

NOTES

THRESHOLD Lexington's Housing Commission Tuesday, July 21, 2020 – 4:30 p.m. Zoom e-meeting

Threshold:

Present:

Fred Kirchner, Chair
Marylin Alexander, Council Liaison
Latonya Douglas
Christyl Vozzo (Lee)
Monique Moore

Absent:

Nadine Craney
Jen Handy

City Staff:

Arne Glaeser, Planning Director
Bonnie Tombarge, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER:

F. Kirchner called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm. A. Glaeser read a statement of emergency and permission to hold public meetings electronically.

MINUTES:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Elect Chairperson

1. Nominations – M. Alexander nominated F. Kirchner as chair.
2. Motion & Vote – M. Alexander moved to re-appoint F. Kirchner as Chair. L. Douglas seconded and the motion passed unanimously (4/0). F. Kirchner abstained from voting.

B. Elect Vice-chair person

1. Nominations – M. Alexander nominated C. Vozzo for Vice-chair.
2. Motion & Vote – M. Alexander moved to appoint C. Vozzo as Vice-chair. L. Douglas seconded and the motion passed unanimously (4/0). C. Vozzo abstained from voting.

C. Discussion of Housing Rehabilitation Project in the Green Hill neighborhood.

A. Glaeser reviewed the status of the project, and of some applications that had been in progress. He said the follow up from Mission Next Door said that Ms. Johnson's gutters were replaced, and there will be a few more projects completed in the future. A. Glaeser said that 27 Maury Street was passed along to TAP and RARA as well as to the Lexington Fire Department. The property had already received help from Mission Next Door for a new roof.

Annie Stewart required a sewer lateral to be repaired, and that has been completed. SURCAP was able to provide funding for the whole of the project. A. Glaeser expressed his appreciation for all the help he received from M. Alexander and M. Moore in getting the project finished.

A. Call to Action

M. Alexander said at the end of June she was contacted by members of the Episcopal Church as they wanted to know what the priorities of the community were. They were focusing specifically on the black community and how they have been impacted by generations of systematic racism in the Lexington area. At the same time, she also saw various local organizations stepping up to find ideas on how to lift up the black community in sustainable ways. M. Alexander had suggested a meeting of all the organizations so communication would be open, and the church would know what projects various organizations would want to take on, as well as the different organizations knowing what the others were working on. The church currently has funding it is raising and they wanted to be able to put that money where the action is. The meeting will happen on Thursday, July 23. She said the various organizations were looking at items such as credit counseling and credit consolidation to help life-time renters become home owners. This would include helping the families go to the bank and apply for a mortgage on a home. This will take advantage of the houses that are starting to be empty as Washington & Lee University move all of their students into campus housing. M. Alexander said she would like to see Threshold involved in this, and she would be happy to represent them at the meeting. She also said she was pleased at the intent to include the community in the process of discussion as they narrow down the potential projects. A. Glaeser said that if there are any questions or input requested for Threshold, he would like that to be sent to him for distribution to the Commission.

OTHER BUSINESS:

F. Kirchner asked if it was still the intent to have private enterprise create the moderate to low income housing rather than the government trying to create it. A. Glaeser said that there will be housing strategies working to attract low income and emergency housing, but the strategies should not be specific that the government will create it. He also said that the budget most likely will not allow for much work from the government.

ADJOURN:

The discussion ended at 4:40.

Fred Kirchner, Chair
Threshold Housing Commission