

21-05-27 Minutes VMICC Affordable Housing Committee

The committee met by Zoom at 7:00. Present were: Tanya Roberts, Rita Schenck, Kyle Britz, Armen Yousoufian, Arlene Wilkerson, Terry Sullivan, Coco Carson-Rohe and Jean Berolzheimer.

The agenda and minutes were approved without modification.

The agenda was primarily about the one-page reports prepared by committee members as a first effort towards writing a comprehensive report to share with the Board of VMICC and to direct our efforts in the future.

Although Claire was not present, she shared with Rita earlier the direction that we should be focused on communication, based on the facts we uncovered.

Terry Sullivan reported that he had made contact with the Vashon Household Board, Jessica Kennan (a Roseballen resident and board member) has volunteered to be the liaison between our committee and Vashon Household. Terry noted that their Board was very pleased to work with us and we have arranged to have them come to our next meeting and share a video and have a discussion with us about their plans and how we might work together going forward.

Coco Carson-Rohe reported that she had been trying to put together a comprehensive list of the issues we should cover (both the what and the how), focusing on our ability to persuade, and making use of social norms. Some of the topics she put together included:

- The range of home/house/shelter both short and long term.
- Needed stories, e.g. co-housing, group homes, temporary solutions, rent support (such as is available both through government support and the Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness, RV pump-out support).
- The potential for converting Air B&B structures to long term solutions
- Section 8 housing
- Community centers to provide family meals and showers
- Co-purchasing homes (potential for financial counselling e.g. from a bank)
- Issues of liability (where we need advice and support)

Jean Berolzheimer spoke about the need to include migrant groups as a particularly vulnerable population. We discussed gathering data via a survey of the community to understand both those who need help and what kind they needed and the interests and concerns of the community at large, e.g. potential housing providers and others. Kyle and Rita will take that idea to the VMICC Board requesting permission to do the survey.

Rita Schenck provided some initial information about housing and poverty and homelessness. For example, the island has about 0.9% homeless on the island, compared to the 0.5% of King County as a whole. Those living below the poverty level are much more likely to be renters. Air B&B listed 56 rentals, and over 400 homes were sold on-island in the last 12 months. More detail is coming and some can be seen on her one-pager.

Tanya Roberts laid out issues and opportunities for housing, including existing housing, new housing and special features for housing. More details are on her one-pager.

Kyle Britz reported that he spoke with Shelley at Vashon Household and she shared with him that they had a shared living program 2013-2016. We might be able to learn from that. He also suggested that we should find out who is working here but can't afford to live here. Also is it possible to get grants to provide a consolidated location for home maintenance.

Our next meeting will be in a week at the same location.

DRAFT