

Falls Village Affordable Housing Plan Task Team

Minutes July 7, 2021

Members Present:

Felicia Jones

Emily Bronson

Colter Rule

Julia Olf

Guest Speaker: Jandi Hanna

Members of the public: Carol Taylor

Dinnie Light

Kathleen Clark

Abigail Marcelo Horace

Planning Consultant, Janell Mullen, began the meeting at 7:04 pm by asking the members present if they wanted to speak before the guest speaker was introduced. No one took the opportunity to do so at the opening of the meeting. Janell explained that Jandi Hanna, president of the Falls Village Housing Trust, was invited in order to evaluate some possible housing plan strategies to see if the Falls Village Housing Trust would be the right community partner for specific components of the affordable housing plan.

Janell shared her screen as Jandi spoke about the focus of the Falls Village Housing Trust on River Road Homes.

As the group revisited adaptive reuse, Kathy Clark emphasized her thought that the Historic Firehouse would be a good site for mixed use not wholly residential. She also added that the Town shouldn't play the role as a landlord or a management service.

Jandi referenced the Salisbury Affordable Housing Plan and mentioned their long-term goal of 50 units of affordable housing. Consultant, Janell mentioned that the group will be setting their goals and defining their metrics as highlighted on the agenda under Item 3.

Kathy Clark mentioned that the success of the strategies would fall on the incentives such as a below market transfer of land or tax credits.

Provided that the time was 8:00 pm, the group decided to walk through a few more slides before adjourning. Janell asked if any members of the group wished to speak before adjournment. Felicia Jones noted that equity was an issue that the group should address. Julia Olf agreed wholeheartedly.

Members of the public were given an opportunity to speak and Carol Taylor spoke about the importance of the work that the group was doing. That it was not always easy and difficult issues such as inclusivity, racism, and community cohesion were being tackled.

Janell reminded the group of her focus on preparing an affordable housing plan per the grant guidelines and per the statutory requirements. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

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