Each month in this newsletter we will keep you posted on progress with the FPC affordable housing project. Previous newsletters are available on the FPC website.

Wesley Housing continues to engage architectural and civil engineering professionals in the design of the FPC property as required by, and in coordination with, the City of Alexandria. The Design Working Group (DWG) has been meeting since September and has been actively involved in the design process.

The DWG is the FPC designated committee appointed by Session to serve as integral members of the design team in collaboration with Wesley Housing and its architect and engineers. The next step is to submit an application to the City of Alexandria for a Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) for affordable housing along with a Concept 2 design, which includes detailed design and construction documents. The DWG recommendations will be used in developing the overall site plan designs throughout the DSUP and Concept 2 process. The DWG includes FPC members Joe Andy, Jennifer Bretsch, Doug Koeser, and Heather Rao; Session representative Ray Biegun; and Pastor Juli.

Estimated key timeline elements:

- Site Design and City Approval - Fall 2017 – 2018
- Construction Drawings & Permits - Fall 2017 - 2018
- Financing (City loan and tax credits application process) - Fall 2017 – June 2019
- Construction Start – June 2020
- Construction End – December 2021

Wesley Housing is planning to submit Concept 2 plans to the City of Alexandria around December 1 based upon feedback from FPC/DWG. We plan to share the details with the congregation after DWG and Session reviews the final Concept 2 plan. As previously shared with the congregation, our agreement with Wesley Housing is for 75 – 81 affordable housing rental units, along with approximately 75 surface parking spaces for FPC (this number will depend on the site design and City of Alexandria approvals).

There will be a Community Meeting with Wesley Housing and our Neighbors on Monday, December 11 at 7:00 pm. Earlier this year, we invited the church’s neighbors to FPC to introduce them to our plans for developing an affordable residential building behind the church. On December 11, Wesley Housing will share the revised site design for the Concept 2 submission to the City of Alexandria along with project updates.
In addition to being engaged in the site design process, the City of Alexandria has been listening to community concerns related to traffic, parking, utilities, safety, schools, etc. and this information has been conveyed to the appropriate departments in the City for planning. They plan to be at the December 11 community meeting.

Our neighbor, Fairlington United Methodist Church (FUMC), affirmed their support for our project at a meeting of their Council in July. (Side note - Wesley Housing was founded in 1974 as a result of a study conducted by Northern Virginia United Methodist Churches to determine the housing needs of low-income residents.) In addition, several advocacy organizations have affirmed their support, including Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE), Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance, and Housing Alexandria.

The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection is also embarking on an affordable housing project and they would be grateful to see members of FPC at their Community Meeting on Monday, December 4, 2017 at 6:30 p.m at the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard Street (Beauregard St & Fillmore Ave), in Alexandria. Their project has received support from the City of Alexandria.

Wesley Housing has a website to provide a place for the community to continue to be kept informed and provide a vehicle for feedback from the community:

http://courb.co/fpc

We invite you to visit the website and register to receive updates on information shared by Wesley Housing with the public, and you will also be able to provide feedback. We will continue to have information on our FPCUSA.org website.