



**THRESHOLD**  
**Lexington's Housing Commission**  
**Wednesday, March 27, 2024 - 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 January 24, 20024 minutes\*
- 4. New Business**
  - A. Mapping of City neighborhood boundaries for windshield survey.  
(See attached map for reference)\*
  - B. Discussion with Chief Greene about typical police interactions with homeless individuals.
- 5. Adjournment**

\*indicates attachment

**MINUTES**

**THRESHOLD**

**Lexington’s Housing Commission  
Wednesday, January 24, 2024 – 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 p.m.

**AGENDA**

The agenda was unanimously approved as presented. (M. Alexander / N. Craney)

**MINUTES:**

The minutes from the November 29, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved as presented. (N. Betts / M. Alexander)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Continued discussion of options for people experiencing homelessness in the community –**

S. Sands remarked that there seemed to be a considerable amount of discussion throughout the community about local options for homeless individuals, including the possibility for area shelters. He then reported that he and M. Charley had met as a subcommittee to work on drafting a white paper with recommendations for possible short term programs the City could institute, as well as possible long term goals. He said they would present the completed document to the Threshold Commission which could then decide whether to forward it to City Council for consideration. M. Charley added that she would have W&L students research model programs that might work well locally and that she and Mr. Sands would then bring specific interventions to the Commission for discussion. S. Sands asked for feedback as to how to best approach Council with any recommendations that may result from the process. N. Betts suggested sharing data from successful programs elsewhere. M. Charley pointed out there would need to be a shared measurement of success and asked what metrics should be considered. N. Craney and M. Alexander supported increased immediate safety for people experiencing homelessness as an important short term goal. M. Alexander suggested longer term goals, such as a shelter, would need to involve all three local municipalities. She recommended that Threshold invite Brandall Branch, a

Glasgow Town Councilmember with experience running a homeless shelter, to speak on the subject. M. Charley said she was reluctant to propose a shelter as her past experience pursuing that goal led her to believe there were insufficient local resources to support such a program. S. Sands offered that there may be opportunities for the City to support private ventures, noting that a local church was contemplating opening a warm shelter and that RARA was also exploring options with nonprofits in the area. He suggested that Threshold focus on implementing smaller, more easily achievable programs. M. Charley said her takeaway from the discussion thus far was that the subcommittee should look for measurable program success having to do with providing safety, at least temporarily, for unhoused individuals. F. Kirchner suggested working with the police department to identify areas that could be designated for individuals sleeping in their cars. M. Alexander suggested it could be helpful to have a conversation with the Police Chief to learn what the routine police intervention is when they encounter unhoused individuals and what sort of resources/information they provide. A. Glaeser offered to speak with the Chief and invite her to the meeting if the discussion seems it would be valuable. There was discussion about how to approach Council with eventual recommendations followed by speculation as to how the recommendations might be received. Commissioners Alexander and Sands said they were hopeful that interventions could be in place by next winter.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

##### **A. Updates from staff –**

A. Glaeser reported the following:

- Threshold’s donation to Mission Next Door for the organization’s work in Lexington was processed and was received with appreciation.
- The first organizational meeting for the planning grant for the housing assessment was held on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The CSPDC will act as the grant administrator and an RFP should go out in February.
- Olivia Raines, the housing representative at the CSPDC, will be leaving. She will be replaced by Joshua Smoot.

#### **ADJOURN:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. (M. Charley / N. Betts)

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S. Sands, Chair  
Threshold Housing Commission

