

MINUTES

THRESHOLD

Lexington's Housing Commission
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.
Live Zoom E-meeting

Threshold:

Present: Fred Kirchner, Chair
Christyl Vozzo, Vice-Chair
Marylin Alexander, Council Liaison
Vicki Turner
Ash Mullis

City Staff:

Arne Glaeser, Planning Director
Kate Beard, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Nadine Craney

CALL TO ORDER:

F. Kirchner called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

AGENDA

The agenda was approved unanimously as presented. (V. Turner / M. Alexander)

MINUTES:

Chair Kirchner noted the minutes from the January 26, 2022 were dated incorrectly. C. Vozzo moved to approve the minutes as amended by F. Kirchner M. Alexander seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion of December 9, 2021 CDPC Roundtable and November 17, 2021 Joint Educational Session with Planning Commission –

A. Glaeser prefaced the conversation with a brief explanation of the discussion item for the benefit of the recently appointed Threshold Commissioner, Ash Mullis. He said during its discussion at the last meeting the Commission tasked staff to work on scheduling another educational session with a contact from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for an overview of State housing programs that may be suited to Lexington, and to research the Charlottesville area regional housing group mentioned during the November joint educational session. He reported he had reached out to the DHCD but had not yet heard back, and that staff was still researching the Charlottesville group and would prepare a short report for the Commissioners review.

There was discussion about how future educational sessions should be held and seemed to be general agreement that Zoom meetings were preferable. Commissioners Alexander and Vozzo suggested timing the educational session during the work day, possibly during a lunch hour, may likely be necessary to accommodate the guest speaker.

OTHER BUSINESS:

V. Turner asked for an update on the projects put on hold during the pandemic. Director Glaeser reported that Habitat, Mission Next Door and T.A.P. are slowly beginning to take on interior projects. He offered to provide a report at the next meeting.

M. Alexander expressed concern about over-burdening Planning staff and asked if there were any tasks staff could delegate to Threshold Commissioners. Director Glaeser indicated the tasks currently under discussion are not overly burdensome, but delegating portions of bigger projects might be helpful. He then asked for an update on the regional housing study, saying his understanding was that the study would now be done by the CSPDC but that the Rockbridge County region would be prioritized. M. Alexander confirmed that was also her understanding and that because the region is being prioritized, results from the study may be received in less than a year.

Chair Kirchner provided clarification to his comments from the last meeting about Threshold’s mission statement expressing enthusiasm for a regional cooperative housing team. He said the Threshold Commission has a wealth of experience to share a good reputation with the State. He encouraged Commissioners to keep their eyes and ears open in order to team up with partners to make things happen. M. Alexander observed Lexington’s size and lack of available land limits new housing projects and suggested citizens would appreciate housing even if it is outside of City limits. She said Threshold’s mission is on behalf of citizens who can benefit from its services. C. Vozzo said she was excited to hear the CSDPC study will focus on the Lexington region and will be positive for the entire area.

Commissioner Mullis briefly introduced herself to the Commission and expressed enthusiasm and appreciation about her appointment.

M. Alexander summed up the discussion stating A. Glaeser would reach out to Virginia Housing and to Threshold’s rehab partners. She asked if there was anything else she had missed. V. Turner offered to act as a liaison if necessary.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned unanimously at 4:26 p.m. (V. Turner / M. Alexander)

Fred Kirchner, Chair
Threshold Housing Commission