

**Citizens Advisory Commission on Housing
Hybrid Meeting Notes**

The Housing Commission convened its meeting at **7:01pm** on **October 6, 2022**.

PRESENT (IN-PERSON) Vice Chair Kellen MacBeth
 Commissioner Sara Rubalcava
 Commissioner Laura Saul Edwards
 Commissioner Anika Montgomery
 Commissioner Holly Bray
 Commissioner Haley Norris
 Commissioner Margaret McGilvray
 Commissioner Michael Hemminger

PRESENT (VIRTUALLY) Disability Advisory Commission Liaison Doris Ray

ABSENT Chair Eric Berkey due to a personal matter.
 Commissioner Karen Serfis due to a personal matter.
 Commissioner Eric Lee due to a personal matter.
 Commissioner Paul Browne due to a personal matter.
 Commissioner Angel Jackson due to a personal matter.

STAFF Alex McMillen, Triina Van

[View the Meeting Recording Here](#)

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Brad Harmon spoke in support of Missing Middle Housing. He said it would make a huge difference in the county for those that are currently struggling to get by. He also noted it would help with sustainability efforts and every person that lives in the county won't have to commute to or through it to work.

Tabitha Nichols spoke in support of Missing Middle Housing, stating that she is looking to eventually buy in the same neighborhood she lives in but that the only housing supply available is not affordable. She stated the details of the framework matter and that it seems we are headed towards compromise but that the county should resist compromise and implement the current proposal.

Grace White spoke in support of Missing Middle Housing. She urged the county to go further and remove the cap of eight units per lot. She mentioned density lowers infrastructure costs per capita, gives business more customers, supports local transit, helps the environment, and builds strong neighborhoods.

Alice Hogan spoke on behalf of the Alliance for Housing Solutions. She supported the Missing Middle study. She asked about the Plan Langston Boulevard process and timeline, mentioning the county needs to meet its housing goals on Langston Boulevard. She also reminded the commission about the Barcroft apartments engagement. She also asked about having a county wide calendar with all housing and planning meetings included to better assist advocates in staying informed. Alex McMillen answered that the county website has a comprehensive calendar and that the link would be sent to the group.

Approval of Notes – Action

Holly Bray made a motion to accept the notes and Laura Saul Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

- [View the September 2022 Housing Commission notes here](#)

Homelessness Strategic Services Planning Update – Information

Staff presented the item, beginning with a background of the Arlington Continuum of Care. Staff noted that the county's goal is to end homelessness for all by 2026. Staff went over the strategic planning milestones, the county's immediate priorities, and shared links with further information for those interested.

- [View the Homelessness Strategic Services Planning slides here](#)

Kellen MacBeth asked what data has led staff to make racial equity a prime focus in the homelessness efforts. Triina Van answered that people who identify as black or African American are disproportionately homeless in Arlington, and similar numbers can be seen when looking at poverty rates. Arlington does track the homeless population by race and hope to continue to gather more data to help inform future decisions.

Michael Hemminger asked what local organizations staff is partnering with to help provide services to the homeless population. Triina Van answered that there is work to be done there but they have recently reached out to the NAACP Arlington Branch and hope to continue to speak with more organizations as well.

Michael Hemminger asked why it seems the homeless population is trending down in many neighboring jurisdictions, but it is trending up in Arlington. Triina Van confirmed that was true based on the point in time count. Triina explained how CARES funding helped keep many people out of homelessness in 2021. She also explained how the point in time count works and how small changes can be greatly magnified.

Michael Hemminger also asked how many people are currently homeless in Arlington and how we define homeless. Triina Van answered she doesn't have a current active number and that the next point in time count is February. She also said that anyone not sleeping in permanent housing is considered homeless, this includes people sleeping in cars and transitional housing.

Sara Rubalcava asked what percentage of the Arlington homeless are veterans. Triina Van answered that as of last week there were three individuals who are currently homeless that are veterans.

Anika Montgomery asked what assistance is available for those on the brink of homelessness. Triina Van answered that there are targeted prevention services. This includes helping with late rental payments and other engagement activities.

Anika Montgomery mentioned the criteria for housing grants were very restrictive and that a whole section of people doesn't qualify. Triina Van stated the from a Continuum of Care perspective, they do have short term rental assistance but acknowledged a much larger policy question was being asked. Kellen MacBeth stated that this criticism of the housing grants program was something the county heard throughout the housing grants comprehensive study.

Doris Ray asked what information was gathered on disabilities through the point in time count. Triina Van answered that they do collect data on disabilities and shared some data. Doris Ray asked how many shelters have accessible accommodations. Triina Van answered some shelters have better accessibility than others and shared some specifics. Doris Ray asked how many non-elderly disabled vouchers the

county has. Triina Van answered that the county partners closely with the housing choice vouchers program and cannot speak to the nursing home vouchers but can find more information on that.

Kellen MacBeth asked when the commission could give further feedback on the strategic plan. Triina Van said in a few months before the County Board considers the plan.

Development Updates – Information

Staff informed the Commission that the Park Shirlington loan documents are anticipated to be on the October County Board agenda. There were no changes to the AHIF loan amount. Staff informed the commission about the Homeownership Subcommittee's first meeting on November 1st. Staff also informed the Commission of several Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) meetings that are upcoming.

Kellen MacBeth asked for an update on the Crystal Houses RFP. Alex McMillen answered that the next deadline was that the County had to choose a master developer by the end of the year and that there would be an update around then.

Subcommittee Reports – Action

Margaret McGilvray updated the commission that CDCAC has started their annual review process for community development funds.

Meeting adjourned at **8:15pm**.