

Housing & Redevelopment Authority

March 10, 2020 – 6:30 pm
Council Conference Room
Golden Valley City Hall
7800 Golden Valley Road

WORK SESSION MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Fonnest.

Present: Chair Larry Fonnest, Commissioners Maurice Harris, Shep Harris, Gillian Rosenquist and Kimberly Sanberg

Staff present: HRA Director Cruikshank, Physical Development Director Nevinski, Planning Manager Zimmerman, Finance Director Virnig and Planner Campbell

2. Housing Strategic Plan

Planning Manager Zimmerman provided background information and an updated on the progress of developing the City's Housing Strategic Plan. He introduced Ms. Cathy Bennett of Bennett Community Consulting. Ms. Bennett said she had been hired to identify the housing needs and priorities in the City. She detailed the process used to identify the housing priorities and said based on the information collected, the top three were to preserve existing housing and tenant protections, increase housing affordability and diversify housing options and opportunities and to increase the diversity of voices in the decision making. Ms. Bennett said to focus on these priorities, she recommended that the City hire a dedicated person whose primary job was to implement and administer the new and existing housing policies. Ms. Bennett detailed each of the top priorities and said to support and achieve the goals identified and increase the financial capacity, the City could create a HRA Levy, establish a Local Housing Trust Fund and/or establish City's Public Subsidy Policy. Ms. Bennett answered questions from the Commissioners. HRA Director Cruikshank answered questions from the Commissioners.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Bennett for her work and discussed the top housing priorities that were identified, the creation of a new Housing and Economic Development Manager staff position and whether to move forward with the HRA levy. The Commissioner's consensus was to move forward with the Housing Strategic Plan and the HRA Levy.

HRA Director Cruikshank said the item would be added to the next Housing and Redevelopment Authority meeting on April 21.

3. HRA Levy and Budget

Finance Director Virnig presented the staff report which included background information on approving the HRA levy and the HRA meeting schedule needed to consider the levy and she answered questions from the Commissioners. HRA Director Cruikshank answered questions from the Commissioners.



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4. Fair Housing Policy

Planner Campbell presented the staff report and discussed the policy’s purpose which he said was to encourage better and more equitable housing for all individuals. He provided information on what the external and internal responsibilities of the policy would be. Mr. Campbell said staff felt now would be a good time to adopt the policy because the City committed to adopting a policy in the grant agreement and application with the Capacity Building Grant from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and he said other federally funded grant opportunities require a city to have a policy to be eligible for funds. He also said adopting the policy now would make sense because of the HRA’s interest in hiring an additional staff member whose focus would be on housing initiatives.

Commissioner Sanberg said the first paragraph of the policy did not include all of the individuals in the City’s Welcome Statement. Mr. Campbell said the language in the policy could be updated to include the information from the Welcome Statement.

The Commissioner discussed the proposed Golden Valley Housing & Redevelopment Authority Fair Housing Policy and the consensus was to move forward with the policy at the April 21 HRA meeting with the addition of the language that better reflects the City’s Welcome Statement.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

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Larry Fonnest
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Larry Fonnest, Chair

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Kristine A. Luedke, City Clerk