Community Land Trust Working Group Meeting 4 Notes - Tuesday, July 31st

Members present: Co-chairs Alderman Ewen-Campen and Teresa Vazquez-Dodero, Ben Baldwin, Fred Berman, Alex Bob, Kevin Gatlin, David Gibbs, Liz Haney, Alderman JT Scott

During this meeting, the group further discussed the draft mission statement and determined that while it still needed further editing for clarity, the content was reflective of the group's vision for this CLT. The mission statement will continue to be revised as necessary. The statement remains in the Google Doc available for editing.

In discussing the best approach to community engagement, it was determined that it would be more beneficial for the group to present the community with concrete options and provide a space for discussion, rather than going to the community with an idea already in-hand. The WG developed a list of different methods the Somerville CLT might adopt, and requested that Housing Staff outline a few of the potential methods using concrete examples, giving the group a better idea of what each approach would entail and how feasible or not it might actually be. These models will then be used by WG members to engage the public and have an open dialogue regarding the pros and cons of each, and what makes the most sense specifically for our community.

The group was also clear that the messaging for the CLT needs to effectively show the difference between the CLT and existing efforts made by SCC, the City and others. In order to effectively communicate this idea to the public, WG members will need to provide a primer not only on what a CLT is, but also what affordable housing means and what real-life scenario the CLT might put them in (such as the ability to own a home). The community will need context for this new method, and the group will need to provide clarity regarding what the CLT plans to do and how it is different than what is currently being done. The emphasis on ownership and community control are major differences that the group would like to highlight during the community engagement phase of development. The hope is to foster not only ownership, but a community of folks who feel connected to one another.

A version of the CLT in which it becomes the primary vehicle for affordable housing in the City was also discussed, with one possible avenue for this being the CLT taking over the administration of the existing inclusionary housing program. It was also strongly felt that the CLT should be collaborative, not competitive, with other community organizations like SCC in an effort to avoid splitting valuable funds and providing redundant support. The group expressed interest in learning more about how the CLT might fit in with existing programs such as the 100 Homes program as a possible model.

In discussing the differences between the CLT vision and current SCC programming, the lottery system was raised. There was a general dislike of the lottery system, but no alternative system was agreed upon. The system the CLT will potentially use in the future to determine who is chosen for a unit/home will depend on several factors yet to be decided. This particular decision will need to be made carefully, but it cannot be determined until a model is chosen for the CLT.

Staff will provide the group with some concrete examples and information prior to the next meeting, which is scheduled for **Thursday, August 16th at 8:30am** in the Committee Room at City Hall.