

# Staff Senate

<http://www.staffsenate.vt.edu/>

September 20, 2018

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

North End Center, Room 2420/2430

## MINUTES

**Attendees:** Judy Alford, Lisa Bishop, LaTawnya Burleson, Chad Dalton, Lee Ellis, Linda Fountaine, Bruce Harper, Brian Huddleston, Petie Martin, Brandy Morse, MaDonna Overstreet, Heather Parrish, Jonathan Poff, Amber Robinson, Robert Sebek, Tamarah Smith, Laura Steinberg, Judy Taylor, Sue Teel, Amanda Villar, Beverly Williams, Bryan Garey

**Zoom Attendee(s):** Angel Carter, Ashley Foster, Amy Ingram, Sally Shupe, Sarah Giles Woodward, Zerita Montgomery, Hannah Parks and Amy Splitt

**Speaker(s):** Matt Hanratty

**Excused:** Deborah Breon, Wayne Crotto, Kim Dulaney, Carolyn Hopkins, Robena Hughes, Doug Hylton, Sheree Montgomery, Erin Poff, Kimberly Ridpath, Teresa Smith, James Venable III, Lisa Wilkes and Lance Yelton

**Unexcused:** Chelsea Blanchet, Cynthia Booth, Amanda Cannoy, Stuart Cochran, Claudia Cornwell, Sue Ellen Crocker, Pat Donovan, Tracey Drowne, Carolyne Dudding, Sharon Dunn, Jennifer Earley, Judy Fielder, Tami Foutz, Andy French, Joseph Goodman, Velva Groover, Mackenzie Jarvis, Alex Johnston, Christina Lapel, Lori Lee, John Lemaire, Robin Littleton, Maxine Lyons, Ron Mecham, Hannah Menefee, Albert Moore, Dennis Munson, Janet Murphy, Steve Nagle, Tracy Newton, Sarah Owen, Tasia Persson, Stacey Poertner, Allison Price, Billie Quesenberry, Kathleen Richman, Pris Sears, Shanan Sessor, Ingrid Skederian, Kelsey Solberg, Amy Stanford, Tammy Stevens, Lenora Stover, Steve Tatum, David Venne, Jack Washington

### Call to order at 12:02 p.m. by President, Robert Sebek

The agenda was electronically submitted to senators on Thursday, September 13, 2018. With no additions, the agenda was approved at the meeting.

**Attendance sheet for check-in was available near room entrance.**

### Approval of Minutes

Approval of August 2018 minutes was done electronically.

### Update from the Staff Senate President

Mr. Sebek – Child Care Committee – BOV presentation – need answers to questions quickly; sending out Monday morning; send out to all staff; short deadline

Voting on Resolution of Thanks & Gratitude to Lisa Wilkes – motion to approve the resolution and seconded; discussion; approved unanimously; now on to the BOV to approve it

### New VP for HR Bryan Garey was introduced

Tammie – Staff at VT Task Force – report was sent to Lisa Wilkes and being shared with Brian; different issues were brought and up and presented to HR; great way to help staff

BOV meeting – strategies and training; where to get the money and what we spend it on; faculty and staff salaries were discussed – need to find money for staff across the board; focus should be on pay bands 1-3; have a coat drive for staff because some people cannot afford coats for the cold months; need is there; Robert is talking in November about affordable child care

**Staff Senate Standing Committees – sending to Katrina for sending out**

Communication: Mr. Harper -

Elections & Nominations: Ms. Taylor -

Policies & Issues: Ms. Alford -

McComas Leadership Seminar: Ms. Ingram -

**Presentations: Matt Hanratty, Assistant to the Town Manager, Blacksburg Housing & Neighborhood**

What they do:

- 1) Partner with developers to create affordable housing – under 80% median income
- 2) Administer Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to support affordable housing, community development and public services
- 3) Serve as the Lead Entity to the NRV HOME Consortium – put together to create affordable housing across the New River Valley; since 2007; assisted in 300 rentals and 45 new home opportunities; Blacksburg is the fiscal agent and administer for all areas
- 4) Provide oversight and staffing for the NRV Timebank – help with services as well; you can offer services as time credits; trade time with other people; can give or receive assistance in areas; great resource for the community; neighbors helping neighbors
- 5) Help develop and implement policies to increase affordable housing – affordable dwelling unit ordinance; can build x units if you make a certain percentage affordable housing; density is the best way to get affordable housing; land is a hindrance in Blacksburg
- 6) Support community initiatives – NRV Aging in Place Leadership Team and Livability Initiative Leadership Team; want to stay in home and not go into nursing home; helping with ramps, accessible bathrooms, etc. for people; what do communities need or want

Projects/Programs:

- 1) Bennett Hill Neighborhood Revitalization Project – 200 homes; close to downtown; many starter homes and many students are renting those homes than people in the area living there; rehabilitate the home for families to purchase; restricted for 99 years for ownership; done 3 homes to date, working on a 4<sup>th</sup>
- 2) Affordable housing created – all over the New River Valley 80% below median income
- 3) Old Prices Fork Elementary School – 11 affordable and 5 at market rate; 16 more units built; commercial units as well
- 4) Fieldstone Apartments – Givens Lane – low income tax project; 60 apartments for 55+ and 84 apartments for families; developed by outside developer; town made allowances for the developers; reduced tax assessment for developer for 10 years and allow the developer to use storm water system
- 5) New Habitat Townhomes – off Church Street; 7 townhomes for home ownership; interested applicants and donors can contact Habitat at 540-381-1144; 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths; should be done in a year or so
- 6) Housing Resiliency Grants – funding only for Town of Blacksburg right now; corporate town limits; energy efficiency, accessibility and emergency & minor home repair; up to \$5,000 for homeowners or tenants to get assistance with these areas
- 7) Aging in Place Workbook – 5 core themes: housing, health & wellness, transportation, person finance, and connection & growth

- 8) Housing Services Guide – NRV areas; emergency shelters, energy assistance & weatherization, fair housing, home repair financing, home modifications, housing choice vouchers, housing counseling and education, and legal assistance
- 9) Rental Housing Listing – on [www.nrvrc.org/what-we-do/housing/](http://www.nrvrc.org/what-we-do/housing/); starting point
- 10) University Housing Assistance Programs – down payment assistance programs, below market rate mortgages, homebuyer classes, rental assistance; options out there to get the University to assist with this; many universities have information for staff like this out there; town is interested to partner with the University in a program like this

#### Q&A

- 1) Comprehensive Plan does not address student housing – wrapping up its 5 year update currently; has been completely redone; study of the Patrick Henry corridor; denser where it already is and keep it condensed; does not want student housing to be all over the town; market for student housing downtown; areas of demand and match it up with what the town wants to see; new comprehensive plan with show student housing – where they want it and how much they want; where they want family homes and such as well; trying to find the sweet spot; like areas to go denser but not too much and not overbuilding
- 2) 55+ age restricted units do you have to live in Blacksburg to get those – Fieldstone is rentals and no you don't have to currently live in Blacksburg to get those; some at Grisham lane (8 units); in Blacksburg have a live or work in the community criteria for those housing preferences; lottery system if more requests
- 3) Primary route to get the information out to people who may need it – social services is aware of the program; try to get new stories out about projects; about town newsletter; web presence; social media; people sharing information as well
- 4) Apartments going up in Christiansburg down 114 – not sure what it is

**Next speaker: Joyce Landreth, 4HELP – bring questions if you have any about the process**

#### **Next Meeting Date:**

The next meeting date is October 18, 2018 at 12:00 p.m., North End Center 2420/2430.

**Adjourned** 12:47 p.m.

Dictated by:  
Brandy Morse

Respectfully submitted:  
Katrina Loan