

REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Wednesday March 22nd, 2023 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Lacey: Carolyn Cox, Rick Walk, Ryan Andrews

Tumwater: Michael Althaus, Joan Cathey, Brad Medrud

Olympia: Dani Madrone, Rich Hoey, Darian Lightfoot, Jacinda Steltjes

Yelm: Gary Cooper

Thurston County: Carolina Mejia, Ramiro Chavez, Tom Webster, Keylee Marineau

Meeting began at 4:00 pm.

Agenda Item 1: Jacinda requested to add Advisory Board Stipends to the agenda. The agenda was approved as amended.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes from March 8th meeting, motion and second, approved.

Agenda Item 3: No Public Comment

Agenda Item 4: Growth Management Act: Affordable Housing Allocation Presentation

Josh introduced himself and Chris before giving their presentation on HB1220. They wanted to ensure they were able to meet with this group directly and give an opportunity for questions while HB1220 is still in the planning stage.

In 2021 State Legislature passed an amendment to the Growth Management Act mandating that Comprehensive Plans “plan for and accommodate housing affordable to all economic segments of the population.” The Department of Commerce will now provide counties with projections for housing needs for moderate, low, very low and extremely low households as well as the need for permanent supportive housing, emergency housing and emergency shelters. It’s then the responsibility of all jurisdictions within that county to meet these projected housing needs. Comprehensive Plans must demonstrate sufficient land capacity to accommodate housing projects at each level of affordability as well as address racially disparate impacts, displacement, and exclusion.

The Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) used their population projections and Commerce’s DRAFT tools to create a preliminary projection of housing needs by income types. They then met with staff from Thurston County, Tumwater, Olympia, Lacey, and Yelm on January 13th to discuss these preliminary projections and how to allocate housing needs to different jurisdictions. Commerce has put forth two methods for allocation. Method A involves every jurisdiction taking on a similar percentage and Method B assigns different percentages to different jurisdictions based on additional data.

Brad Medrud emphasized that once allocations have been distributed to jurisdictions the RHC will play a critical role in taking on public funding decisions to meet these needs. Dani asked what the process is around deciding which method will be used for the jurisdiction allocation and who makes that decision.

Josh responded that it's not necessarily an either or for the two methods. It could be a hybrid model; these are just preliminary methods at this point. Brad jumped in to say they are following county wide planning policies which will guide the Comprehensive Planning process. Once a method, or a hybrid method, is decided the planners will bring it to their Counsels and Commissions for approval.

Agenda Item 5: RHC Advisory Boards

The Affordable Housing Advisory Board had a great first meeting. During their upcoming April meeting they plan to elect a Chair and Vice Chair. The Homeless Services Advisory Board also had a great first meeting. They are preparing to review and score RFP applications.

Jacinda explained that the Charter that was adopted had language around stipends which stated, "If approved by the RHC, a policy regarding stipends in the amount of \$50 per meeting will be implemented." Olympia's legal would like this changed to read, "The RHC approved an optional stipend in the amount of \$50 per meeting for Advisory Board members." Jacinda is asking that this revised Charter be approved by the RHC to pay out those stipends to Advisory Board members. Michael did want to clarify on record that the stipend is optional for the recipients and not for the RHC to decide if recipients receive a stipend.

Dani made a motion to approve this revision, Michael seconded, the group unanimously approved the change.

Agenda Item 6: RHC Meeting Schedule

Tom followed up with the revised RHC meeting schedule. These changes included switching to once-a-month meetings in June. From there, alternating between in-person and virtual meetings each month. Additionally, it was suggested changing the two-hour meeting in May to the first May meeting, May 10th, and having this be in person since it'll be focused on reviewing RFP funding recommendations. In person meetings will be in the Board Room at the Atrium.

Dani and Carolyn will not be able to attend the May 10th meeting in person. Therefore, it was recommended that in-person meetings don't start until the June meeting.

Carolyn put forth a motion to approve the changed meeting schedule, Dani seconded, the group unanimously voted to approve.

Agenda Item 7: Good of the Order

Darian announced that the RFP for the Franz Anderson tiny home village has been launched. Applications are due April 17th and will be reviewed the week after they are due. Jacinda updated about the west parcel and the permanent supportive housing project. That RFP closes March 27th.

Ryan announced that Lacey is moving forward with interviews for their Housing Coordinator position. Also, remediation is underway at Maple Court. There are still residents present but they are being moved around while remediation takes place. Once areas are completed those residence will be moved to the clean sections of the building. Remediation is expected to take roughly 12 weeks.

Carolyn also updated that Lacey will be conducting interviews during the first week of April for their new City Manager.

Gary introduced himself to the group and plans to participate with the RHC going forward in place of T

Meeting Adjourned: 4:55 pm

Next Meeting: April 26, 2023, 4:00 pm