

MINUTES

THRESHOLD

**Lexington's Housing Commission
Tuesday, July 20, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.
City Hall Community Meeting Room**

Threshold:

Present: Fred Kirchner, Chair
Marylin Alexander, Council Liaison
Nadine Craney
Vicki Turner

City Staff:

Arne Glaeser, Planning Director
Kate Beard, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Cristyl Vozzo, Vice-Chair

CALL TO ORDER:

F. Kirchner called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

AGENDA

F. Kirchner moved to add a discussion of recruitment of new Commissioners to the Other Business portion of the agenda. V. Turner seconded and the agenda was approved unanimously with that addition.

MINUTES:

- A. F. Kirchner noted that the October 20, 2020 minutes were not complete as presented. Approval of these minutes was tabled with the understanding that staff would revisit the audio from the meeting and present a full draft at the next meeting.
- B. Meeting minutes from June 15, 2021 were approved unanimously. (M. Alexander/V. Turner)

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Glaeser noted that Threshold's by-laws allow the Chair and Vice-Chair to serve no more than four consecutive terms and observed that Chair Kirchner has served three consecutive terms and Vice-Chair Vozzo has served one term. M. Alexander stated that C. Vozzo has difficulty attending meetings on the third Tuesday of the month. After discussion, Commissioners agreed to contemplate rescheduling Threshold meetings. It was agreed that staff would review the by-laws, City Code and monthly meeting room schedule to determine what alternate scheduling was feasible and then report back to Commissioners.

A. Elect Chairperson

- 1) **Nominations** – F. Kirchner was nominated to serve a fourth term as Chair.
- 2) **Motion & Vote** – V. Turner moved to elect F. Kirchner as Chairperson. N. Craney seconded and the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

B. Elect Vice-chairperson

- 1) **Nominations** – C. Vozzo was nominated to serve a second term as Vice-Chair.

- 2) **Motion & Vote – M. Alexander moved to elect C. Vozzo as Vice-Chair. V. Turner seconded and the motion passed unanimously (4-0).**

OTHER BUSINESS:

- A. Continuing discussion of scheduling an affordable housing guest speaker – M. Alexander reported that Mr. Famuliner has expressed interest in providing a presentation at a joint educational session for Threshold and the Planning Commission. She intends to meet with Mr. Famuliner sometime in August to discuss a specific topic for his presentation. She indicated that she anticipated guidance from J. Driscoll to further narrow down the focus of the presentation.
- B. Threshold membership and recruitment of new Commissioners – A. Glaeser confirmed that with the resignation of M. Moore, there are now three vacancies on the Commission. He encouraged Commissioners to direct interested individuals to the online application for Board Members/Commissioners for consideration by City Council. Commissioners reported their recruitment efforts.
- C. **M. Alexander moved to add a discussion of Threshold in connection with the Regional REDI Grant to the Other Business portion of the agenda. N. Craney seconded and the motion passed unanimously. (4-0)** – M. Alexander explained this is a grant that was made available to localities and for which the County applied (with the inclusion of Lexington and Buena Vista). She indicated that she believes one of the grant’s components has to do with housing (with funding coming from the USDA) for which a formal housing study for the entire region would be needed. She asked if Threshold would like to play a role if the opportunity should arise. There was discussion about what types of projects could receive this funding. A. Glaeser said that his understanding of the Ready Grant was that it was really issued to the County and that he was unaware of a housing component. He indicated that he would get more information and report back via email prior to the next meeting. V. Turner asked about the allocation of funds associated with the Federal Recovery Program and A. Glaeser and M. Alexander said that while they did not know whether those funds could be applied to residential rehab programs, the funds had in effect already been spoken for for other City projects. F. Kirchner emphasized that Threshold has long provided leadership, experience and knowledge and it would be appropriate to take part in any discussion of housing in the City or larger community. He also suggested that past experience with federal funds should inform how future projects are approached. There was discussion of the importance of Threshold’s past influence on housing in the community, its historical approach to projects and whether it is realistic to replicate that approach moving forward.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned unanimously at 4:43 p.m.

Fred Kirchner, Chair
Threshold Housing Commission