Alexandria West Community Planning
Meeting 3 Q&A – Online and In-Person
Monday, May 8, 2023

Please Note: All meeting materials, including the webinar video recording, SLIDO meeting poll results and Q&A, are available on the project website at alexandriava.gov/AlexandriaWest

Housing Affordability

1. **How does the apartment are able to increase rent on? How does the cost increase determined by landlord? Is it regulated by the city of Alexandria?**

   Increases in rent can be driven by a range of factors including increases in energy costs (utilities); increases in staffing costs (leasing, property management, and maintenance staff); increases in the cost of capital investments in the building, parking, open spaces and amenities; and increases in the cost of financing, in addition to increases in market demand and investor expectations. While the City does not have the authority to implement rent control, it has a voluntary rent increase cap policy and encourages property owners to adopt the policy. We recognize, however, that increases in rent, especially after the height of the pandemic, are resulting in high levels of housing cost burden on lower- and moderate-income renters. Increasing committed affordable housing options, as well as expanding access to workforce development, are examples of ways in which housing cost burden can be addressed over the longer-term.
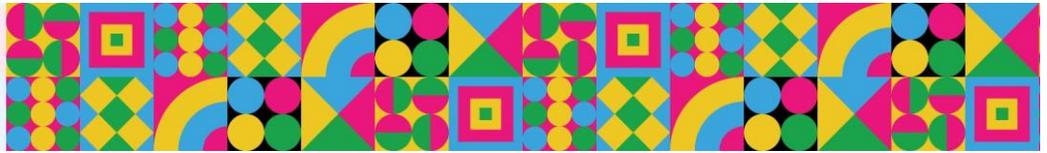
2. **How does the city regulate having pets in apartment buildings?**

   Pet regulations are set by individual property owners/management companies. The City does not have the authority to regulate.

Transportation

1. **Will the inconsistency in "no right on red" be addressed? Some of the decisions really don't make much sense.**

   "No Turn on Red" signage is generally installed at intersections and locations where there are a high number of crashes or areas where there is significant or major pedestrian activity, like schools.

Land Use

1. **What is the real goal? This community is already diverse. You really want to tear down the housing for middle Americans – to provide equity but leaving the rich areas of Alexandria to stay rich without this "affordable" degradation.**

   The goal of the Alexandria West Plan is to create a community vision that allows us to proactively plan for change and prepare for challenges and opportunities in the years to come. Some large property owners have expressed interest in redevelopment and others have existing entitlements. An updated Plan will develop an approach to guide and shape future development and make expectations clear for the community, City and developers.

2. **On the slides, it said something about supporting density. What's the rationale for more housing density when public transportation isn't readily available? But also, why density? If people remain largely telecommuting, it seems the workforce doesn't need to be near their work I was surprised there's no talk about the Mark Center and DOD. Is it true that developers aren't interested in supplying housing and retail for the Mark Center.**

   The slides document and summarize community comments received to date. Many comments received support different aspects of density/growth in the neighborhood. All comments are recorded verbatim and posted on the project page for community review. The City has invested in expanding transit in Alexandria West with the future West End Transitway and other projects. As part of this process, we will evaluate the proposed/potential development as a whole, including office and retail to inform future demand and recommendations.

Tech/Audio Issues

1. i still cant hear anything is the sound on ?
2. I also still can't hear anything.
3. I can't hear anything
4. Great - good to go now
5. can you please make the presentation change pages for those on zoom? it's only on the first slide. thx.
6. The slides are not advancing for the online option
7. Hello, can the slides for the folks on Zoom be advanced to match the speakers' slides?
8. Is the powerpoint on Zoom being updated, in addition to the presentation
9. The slides aren't displaying online.
10. Can you start the powerpoint presentation that's being shared for those participating virtually, please?
11. Is the slide deck for Power Point working; I'm only seeing the opening slide.
12. I can't see the screen that the speaker is referring to.
13. Are the slides for the Zoom attendees being coordinated with the speakers remarks?
14. Can someone get Richard a better microphone? Second guy was much easier to understand.
15. Yes, thanks.
16. thx for all the effort! chat is disabled so I don't see link to poll
17. There is no link in the chat –
18. it also says the chat is disabled

19. it also says the chat is disabled
20. cant hear
21. got it...via QR code
22. yes! thanks!
23. Exactly!! Yes
24. Can't hear
25. It's fixed. Thank you!
26. **Thank you for putting these together!**