

Short Term Rental Work Group Minutes

July 28, 2023

11:30 am

Meeting called to order

Minutes approved

Visit Bentonville

- 71 STRs in .5 mile
- Over 300 STRs in 2 miles
- STR increased from 1100 to 1200 about 20% are crossover between Airbnb and VRBO
- 4% of housing stock are STRs

Practicalities and Feedback on STR registration

- No additional software needed by the city (registration would be simple)
- Informational packet provided for issues and information
- \$25 registration fee
- Registration will include what information, how it's shared and with whom

Registration

- We can request that all businesses register.
- Can provide something that shows a business is registered.
- Motion: To recommend to staff that they establish a recommended ordinance to register short-term rentals for \$25 under Section 1-8

Defining STRs

- City is asked to define for us.
- Molly shared the definition for the previously distributed report of neighboring towns.

Community Survey

- Voted against

Public Comment

- Susanna Styles (STR manager)
 - Airbnb has a place to lodge neighbor complaints
 - Questions about data and how it is being shared
 - Does the city hold any liability once they become involved
 - Why?
 - How do emergency responders contact homeowners?
 - Badge, collaboration, 1st priority to licensing
- Larry Kelly (realtor)
 - Bella Vista has been sued for unconstitutionality
 - No need to have registration since it's not required of long-term rentals

- Jared Styles (STR Manager)
 - STRs taxes are paid

Agenda for July

- Legal's opinion on how STR info is shared
- City STR registration concept
- Work Group Discussion of STR registration recommendation

Adjourned

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