

RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
July 9, 2009

Members/Alternates Present

Willie L. Bennett (M) County of Henrico
Malvern R. “Rudy” Butler (M).....County of Goochland
Karin Carmack (M).....County of Powhatan
Deborah B. Coates (A).....County of Hanover
Douglas G. Conner (M)City of Richmond
Robert R. Cosby (M).....County of Powhatan
Timothy W. Cotman, Sr. (M)..... County of Charles City
James B. Donati (M), Vice Chairman..... County of Henrico
Marleen K. Durfee (M).....County of Chesterfield
Evan Fabricant (M).....County of Hanover
Daniel A. Gecker (M)County of Chesterfield
John E. Gordon, Jr. (M)County of Hanover
Russell J. Gulley (M)County of Chesterfield
James M. Holland (M)County of Chesterfield
Dorothy Jaeckle (M)County of Chesterfield
Bonnie-Leigh Jones (M) County of Henrico
Beverley C. Lacy (M)City of Richmond
Patricia S. O’Bannon (M) County of Henrico
C. Harold Padgett (M).....County of Hanover
Faye O. Prichard, Secretary (M)Town of Ashland
Edward W. Pollard (M)..... County of New Kent
George K. Roarty (M).....County of Chesterfield
Charles R. Samuels (M).....City of Richmond
Robert R. Setliff (M).....County of Hanover
Randall R. Silber (A) County of Henrico
Millard D. Stith (A).....County of Chesterfield
Stran L. Trout (M), Treasurer County of New Kent
Joseph B. Walton (M)County of Powhatan

Members Absent

Richard W. Glover (M)..... County of Henrico
Kathy C. Graziano (M), ChairmanCity of Richmond
John C. Grier (M).....City of Richmond
Courtney G. Hyers (M).....County of Goochland
E. Martin Jewell (M).....City of Richmond
David A. Kaechele (M)..... County of Henrico
Frank J. Thornton (M)..... County of Henrico
Arthur S. Warren (M)County of Chesterfield

Others Present

John R. Amos..... RRPDC Legal Counsel
 Nora AmosTown of Ashland
 John Baliles.....City of Richmond
 John T. BentonCitizen, Chesterfield County
 Katherine Busser..... Capital One
 Will DixonRichmond Sports Backers
 George Homewood County of New Kent
 Mitch Johnson.....PBS&J
 Parker Mills..... Branscome Inc.
 John Raigins.....Richmond Sports Backers
 Kim Scheeler..... Greater Richmond Chamber
 Sherry SwinsonCounty of Powhatan

Staff Present

Robert A. Crum, Jr..... Executive Director
 Jo A. Evans Assistant Executive Director
 Julie H. Fry..... Executive Secretary
 Sulabh Aryal Intern
 Anne DarbyAssociate Planner
 Jacob Epstein Intern
 Allyson Finchum.....Principal Planner
 Billy Gammel..... Intern
 Brian Koziol..... Intern
 Daniel N. LysyDirector, Transportation
 Randy SelleckSenior Planner
 Sarah Smith.....Senior Planner
 Jackie S. Stewart Director, Planning/IS
 Peter M. Sweetland Finance and Contracts Administrator
 Kathy Wright Intern

Call to Order

Outgoing Chairman Cotman called the regularly scheduled July 9, 2009 RRPDC meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. in the RRPDC board room. He then led the Commission members in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Certification by Commission Executive Director of Meeting Quorum

Mr. Crum certified that a quorum of members was present.

B. Installation of FY Officers

Outgoing Chairman Cotman asked the officers-elect to stand to take the oath of office. Those being sworn in:

James Donati, Vice Chairman, Henrico County
Stran Trout, Treasurer, New Kent County
Faye Prichard, Secretary, Town of Ashland

Mr. Crum announced that Kathy Graziano, City of Richmond, will be sworn in as Chairman at a later date. She was unable to attend today's meeting.

C. Requests for Additions or Changes in Order of Business

Vice Chairman Donati asked if there were any additions or changes to be made to the agenda. There were no additions or changes and the agenda was accepted as presented.

D. Open Public Comment Period

Vice Chairman Donati asked if there was anyone from the public in attendance who wished to make a comment. He reminded speakers that their time is limited to three minutes. As there were no requests from the public to address the Commission, the Vice Chairman closed the public comment period.

E. Chairman's Report

Vice Chairman Donati said on behalf of Chairman Graziano, he would like to make a presentation to Mr. Cotman, Outgoing RRPDC Chairman. Vice Chairman Donati stated that Mr. Cotman had been elected to the Charles City County Board of Supervisors in 2008. Following that election, Mr. Cotman was able to come on board to lead the Commission and has done an outstanding job in this capacity. Vice Chairman Donati presented a plaque to Mr. Cotman in recognition of his service as Chairman of the RRPDC. Commission members expressed their thanks with a round of applause.

Mr. Cotman said he appreciated the recognition and noted this was his first opportunity to be a member of such an organization. He said he has enjoyed the past year and appreciated the support and cooperation of the other members and staff.

F. Approval of Minutes – June 11, 2009 Meeting

Vice Chairman Donati asked Ms. Prichard to present this item.

Ms. Prichard reported the minutes from the June 11, 2009 meeting were included in the agenda book. Ms. Prichard made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gordon. There being no further discussion, the motion carried. Ms. O'Bannon abstained from the vote as she was not in attendance at that meeting.

G. Approval of May 2009 Financial Reports

Vice Chairman Donati asked Mr. Trout to present this item.

Mr. Trout stated the financial report is included in the agenda book under Tab 2. There being no discussion, on motion made by Mr. Trout and seconded by Mr. Bennett, the May 2009 financial reports were accepted for audit as presented.

H. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Crum brought the members' attention to the monthly staff activity report which is included in the agenda book under Tab 3. He said he would like to introduce three interns who have been hired to undertake work being done to update the Socioeconomic Data Report: Billy Gammell, Sulabh Aryal, and Brian Koziol. Mr. Crum said these individuals are contacting employers in the Region to obtain information on the number of employees they have and where the employees are located. This information will be used to understand transportation travel trips and destinations to be used in the transportation travel models. These individuals have approached this task with a great deal of professionalism and are doing a good job.

Mr. Crum noted that copies of the Virginia Hurricane Guide have been provided to each member. If additional copies are needed, please let staff know and staff will provide those to the members. This guide includes information on the I-64 lane reversal plan. Mr. Crum also noted that additional copies of the James River Interpretive Guides are available on the table in the anteroom should anyone like a copy. During the May Commission meeting, the members authorized printing these additional copies.

Mr. Crum reported that Ms. Evans has coordinated the first meeting of the Regional Grants Warehouse Users Group for July 28. Updates will be provided as warranted.

Ms. Lacy noted that with regard to the Regional Parks Inventory Report that had also been provided, she would like to point out an error on one of the maps for a Richmond City park. Mr. Crum thanked Ms. Lacy for pointing out that error and asked her to share the information with the Planning Division team for correction.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Jurisdictional Committees Reports

Vice Chairman Donati asked for reports from the chairs of the Small and Large Jurisdictions Committees.

Mr. Gordon reported that the Large Jurisdictions Committee had not met since the last Commission meeting. The committee is scheduled to meet jointly with the Small Jurisdictions Committee on July 16.

Ms. Prichard reported that the Small Jurisdictions Committee met on June 16. The agenda for the meeting mirrored that of the Large Jurisdictions Committee. Items discussed included a presentation by Sherry Brach (United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg) on early childhood education issues, endorsement of the proposed logo and agency name change as presented by staff, and agreement to meet jointly with the Large Jurisdictions Committee on July 16.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointment of Standing Committees for FY 10

Vice Chairman Donati reported on behalf of Chairman Graziano that appointments to the FY 10 Standing Committees have been made, and the list is provided under Tab 4 for Commission members' information. All committee appointees have agreed to serve on the respective committees.

B. Capital Region Collaborative Update

Vice Chairman Donati asked Mr. Crum to present this item.

Mr. Crum reported about 12-15 months ago, the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce and the RRPDC agreed to work on a joint planning effort to determine actions and strategies to strengthen the Richmond Region and move the Region forward as a community. Mr. Crum said he has been working closely with Kim Scheeler, CEO of the Greater Richmond Chamber, to provide staff support to this effort. Mr. Crum said he will provide information on what the Capital Region Collaborative (CRC) has accomplished to date.

About a year ago, the RRPDC Board took action to appoint members to a steering committee, which has been renamed the Organizing Team. There are about sixteen members comprised of RRPDC representatives and representatives from the business community. The Team has been meeting on a monthly basis to chart a course to move the effort forward. Mr. Gordon serves as co-chair of the Organizing Team along with Katherine Busser. He noted that Ms. Cios was invited to join the Team to represent the smaller, rural jurisdictions.

A mission statement was developed over time to articulate the goals of the Collaborative. Members of the Organizing Team determined early in the process that this was not going to be a visioning exercise. The Team wants to identify strategies that can be moved forward to implementation.

The Organizing Team identified 15-16 topics of interest that are important to the Region. The next step was to identify a process to address these issues. The Team agreed that it was not the job of any of the members to go out to tell other people how to do their jobs. There are many organizations already in the community working on these issues. The Team wants to partner with these organizations to see how a collaborative effort can move the issues along.

The general process will be to have the Organizing Team leading the effort. A series of professional facilitators will be enlisted to assist the topic groups, such as Workforce, Environment, or Education. The list of topics can be expanded. Rosters will be developed for each of the topic groups and will consist of organizations already committed to work in these areas. The Team will ask for input from these topic groups to find out how the Team can move the efforts forward. There will also be public input.

With regard to the topic area of education, it was discovered there is already an organization working on a school preparedness plan for children age six and under. This organization is working to establish a plan to help prepare these children to enter the school system. The Organizing Team will meet with this organization to see how the Collaborative can supplement these efforts.

Three topic areas were identified by the Team as a way to test the process. These may not be the most important issues in the Region but they will be used as prototypes to test the process. These three topics are high speed rail, early childhood education, and job creation/workforce development. Under the latter, there are three sub-categories: unemployed, under-employed, and future workforce needs.

A press conference will be held on July 21, 11:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon, at Main Street Station. The purpose of this press conference is to announce the status of the Capital Region Collaborative. All Board members will be invited. The Organizing Team recognized a short-term opportunity in the high speed rail issue. With federal stimulus money becoming available, the State of Virginia will be applying for these funds. The Capital Region Collaborative adopted a resolution in support of extending high speed rail service from Washington, DC to the Richmond Region. The Collaborative then recommended that all nine RRPDC member jurisdictions, the RRPDC, and the MPO adopt similar resolutions of support. All nine jurisdictions have unanimously approved these resolutions, as did the RRPDC, and the MPO will be considering the resolution during today's

meeting. Resolutions were also adopted by the Greater Richmond Chamber and other chambers of commerce and business organizations in the Region.

During the July 21 press conference, these resolutions will be presented to Governor Kaine by the CRC Organizing Team. Mayor Jones from the City of Richmond will also be participating.

Over the next few months, the Organizing Team will continue to test the process and develop a process to receive public input.

Mr. Crum introduced the co-chairs of the Collaborative. Katherine Busser is the Executive Vice President of Capital One Services Incorporated. She is the outgoing chair for the Greater Richmond Chamber. John Gordon, from Hanover County, is the other co-chair. Mr. Crum invited Ms. Busser and Mr. Gordon to make a few remarks.

Mr. Gordon said he was pleased to make a few comments in his capacity as co-chair of the Collaborative. He said he's very excited about the work being done by the Collaborative. He thanked each Commission member for the support of the idea and for their commitment to the work being undertaken. Mr. Gordon said this is this generation's leadership's opportunity to make a difference in the Richmond Region. He said the people who are participating are committed to doing this. Attendance and participation has been great. Mr. Gordon said he is excited about the potential and about what will be the reality of making the Region a better place than it is today. He said everyone wants to hand off to the next generation a better Region than was inherited. He said this was not in criticism of the current leadership but the responsibility of current leaders. Mr. Gordon said he is excited about the opportunity to do this. He feels this is the vehicle to make a difference. Mr. Gordon thanked Mr. Crum for his efforts in providing the update of what has been done to date. Mr. Gordon said what will be done in the future is more important. He envisions great things coming from the work done by the Collaborative and the RRPDC. He said everyone should be proud of what has taken place and of what will take place.

Ms. Busser said the opportunity for members of the RRPDC and the business community to come together to accomplish something on behalf of the Region should not be taken for granted. This has taken a lot of effort from many people, especially Mr. Gordon who has committed his own personal equity to the project. The notion that we all live in interesting times, and that as a Region we are going to have a better shot of making sure there is more prosperity than can be done working individually, is one that is better understood today than a year ago. The economic environment has taken a toll on the Region. The Chamber represents thousands of businesses in the Region, over 2200 business including all major employers. The Chamber is always committed to making this a better Region for business. More important is that when this is a better place for business, it is also a better community for people. The opportunity to work with RRPDC to bring

together two forces that share many commonalities and goals was an easy one to commit to. It has been fortunate to have new leaders come into the community over the past few months – Bob Crum and Kim Scheeler. They have offered great thinking and leadership. Ms. Busser said she has been delighted to see the Collaborative take a first step to support high speed rail. She thanked members of the Commission for their support.

Mr. Fabricant asked if there had been outreach to some of the other local chambers of commerce. Ms. Busser said the local chambers have been meeting together routinely, including those located in the jurisdictions representing the RRPDC as well as the Tri-Cities area. There will be additional expansion in the future, such as the United Way and Virginians for High Speed Rail.

Mr. Gordon noted that the Collaborative has been very careful not to create a false start by concentrating on process. The product will be the process. It is important to involve any organization or individual who is interested. Mr. Gordon said he sees this as an ongoing effort. There will always be opportunities to improve the Region which will give the Collaborative a reason to continue.

Ms. Jaeckle asked how job creation was different from economic development. Ms. Busser said the broad topic of economic development has very many components. She said there needed to be consideration of what is trying to be accomplished – bringing in new businesses, attracting tourism, economic development, retail expansion, etc. One of the important subordinate issues is whether there is a powerful workforce to support all types of businesses and if this workforce can be matched to available jobs. The Collaborative chose to step away from economic development to concentrate on workforce development and how to get the workforce to where there are opportunities. Ms. Jaeckle said she knew of two organizations in the Region working on this issue – Virginia Gateway Region in Chesterfield County and the Greater Richmond Partnership. Ms. Busser said these are both examples of organizations the Collaborative would partner with to bring in jobs for the workforce.

Mr. Gordon thanked Ms. Busser for her commitment, dedication, and enthusiasm to the Collaborative. He also thanked RRPDC staff and the Chamber staff for their help to make the effort as productive as it should be and as successful as it will be.

C. Hanover County Technical Assistance Project Presentation: Regional Parks Inventory

Vice Chairman Donati asked Ms. Finchum to present this item.

Ms. Finchum thanked members of the Commission for the opportunity to present this item and introduced staff members who had worked on the project over the past year: Sarah Smith (Senior Planner), Jacob Epstein (Intern), Matt Weaver

(Intern), and Kathy Wright (Intern). She noted the interns divide their time between pursuing their master's degrees and working for the RRPDC.

Ms. Finchum brought the members' attention to a regional parks map included in the report that was made available to each member. She said this map will be a 24" x 36" map. As soon as copies can be reproduced at this size, each member will receive one.

Ms. Finchum asked that if any errors are noted, members should contact staff so that corrections can be made. Revisions will then be provided to each member.

Hanover County requested (for their technical assistance project) that a regional parks inventory be compiled to use with the county's local parks plan. These technical assistance projects are rotated annually between the four larger jurisdictions. During FY 10, staff will be working with the City of Richmond on a green infrastructure project.

The parks inventory identified public and funded future parks in the Region. The scope of the project was increased to produce the first in a series of data layers that can be used for other projects.

Local governments made three reviews of the project during the process. Information on athletic and recreational facilities was collected from Richmond Sports Backers. Data was also collected on park amenities, park acres, and park usage (active and passive and school-related). Data was mapped using the GIS system, color coding each of the park types.

Park standards were also taken into consideration. There are charts to show the breakdown of the standards that included service radius and population.

All of the data collected will be shared with local planning departments to use in local park planning.

Ms. Finchum said this report will be placed on the RRPDC website once all revisions are made. A suggestion was made to include future layers on the website to reduce printing costs.

Vice Chairman Donati thanked Ms. Finchum for her presentation.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

There were no other committee reports.

B. Announcements

1. Vice Chairman Donati reminded members that the August meetings will be cancelled.
2. Vice Chairman Donati recognized Mr. Cosby who introduced Powhatan County's director of economic development, Sherry Swinson. Vice Chairman Donati welcomed Ms. Swinson to the meeting.
3. Ms. O'Bannon announced that during today's MPO meeting, Virginia Secretary of Transportation Pierce Homer will be in attendance to give an update on VDOT budget adjustments. She invited members to attend if their schedules permitted.

C. For Your Information

There were no reports included in this section.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Vice Chairman Donati adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:55 p.m.

Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Executive Director

James B. Donati, Jr.
Vice Chairman