



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
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DRAFT Meeting Minutes **Land Use, Housing and Transportation** **Standing Committee**

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

3:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members in Attendance

The Honorable Andreas Addison – Chair
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Vice Chair
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Committee Member

Others in Attendance

Bonnie Ashley, Deputy City Attorney
Nahdiah Muhammad, Assistant City Clerk
Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst
Adam Poser, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Andreas Addison called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Public Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Nahdiah Muhammad provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with public speaker guidelines.

Public Comment Period

Brock Hall addressed the committee and stated his concerns regarding parking and accessibility for the disabled community and the structures of buildings within the city.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of the Tuesday, April 16, 2024, and Tuesday, May 21, 2024 committee meetings, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2024.185](#) April 16, 2024 - Land Use, Housing & Transportation Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20240416 LUHT Minutes-DRAFT](#)

[CD.2024.198](#) May 21, 2024 - Land Use, Housing & Transportation Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20240521 LUHT Minutes-DRAFT](#)

Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2024-160](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Lease Agreement between the City of Richmond, as tenant, and the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, as landlord, for the purpose of operating a public dog park located at 4401 Forest Hill Avenue. (4th District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney, President Nye and Vice President Lambert

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2024-160](#)

Daniel Hazlett, Senior Management Analyst for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, provided the committee an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed ordinance.

Chair Andreas Addison inquired about the amount covered under the liability insurance.

Mr. Hazlett stated that the amount covered under the commercial liability insurance is \$1 million.

Chair Addison inquired if there is state law or other guidance to determine the risk and the amount of required liability insurance.

Mr. Hazlett stated Risk Management provided guidance regarding the minimum coverage for commercial liability insurance.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

Member Ann-Frances Lambert inquired about the fiscal impact of the city covering the necessary liability insurance.

Mr. Hazlett stated that funding will be maintained under the Parks and Recreation's operating budget.

Member Lambert inquired if the dog park will be open to the public.

Mr. Hazlett stated that the dog park will be open to the public. Mr. Hazlett also stated that dog parks are one of the top five park amenities requested by the public, and that there are currently no dog parks on the city's Southside.

There were no further comments or discussions and Member Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward ORD. 2024-160 to Council with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Chair Addison requested additional information from city administration regarding the possibility of insurance coverage for other city parks that allow dogs.

The following resolution was considered:

2. [RES. 2024-R017](#) To designate the property known as 6951 West Carnation Street as a revitalization area pursuant to Va. Code § 36-55.30:2. (9th District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Res. No. 2024-R017](#)

Michelle Brown Peters, Deputy Director for Housing and Community Development, provided the committee an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed resolution.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

Member Ann-Frances Lambert inquired whether the proposed legislation will need to be expedited due to possible deadlines with the Virginia Housing Authority.

Michelle Brown Peters stated the considered legislation will not need to be expedited. Ms. Peters also stated that the Virginia Housing Authority accepted a letter from the Department of Housing and Community Development to notify of the public hearing.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson inquired about the area median income (AMI) for a family of four at 60%.

Michelle Brown Peters stated the AMI for a family of four at 60% AMI is \$62,640.

Vice Chair Robertson inquired if the property will be restricted to 30% of the AMI.

Ms. Peters stated there will be a 30% AMI restriction.

There were no further comments or discussions and Member Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward RES. 2024-R017 to Council with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Board Vacancies

Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst, reviewed board vacancies for the committee's consideration.

[CD.2024.210](#) June 18, 2024 - Board Vacancy Report

Attachments: [20240618 - Land Use Housing and Transportation Board Vacancy](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Member Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward the following board appointment applications to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

History and Culture Commission:

Janet E. Smith

Alicia Pullen

Christopher Graham

Discussion Item(s)

Affordable Housing Incentives Update

Chair Andreas Addison stated that investing in affordable housing as a city and maximizing the results of available incentive programs will help encourage new affordable housing and make the city more appealing.

Merrick Malone, Interim Director of Housing and Community Development, and Sharon Ebert, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Planning and Economic Development, provided the committee with an update regarding affordable housing incentives.

[CD.2024.213](#) June 18, 2024 - Tools for Affordable Housing

Attachments: [20240618 Tools for Affordable Housing](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Chair Addison asked if the available affordable housing and incentive lists are available for developers to view.

Merrick Malone stated city administration will continue working on a platform that will allow the public and developers to view current housing and development opportunities.

Member Ann-Frances Lambert requested further information regarding current housing developments and incentive programs. Ms. Lambert inquired about a \$2 million designation.

Mr. Malone stated that \$2 million will go towards single-family developments and home ownership.

Ms. Lambert inquired about a program in Washington, D.C. that has generated a half-billion dollars.

Mr. Malone stated that there is a transfer recordation fee tax and stated that 15% of earnings were allocated to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson inquired about the current tax abatement used for affordable housing.

Mr. Malone stated the tax abatement is usually for affordable housing.

The committee had further discussion with Mr. Malone regarding affordable housing incentives.

Staff Report

Council staff provided the committee with the June Land Use, Housing and Transportation staff report.

[CD.2024.212](#) June 18, 2024 - Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee Staff Report

Attachments: [20240618 Land Use Staff Report](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.