



## ARLINGTON REDEVELOPMENT BOARD

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### Memorandum

August 25, 2021

To: Arlington Redevelopment Board

From: Jennifer Raitt, Director of Planning and Community Development

Re: Housing Production Plan and Open Space and Recreation Plan updates

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#### **Housing Production Plan update**

Following the June public forum, work started on the Housing Plan Needs Assessment. Barrett Planning Group, the plan consultant hired by the Town, began compiling research and analyzing population and household data and characteristics. With the 2020 Census data becoming available, further updates were made to these initial analyses. Barrett also developed a background describing Arlington housing characteristics and development and market trends. Lastly, Horsley Witten Group, a subconsultant to Barrett, began an analysis of barriers to affordable housing and social and political constraints. The Town also assessed progress on the existing Housing Production Plan. As part of that review, the list of potential locations for new affordable housing is being updated.

Public engagement also continued during the summer months. Members of the Department staffed a table at the Arlington Farmer's Market and will continue this activity over the next two months. At the table, staff share information about the current plan and engage people attending the market in discussions about their hopes for housing in Arlington in the future. Additionally, people have been taking a brief survey about housing needs and opportunities. Several committees, boards, and community members have requested materials to host a "Meeting in a Box". The meetings are meant to be less formal discussions about housing issues in Arlington using suggested discussion prompts for any group of people wishing to discuss housing. Following the Meeting in a Box, the meeting host provides a meeting summary to our Department which we then provide to Barrett for inclusion in the plan. Lastly, the second public forum will be on Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. via Zoom. Following the second forum, the Needs Assessment will be completed, and the next phases of work will proceed.

The next and final phases of work is the development of draft housing goals and strategies, including a five-year implementation plan. For the final steps, the full Housing Plan will be in draft form and the Town will host a third community meeting. Community input at this meeting will lead to the finalization of the plan. The final draft plan will then be presented to the Redevelopment Board and Select Board for review and adoption. We anticipate that these next phases of work will continue through the Fall. Information about the Housing Plan Implementation Committee and the plan update can be found here: <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/boards-and-committees/housing-plan-implementation-committee>.

#### **Open Space and Recreation Plan update**

Following the June public forum, work started on drafting initial plan elements, including an environmental inventory and analysis and inventory of lands of interest. The survey, which remains active, has over 600 responses: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ArlingtonOSRP>. A second survey is being planned to ask about goals and objectives. Lastly, the consultant is updating the required open space and recreation maps. Information about the Open Space Committee and the plan update can be found here: <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/boards-and-committees/open-space-committee>.

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