



THRESHOLD
Lexington's Housing Commission
Wednesday, June 28, 2023 - 4:00 P.M
Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall
300 E. Washington Street, Lexington, VA

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. Approval of April 26, 2023 minutes*
- 4. New Business**
 - A. Discussion of "windshield survey" of existing housing conditions
 - B. Follow up discussion about the underutilized property survey
- 5. Adjournment**

*indicates attachment

MINUTES

THRESHOLD

Lexington's Housing Commission
Wednesday, April 26, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.
Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall

Threshold:

Present: Shadrey Sands, Chair
Marisa Charley
Nadine Craney
Fred Kirchner, Vice-Chair
Marylin Alexander, Council Liaison
Nicholas Betts, Council Liaison

City Staff:

Arne Glaeser, Planning Director
Kate Beard, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER:

S. Sands called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved as presented. (S. Sands / M. Alexander)

MINUTES:

N. Betts requested the minutes from the March 22, 2023 meeting be amended to reflect that he had suggested the City may be able to help Habitat with its storage needs rather than that it was likely able to do so. The minutes were unanimously approved with that amendment. (N. Betts / M. Charley).

During discussion about the events of the last meeting, F. Kirchner voiced concern for the future of Mission Next Door, saying it would be a tremendously loss to the community if it were to cease to exist. Council Liaison Alexander noted she had included that possibility in her report to City Council and there had been comments about it. She suggested the public announcement might help to get the word out that the program is looking for new leadership. She also reported she had received a comment about the suggestion that Threshold become the central clearing house for applicants in the region through a partnership with W&L. She said the suggestion was that Threshold should stick to its mission of helping to rehab houses if it wanted to be able to justify a funding request.

Responding to a question from N. Betts, F. Kirchner and M. Alexander provided a summary of Threshold's experience with forgivable loans, DHCD, CDBG, and Thompsons Knoll. F. Kirchner suggested that future efforts of a similar nature, if undertaken, should be more of a community wide effort to get affordable housing to the region.

S. Sands remarked that the Commission has had a lot of good ideas and discussions since the start of the year and he felt it was time to push for some actionable goals. N. Betts suggested the data received from the survey letter would help to focus Threshold's efforts.

M. Alexander said she thought Council would be willing to provide funding for projects with clear results. She said the City Manager has indicated that even if funding is not specifically set aside in the budget, it could be granted upon request if there is enough in reserve. She said it was possible that the results from the survey could inform what that request could be.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Review and editing of underutilized property survey letter –

N. Betts strongly recommended making it clear to the survey recipients that they are under no obligation to respond and that any response was voluntary. There was additional discussion of the draft letter during which several editing suggestions were made. M. Charley suggested a prepared written response also be drafted to thank anyone who responds to the survey. There was a stated desire to promise survey responses would be kept confidential, but it was determined that could not be promised given Threshold’s public nature and the City’s responsibility to respond to FOIA requests among other reasons. S. Sands read the letter through out loud and the Commissioners verbally finalized the draft. **N. Betts moved to approve mailing the letter, as amended during the meeting, contingent upon its approval by the City Attorney and the Director of Planning and Development. M. Alexander seconded and the motion passed unanimously. (6-0)**

B. Underutilized property list –

Director Glaeser requested that the Commissioners review the underutilized property list provided to them at the meeting and forward any additional addresses by the end of the week.

OTHER BUSINESS:

M. Alexander reported that City Council had updated the City’s Code of Ethics and the expectation was that all of Lexington’s Boards and Commissions should be aware of and led by it. She requested it be added to the next meeting’s agenda.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned unanimously at 4:51 p.m. (S. Sands / M. Charley)

Shadrey Sands, Chair
Threshold Housing Commission