MINUTES

THRESHOLD

Lexington's Housing Commission Tuesday, June 15, 2021 – 4:00 p.m. Zoom e-meeting

Threshold: City Staff:

Present: Fred Kirchner, Chair Arne Glaeser, Planning Director

Marylin Alexander, Council Liaison Kate Beard, Administrative Assistant

Nadine Craney Jen Handy Vicki Turner

Absent: Cristyl Vozzo, Vice-Chair

LaTonya Douglas Monique Moore

CALL TO ORDER:

F. Kirchner called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. A. Glaeser read a statement of emergency and permission to hold public meetings electronically.

MINUTES:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion of scheduling a speaker to talk about affordable housing – M. Alexander said that John Driscoll, Chair of the Planning Commission, had spoken with her about having the Planning Commission sponsor a workshop/seminar with a guest speaker who could address affordable housing needs in the community. Commissioner Alexander would like to invite Charles Famuliner to speak, but wanted to gauge Threshold Commission's interest before extending the invitation. Mr. Famuliner was the Director of HUD in Virginia and now lives locally. V. Turner asked who the speaker would be addressing and M. Alexander said he would be addressing the Planning and Threshold Commissions jointly. J. Handy indicated that organizations that partner with the City on affordable housing, such as RARA, would likely be interested in attending and asked if the meeting would be public. A. Glaeser said the meeting would be public and advertised. He said the audio would be recorded, but that there would no longer be recorded video of meetings once they return to the in-person format. Both M. Alexander and J. Handy suggested backup speakers should Mr. Famuliner be unavailable. V. Turner moved to approve Threshold's participation in Planning Commission's guest speaker session on affordable housing. N. Craney seconded and the motion passed unanimously (5/0). M. Alexander said she would contact Mr. Famuliner and asked A. Glaeser to follow up with Planning Commission about scheduling.

B. Rehab program updates – A. Glaeser reported that Mission Next Door, Habitat and TAP are all up and running again and are doing both indoor and outdoor rehabs. He also said that Robbie from Mission Next Door mentioned that they were working on a railing project in the Diamond Hill neighborhood. V. Turner said that she had recently read a nice article about Mission Next Door in one of the local newspapers.

OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Glaeser announced that City Council will return to in-person meetings on June 17, 2021 and that Threshold would follow suit for the July meeting which will be held in the Community Meeting Room. F. Kirchner asked about the status of Grace Episcopal's offer to do a study. M. Alexander said there had been no movement with respect to an organization picking it up. She said she had referred an individual to Reverend Bauerfind for assistance navigating the lending process with a bank. She indicated that Reverend Bauerfind is willing to handle this on a person by person basis rather than by way of a group. J. Handy announced that this would be her final Threshold meeting and introduced Lindsey, the new director of RARA. Commissioners thanked her for her work and wished her well. A. Glaeser reminded the Commission that there would be two vacancies at the end of the month and encouraged them to suggest new applicants. He also said that voting for Chair and Vice-Chair would be held at the July meeting.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned unanimously at 4:30 p.m. (J. Handy/M. Alexander).

Fred Kirchner, Chair Threshold Housing Commission