



MINUTES

Stanton Housing Strategy Workgroup
 September 30, 2024
 5:30 p.m.
 Caucus Room, City Hall

Workgroup Members			
×	Stu Armstrong	√	Anna Leavitt
√	Brad Arrowood	√	Susan Richardson
×	Jill Bader	√	David Rissmeyer
√	Philippe Bone	√	Lou Siegel
√	Lydia Campbell	×	Rev. Won Un
√	Sharon Coplai	√	Nehemias Velez
√	Jennie Hill	√	Marion Ward
×	Scott Kesecker	√	Alice Woods
√	Chris Lassiter	√	Olivia Wright
√	Dan Layman		
City of Stanton Staff			
√	Rhodney Rhodes Director, Community Development		
√	Amanda DiMeo Director, Economic Development		
√	Rebecca Joyce Housing Planner and Grants Coordinator		

The first meeting of the Housing Strategy Workgroup began shortly after 5:30 p.m. with introductions.

Following introductions, Rebecca Joyce, Housing Planner and Grants Coordinator for the City of Stanton, asked Workgroup members if they would like to share their thoughts regarding the question she had previously emailed them: “If you could express your deepest concern to the City’s leadership (elected officials and staff) about housing or housing-related challenges in Stanton, what would you say? Workgroup members concerns revolved around common themes including; an interest to know the thoughts of City leadership about housing needs, the need for additional housing units particularly affordable housing and workforce housing, and that the Housing Strategy Planning process will prioritize the needed activities to improve the housing issues within the community.

Next Ms. Joyce asked if the Workgroup members had consensus around the following ideas:

- Everyone has a right to safe, sound, affordable housing.
- Housing is healthcare. Like any other aspect of healthcare each person's situation is unique and requires solutions that meet their individual needs.
- Housing is a complex social issue and improving it is also complex with many moving parts. It is challenging, frustrating, and rewarding work to make a positive difference tackling a social issue. It is o.k. to feel uncomfortable with the process.
- Addressing housing challenges in a community cannot be solved by one organization or group of individuals on their own. To improve the housing challenges in the City of Staunton, it will take involvement of federal, state, and local government organizations, the private sector, nonprofit and for-profit housing and other service providers, and committed individuals.

They did. The desire not to duplicate housing efforts already occurring was also stated.

Next, Ms. Joyce gave the Workgroup members a brief presentation on the housing activities that the City has carried out in the last 16 months, what a housing strategy is and why having one is valuable to a community, and reviewed preliminary data that will be included in the Central Shenandoah Regional Housing Study when it is released.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:35 p.m. The next Workgroup meeting will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Caucus Room in City Hall.