



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

Concurrent City Council and Housing and Redevelopment Authority Work Session

January 21, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The work session was called to order by Chair Supple at 5:30 p.m. in the Bartholomew Room.

Council Members Present: Maria Regan Gonzalez, Mayor; Mary Supple; Simon Trautmann, and Ben Whalen.

Council Members Absent: Edwina Garcia.

HRA Members Present: Mary Supple, Chair; Maria Regan Gonzalez; Sue Sandahl; and Erin Vrieze Daniels.

HRA Members Absent: Pat Elliott.

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; John Stark, HRA Executive Director/Community Development Director; Julie Urban, Housing Manager; Melissa Poehlman, Assistant Community Development Director; Neil Ruhland, Communication and Engagement Manager; Kate Aitchison, Housing/Communications Specialist; and LaTonia DuBois, Administrative Assistant.

Others Present: Stephanie Ahles, HueLife; members of the community.

Item #1	FACILITATED WORKSHOP ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING GOALS
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Chair Supple explained this is an interactive workshop and audio may be difficult at times.

Housing Manager Julie Urban provided background information on affordable housing and introduced Stephanie Ahles of HueLife.

Stephanie Ahles of HueLife explained the agenda and some objectives for the evening. Stephanie asked Policy Makers to introduce themselves and what type of housing they grew up in and asked them to describe what affordable housing looks like to each of them.

Housing Manager Julie Urban provided a data review on affordable housing and presented data on affordable housing in Richfield. She explained how current policy is working, discussed accessibility and how affordability is determined by the Met Council.

Stephanie explained the process for the evening and asked Policy Makers to answer several questions about what affordable housing looks like. Policy Makers discussed thoughts on the current affordable housing situation in Richfield and future goals and challenges. Policy Makers broke into groups and brainstormed and came up with similar objectives and areas of concern. Policy Makers came back together and shared their ideas and had conversations regarding housing goals and policies. Objectives were placed on a board and grouped into categories of similarity. A visual of the City Council and HRA affordable housing goals was pieced together and displayed on the board. Policy Makers discussed how to build on the goals with current policies and which objectives would have the biggest impact on the community and which of these they would consider of most significance. The themes agreed on were: preserve, protect and improve the quality of NOAH; have plenty of diverse options within affordable housing for all residents; fully integrate affordable housing into community and provide equitable access to all its amenities; and create proactive policies and tools to reach our vision for affordability and small business ownership.

Chair Supple invited members of the community to join the Housing and Redevelopment meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The work session was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:00 p.m.

Date Approved: February 11, 2020

Maria Regan Gonzalez
Mayor

LaTonia DuBois
Administrative Assistant

Katie Rodriguez
City Manager