

Embark Housing Advisory Group
Meeting Summary

June 28, 2018

- Committee Members in attendance: Nick Bracco, Rick Edson, Will Jasper, Stanley Koussis, Michelle Krocker, Elisabeth Lardner, David Levine, Pam Michell, Shelley Murphy, James Smith, Lynne Strobel.
- Purpose of Embark Housing Advisory Group: Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck welcomed the advisory group on behalf of himself and Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay. Supervisor Storck stressed that he wants the Richmond Highway Corridor to be welcoming for everyone. With the purpose of the advisory group to provide recommendations on affordable housing issues in the area impacted by the Embark Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Supervisor Storck acknowledged that while he would like to see the recommendations as soon as possible, he did not want to rush the process. Supervisor Storck felt that a six to nine month time frame of work on this effort would be good with the development of SMART goals.
- Introductions: Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) Director, Tom Fleetwood welcomed the advisory group as well and had everyone present at the meeting introduce themselves.
- Embark 101 presentation: Sophia Fisher of the Planning Division of the Department of Planning and Zoning provided an Embark 101 presentation, a hard copy of which was provided to members in their member binders. The presentation covered the Embark Comprehensive Plan Amendment process, including the incorporation of One Fairfax in the amendment and the vision for the Community Business Centers in the Embark area; Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) plans for the area; and the follow-on motions to the approval of the amendment, one of which called for the establishment of the housing advisory group.
- Review of Draft Charter: Mr. Fleetwood led the advisory group through the draft charter that was provided in the member binders. He stepped them through the duties and, regarding Method of Operation, confirmed that 6:00 pm meeting start times were good for the members. Expected deliverables were also identified: a set of recommendations for the Board of Supervisors' consideration, which may result in or include a Comprehensive Plan amendment to provide further guidance concerning affordable housing in the Embark area. (At the end of the meeting, Vin Rogers, Director, FCRHA Policy, Reporting and Communications for HCD, stated that if there were no objections, staff will consider the charter adopted and will put the date of June 28, 2018 as the adopted date. There were no objections.)
- Discussion of Next Steps: Mr. Fleetwood requested that all members who live and work in the Richmond Highway Corridor reflect on what they were seeing and experiencing and that, for next meeting a discussion on this would be held. Also at the July 26 meeting, the group should begin a discussion on what some of the solutions to consider are. Mr. Fleetwood directed members to their binders and a section labeled "Examples of Prior Committees' Recommendations", which had information on the 2005 affordable housing preservation initiative and on workforce housing work and the "green-taping" strategy. Mr. Fleetwood expressed his opinion that a comprehensive inventory of affordable housing on

the Richmond Highway Corridor and countywide is needed, and stated that HCD was pursuing this.

Mr. Fleetwood informed the advisory group that the week before, the Board of Supervisors adopted Phase 1 of the Communitywide Housing Strategic Plan which identified some immediate strategies for the County to pursue to help affordable housing efforts. (Phase 2 deals with resources.) Mr. Fleetwood informed them that this advisory group will help drive some of the overall County housing preservation efforts.

A question was posed as to whether the advisory group's focus is going to be on affordable housing preservation. Mr. Fleetwood indicated that the charter's focus is primarily on this, but noted that it is preservation *and* quality.

Michelle Krockner provided the advisory group a flyer informing them of a July 25 gathering and discussion at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center entitled "Preserving Housing Affordability in Northern Virginia", that will cover needs for the Embark area.

Vin Rogers informed the advisory group that there was a timeline in their binders and that, as they do their "homework" for next meeting and they think of where and when something can be done, they should jot it down on the timeline and raise it at the next meeting which will be July 26, 2018.