



## City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
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### Minutes

## Education and Human Services Standing Committee

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Thursday, January 9, 2020

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

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#### Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Kristen Larson – Chair  
The Honorable Chris Hilbert – Vice Chair (*late arrival, early departure*)  
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Member  
The Honorable Andreas Addison – Alternate Member  
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Council Member (*late arrival*)  
Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst  
Jamie Isley, Assistant City Clerk  
Allison Miessler, Boards and Commissions Administrator  
M. Janet Palmer, Deputy City Attorney  
Candice Reid, City Clerk  
Dominique J. Thaxton, Assistant City Clerk  
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

#### Call to Order

Chair Kristen Larson called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m., and presided.

#### Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

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

#### Public Comment

There were no public comments.

#### Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of Thursday, December 5, 2019, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

#### Board Vacancies

Allison Miessler, boards and commissions administrator, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

**Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward the following appointments and reappointments to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:**

<b>Board Name</b>	<b>Criteria for Appointment</b>	<b>Applicant Name</b>
<b>Advisory Board of Recreation and Parks</b> (13 members)	6th District Representative  (1 vacancy)	Monica Gamble (6th District Resident) (reappointment)
<b>Aging and Disabilities Advisory Board</b> (9 members)	Business community representative*  (1 vacancy)	Olive Chambers (3rd District Resident)
<b>Capital Area Partnership Uplifting People, Inc.</b> (3 members)	Resident of the city  (1 vacancy)	Victor Mckenzie (2nd District Resident)
<b>Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Inc.</b> (7 members)	*	Candace Lindenzweig (4th District Resident) (reappointment)

*\*Applicant must work or reside in the city*

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

### **Presentations**

#### **Richmond Public Schools (RPS) Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Maintenance Update**

RPS Superintendent Jason Kamras provided the committee with an itemized overview of progress made regarding RPS CIP and ADA maintenance projects. Superintendent Kamras informed the committee that RPS is near compliance with ADA recommendations from the Bacon v. School Board of the City of Richmond, Virginia, decision. Superintendent Kamras also provided updates regarding completed and ongoing facilities maintenance projects and vacant RPS properties.

*Member Ellen Robertson requested additional information from the Office of the City Attorney and the RPS Legal Department regarding specific ADA requirements dictated in the Bacon v. School Board of the City of Richmond, Virginia, decision and reserve fund requirements for as-needed ADA projects.*

*Alternate member Andreas Addison requested completion percentages regarding current RPS ADA projects.*

*Chair Kristen Larson requested RPS to feature ADA needs within the capital budget akin to RPS maintenance and construction needs.*

*Member Robertson requested information regarding funds allocated to RPS for CIPs, the total amount expended, and a time line for project duration from the moment funds are allocated.*

*Superintendent Kamras stated that while twenty-five percent of the funds allocated for CIPs have been used, the remainder of funds are scheduled for use at a later date in accordance with the RPS schedule. He informed the committee that the RPS school board is considering a request for proposals (RFP) or the creation of an internal position to develop a new facilities plan to articulate maintenance needs and replacement costs.*

*Vice Chair Chris Hilbert arrived at 2:31 p.m.*

*Vice Chair Hilbert inquired about several vacant RPS properties and decision making processes for the Vacant/Non-Instructional/Surplussed Property Committee. He also requested staff to draft a letter to city administration requesting an accounting of the monies from the lease on the Westhampton School property and funds acquired from the sale of RPS properties to include the Arlington Road Warehouse.*

*Council member Stephanie Lynch arrived at 2:34 p.m.*

Superintendent Kamras informed the committee that the Vacant/Non-Instructional/Surplussed Property Committee will issue a RFP for vacant RPS properties. He also explained the process for surplussing properties, the committee's decision making process and the need for a memorandum of understanding among developers, RPS, city administration and Council.

Deputy City Attorney M. Janet Palmer advised the committee that she would research prohibitions to the transfer of property titles to schools.

Member Robertson voiced that RPS properties no longer being utilized for educational purposes are to be surplussed back to the city, and that the Vacant/Non-Instructional/Surplussed Property Committee cannot issue RFPs or bids when the property is not owned by RPS. Member Robertson inquired about plans for the donated Altria facility located at 2325 Maury Street.

Superintendent Kamras informed the committee that the RPS vision for the vacant property at 2325 Maury Street is a high tech Career and Technical Education high school. He stated that RPS desires to issue a formal RFP to make available opportunities for public-private partnerships.

Council member Stephanie Lynch requested Council be included in the groups examining the vacant RPS properties and asked the Office of the City Attorney to research information regarding any preclusions to the creation of a protected special fund for RPS similar to a pension.

Alternate member Addison requested information regarding how localities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia process transactions between school systems and administration regarding school properties.

Vice Chair Chris Hilbert departed the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

Chair Larson requested additional details regarding the Vacant/Non-Instructional/ Surplussed Property Committee meetings.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

### **City of Richmond (COR) Strategic Plan to End Homelessness**

Sharon Ebert, Economic and Community Development deputy chief administrative officer, presented an overview of the state of homelessness in the city, results from the current administration's efforts to combat homelessness and demographic information regarding the city's transient population. Ms. Ebert also discussed current challenges to homelessness services city-wide and several strategies to improve the services offered to transient individuals.

Member Ellen Robertson inquired about the usage of the Cold Weather Overflow Shelter (CWOS) under the 2020-2030 COR Strategic Plan to End Homelessness. She also asked whether children and families were incorporated into the strategic plan, and requested fiscal impact statements and a written execution strategy. Member Robertson articulated the need for legislation to address discriminatory zoning practices currently impacting the transient population.

Ms. Ebert stated that the goal of the strategic plan is to place families with children in affordable housing units and create a year-round shelter for transient individuals. She informed members that the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee will be provided with execution and fiscal impact statements for Fiscal Year 2021- Fiscal Year 2025, and that she will provide information regarding the future of the Annie E. Giles Resource Center.

Council member Stephanie Lynch requested information regarding city efforts to obtain McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act grant funds for transient populations.

Chair Kristen Larson inquired about the viability for city-owned vacant properties to be used for shelter or affordable housing. She also requested information regarding campaign efforts to educate the public about the realities of homelessness.

*Member Robertson expressed the need for individuals experiencing homelessness to be included in the conversations regarding homelessness services and in campaigns to educate the public.*

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

**Paper(s) for Consideration**

There were no papers for consideration.

**Discussion Item(s)**

There were no items for discussion.

**Staff Report**

There was no staff report.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

DRAFT