find it inexcusable that the board did not wish to make a motion. I don't care if the vote was going to be 3-2 to allow or not to allow housing. By not taking a formal position, it underscores how the board continues to string along the committee. I heard all say they were sorry about perceived unfavorable committee treatment, but then no one, other than the chair, was willing to be clear about the direction. I heard members say they represent all the citizens, which assumes some are saying desperately needed housing needs to be built in the park. Where are the voices behind these statements? Why aren't they at these meetings? Why aren't board members reading the 2020 report that clearly shows recommended areas for housing? Why are members wanting to put subsidized housing on public land that has been designated as parks? After a long ARPA committee, community, and board process of selecting recreation to be the recipient of the \$450k, why are you now trying to shoe horn housing into the only logical non flood plain public property suitable for expanding recreational infrastructure?

The motion would be quite simple: No housing of any type is to be built on Browns Court, a Richmond publicly owned property and designated as a Park.

The vote would be clear for all to see and react to it accordingly. Please do it.

Thank you,
Dave Thomas