

RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
July 11, 2013

Members (Alternates) Present

Manuel Alvarez, Jr.(A)..... Goochland County
Jonathan T. BalilesCity of Richmond
Timothy M. Davey Chesterfield County
Evan Fabricant..... Hanover County
Daniel A. Gecker, Secretary..... Chesterfield County
Richard W. Glover Henrico County
Kathy C. Graziano.....City of Richmond
Russell J. Gulley..... Chesterfield County
James M. Holland..... Chesterfield County
Bonnie-Leigh Jones..... Henrico County
David A. Kaechele Henrico County
Angela Kelly-Wiecek, Chairman Hanover County
Kelli Le Duc (A)..... New Kent County
Floyd H. Miles.....Charles City County
John H. Mitchell..... Henrico County
Patricia S. O’Bannon..... Henrico County
C. Harold Padgett Hanover County
W. Canova Peterson Hanover County
Edward W. Pollard New Kent County
Faye O. Prichard.....Town of Ashland
Charles R. Samuels.....City of Richmond
Carson Tucker Powhatan County
Arthur S. Warren Chesterfield County

Members Absent

Parker C. Agelasto.....City of Richmond
L. Ray AshworthCity of Richmond
Karin Carmack Powhatan County
Steve A. Elswick Chesterfield County
Dorothy Jaeckle..... Chesterfield County
Lynn McAteer City of Richmond
Tyrone E. Nelson..... Henrico County
Ken Peterson, Vice Chairman Goochland County
Frank J. Thornton Henrico County
C. Thomas Tiller..... New Kent County
David Williams, Treasurer Powhatan County

Others Present

John Amos RRPDC Legal Counsel
Tyee Davenport Office of Sen. Tim Kaine
Gloria Freye Urban Land Institute
Lisa Garcia Richmond Association of Realtors
Jeff Geiger Urban Land Institute
Louis Llovio Richmond Times Dispatch
Sytira Saunders Urban Land Institute
Joanne Simmelink Chesterfield County
Myra Goodman Smith Leadership Metro Richmond
Abbie Zwicke Urban Land Institute

Staff Present

Robert A. Crum Executive Director
Julie H. Fry Executive Secretary
Sulabh Aryal Associate Planner
Anne Darby Senior Planner
Billy Gammel Associate Planner
Chuck Gates Communications Coordinator
Barbara Jacocks Principal Planner
Jin Lee Senior Planner
Daniel N. Lysy Director, Urban Transportation
Leigh Medford Associate Planner
Barbara Nelson Principal Planner
Greta Ryan Senior Planner
Randy Selleck Principal Planner
Jackie Stewart Director, Planning
Peter M. Sweetland Finance and Contracts Administrator
Lee Yolton Principal Planner

NOTE: The recording equipment failed to function properly. These minutes are written based on staff notes taken during the meeting.

Call to Order

Chairman Prichard called the regularly scheduled July 11, 2013 RRPDC meeting to order at approximately 9:10 a.m. in the RRPDC board room. She then led 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 FY14 Officers and Recognition of Outgoing Chairman

Outgoing Chairman Prichard asked incoming officers present to step forward to take the oath of office. She noted that Mr. Peterson and Mr. Williams will be sworn into office at a later date, prior to the next RRPDC meeting, by Mr. Crum.

Chairman: Angela Kelly-Wiecek, Hanover County
Secretary: Dan Gecker, Chesterfield County

Following the oath of office, members offered congratulations with a round of applause.

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek asked Mr. Crum if he would make the presentation to Ms. Prichard.

Mr. Crum said that he would like to thank Ms. Prichard for her leadership over the past year. He noted that Ms. Prichard served as Chairman for about 18 months, as she stepped in to lead meetings in her role as Vice Chairman when the previous Chairman was absent from meetings due to health issues. Mr. Crum said he appreciated Ms. Prichard's involvement not only with the Commission, but also her service on the Capital Region Collaborative and Small Jurisdictions Committee.

Mr. Crum presented Ms. Prichard with a small token of appreciation on behalf of Commission members and staff and thanked her for her service.

Members of the Commission showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek added her thanks for Ms. Prichard's leadership and said she will appreciate Ms. Prichard's ongoing guidance and support over the coming year.

B. Requests for Additions or Changes to the Order of Business

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek asked if there were any additions or changes to be made to the agenda. There were no requests to change the agenda, and the agenda was accepted as presented.

C. Open Public Comment Period

There were no requests from the public to address the Commission, and Chairman Kelly-Wiecek closed the public comment period.

D. Chairman's Report

Recognition of Outgoing Member

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek reported that during this morning's Executive Committee meeting, members took action to approve a Resolution of Appreciation for outgoing RRPDC member Richard Ayers. Mr. Ayers served as Powhatan County's Planning Commission representative on the RRPDC Board. Chairman Kelly-Wiecek noted that staff will send the resolution to Mr. Ayers along with a letter of thanks for his service on behalf of the Commission.

Cancellation of August Meeting

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek said that traditionally the Executive Committee and Commission meetings for the month of August are cancelled unless there are agenda items identified that need attention.

During this morning's Executive Committee meeting, members took action to recommend to the Commission that the August meetings be cancelled. Chairman Kelly-Wiecek asked if there was a motion to cancel the August meetings.

Ms. Prichard moved that the August Executive Committee and Commission meetings be cancelled unless there are agenda items identified that need to be discussed. Ms. Graziano seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Crum brought members' attention to the monthly staff activity report, which is included in the agenda book under Tab 1 and details work being advanced by staff on behalf of the localities. He said staff will be happy to address any questions on what is included in the report.

Mr. Crum reported that the Capital Region Collaborative (CRC) Work Groups continue to provide their final reports to the Organizing Council. The work groups were organized around the seven regional priorities that were identified during an extensive public input process. There are two work groups remaining that need to report, Workforce Preparation and Job Creation. These reports will be given at the July and August CRC meetings, respectively.

Staff is continuing to finalize the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) report. A draft report will be presented to members of the Commission this fall for feedback, and the Commission's endorsement will be requested once the report is finalized.

Mr. Crum reminded members that the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) will hold its summer conference on July 25-27, at Wintergreen. He said RRPDC is a member of VAPDC, which is comprised of 21 planning district commissions within the state. Mr. Crum noted that agenda items will include discussions on how PDCs are achieving success through collaborative governance. Some of the topics will be on transportation and economic development issues. Mr. Crum said that if any Board members would like to attend all or any portion of the conference, they should contact Ms. Fry regarding registration.

Mr. Crum announced that the Large Jurisdictions Committee will meet on August 19, and a meeting is being scheduled for the Small Jurisdictions Committee to meet in August. He noted that it is time to begin discussing regional items of interest for the upcoming General Assembly session in January.

F. Regional Interest Items

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek said this is the time during the meeting when members are asked to take about thirty seconds to mention something positive going on in their locality. She asked members to be very brief given the fact that this morning's meeting was late starting.

- the Virginia Derby will take place this weekend at Colonial Downs in New Kent County; everyone is invited to attend this fun, family event; races will begin at 5:00 p.m.
- the Hanover Tomato Festival will take place on Saturday; this is an all day event so everyone can come early and then leave in time to attend the Virginia Derby
- members were reminded to review their emergency management guidelines now that hurricane season is in full swing
- the Washington Redskins Training Facility opened this week; there is parking and a shuttle from City Stadium which will help alleviate parking congestion in the neighborhoods near the facility; Redskins team members will arrive on July 25
- Powhatan State Park opened this past weekend; the governor participated in the opening ceremonies; about 400 people were in attendance
- Mr. Fabricant reported that since his comments last month regarding a proposed children's hospital, he has reached out to PACKids on two occasions and has not received a response; he said the lack of a response will preclude his request to add any discussion on the proposed hospital to an upcoming Commission agenda
- Hanover Planning Commission has passed its comprehensive plan on to the Board of Supervisors for input
- Henrico County is developing information on the proposed meals tax for this fall's referendum vote
- youth softball and baseball tournaments will be held at RF&P park in Henrico County beginning on July 18
- Ashland and Hanover County will co-host a street party on July 27 to benefit a local charity

- a new office for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is under construction in Hanover County

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek thanked members for sharing their information.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek said the Executive Committee recommended approval of the items listed on the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes – June 13, 2013
- B. Approval of May Financial Report

There was no request to have either of the items removed from the Consent Agenda for additional discussion and on motion made by Mr. Gecker and seconded by Ms. Graziano, the Consent Agenda was approved unanimously as presented.

III. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to bring before the Board.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointment of FY14 Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek reported that during this morning's Executive Committee meeting, members concurred with her appointments to RRPDC Standing and Ad Hoc Committees for FY14. The appointments are listed in the agenda book under Tab 4 for members' information.

B. City of Richmond Food Policy Project

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek asked Mr. Crum to provide information on this item.

Mr. Crum said that the RRPDC Charter allows for additional financial assessments to be made on local governments for specific services as requested by the locality. Based on a recommendation from the City of Richmond's Food Policy Task Force, the city has asked the RRPDC for additional staff support to coordinate food policy implementation activities in the city.

Mr. Crum said a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been drawn up between the city and RRPDC. This MOU is being presented to members today for approval to allow RRPDC staff to assist with this project. RRPDC Senior Planner, Anne Darby, will be assigned to work with city staff. Ms. Darby served as the co-chairman of the Food Policy Task Force, and the City of Richmond has asked that Ms. Darby lead the efforts to implement the recommendations of the Task Force.

Mr. Crum said the City of Richmond has budgeted \$20,000 for FY14 to fund the implementation assistance from Ms. Darby. This task will take up about one-third of Ms. Darby's time during the year.

Ms. O'Bannon asked what type of work will be done by Ms. Darby.

Mr. Crum said the Task Force identified, for example, food deserts within the city and noted that many low income areas do not have access to healthy food. Ms. Darby will assist in finding ways to bring healthy food into these communities through such things as urban gardens.

Ms. Darby added that the Task Force was comprised of representatives from various city social services departments and other non-profits within the city. She said access to healthy food was identified as a major challenge within the city. She will offer technical assistance as the city moves forward to implement the recommendations from the Task Force to meet this challenge and other Task Force recommendations.

Mr. Crum noted there were two small revisions to the MOU from what had been included in the agenda book, and he provided those revisions to members for their review. He said members are being asked to approve the MOU as amended.

Ms. Prichard asked if information could be shared with other localities as the project moves forward as there are similar needs in each jurisdiction. Mr. Crum said updates will be provided to members as the project moves forward.

Mr. Fabricant asked if the work that will be done by Ms. Darby will impact any projects that she is already working on. Mr. Crum said there will be some redistribution of tasks and a planner will be returning from FMLA, which will bring the Planning staff back up to full staff level.

Mr. Fabricant made a motion that the MOU, as amended, between the City of Richmond and the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission for an additional financial assessment to support Food Policy implementation activities be approved. Ms. Graziano seconded the motion.

Mr. Alvarez asked if a provision needed to be added to the MOU asking for updates to be provided to members of the Commission. Mr. Amos, RRPDC legal counsel, said that would not be necessary as staff has indicated updates will be provided.

There was no additional discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Urban Land Institute (ULI) RVA Reality Check

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek asked Mr. Davey to introduce this agenda item.

Mr. Davey thanked members of the Commission for the opportunity to present preliminary data gathered during RVA Reality Check Game Day. He also recognized other ULI event coordinators, Jeff Geiger and Gloria Freye. Mr. Davey noted that Mr. Geiger will give today's presentation. Mr. Davey said ULI is aggregating the data and hopes to create tools that can assist localities in implementing recommendations on future growth that have been identified. He said feedback from Commission members will be appreciated. This feedback will be incorporated into a final report which will be taken to a larger audience within the next few months.

Mr. Geiger provided background information on the RVA Reality Check Game Day, which was held on May 14 at the Virginia Commonwealth University Siegel Center. He said 300 people participated. The group was very diverse and included elected officials, local government staffs, business leaders, representatives from non-profit agencies, and members of local real estate offices, among others. He thanked RRPDC and Leadership Metro Richmond for their technical assistance in planning the event.

Mr. Geiger said Game Day focused on how the Region will change over the next 20 years and what localities will need to do in order to meet the challenges that will be encountered with the anticipated changes in the growth of business and population.

The participants were divided into 30 teams of 10 persons each. Each team was given Lego® blocks, representing specific numbers of businesses and households. Teams were asked to place these blocks on a map of the Region to show where and what type of growth they would like to see take place. Mr. Geiger noted that each team was asked to develop guiding principles to use as they placed blocks on their maps.

Mr. Geiger said that there were six guiding principles that were the most popular:

- transportation options (93%)
- preserving natural resources (89%)
- preserving historical resources (46%)
- regional collaboration on where and how the region grows (50%)
- grow following existing growth patterns and infrastructure (50%)
- redevelopment, revitalization, infill (46%)

Mr. Geiger said the majority of teams laid out transportation corridors first. When ULI over-laid all of these results, the most common pattern for transportation corridors was that of wheel spokes coming from the urban center. Multi-modal transportation accounted for 82 percent of the corridors that were identified.

ULI provided a 3-D model of existing conditions for employment and housing for teams to refer to as they worked. Information was also provided in graph form. Mr. Geiger said prior to Game Day, information on visualization was provided to participants to help them understand what the blocks represented as they were placed on the maps.

Three tables were selected to offer sample results, which showed three different growth patterns: nodal, corridor, and scatter. Mr. Geiger said there were some commonalities in placing housing and jobs in the same areas. There was a preference for mixed use development. Growth tended to remain within existing development patterns using existing infrastructure corridors. Concentration on the downtown area was also a commonality. Mr. Geiger provided graph examples of housing and employment for each of the three types of growth patterns.

Mr. Geiger indicated the following as The Big Picture for the Richmond Region in 20 years:

- similar development footprint with vertical growth, not horizontal
- continue a regional community with a high quality of life by developing areas where residents can live, work, and enjoy the natural and historic resources by
 - maintaining housing close to jobs
 - continuing the Region's preservation of natural and historic resources
- add transportation options in major development corridors
- continue regional collaboration on where and how the Region grows

A committee of volunteers has committed to work over the next two years on post-implementation of RVA Reality Check recommendations. The committee will have an objective to use the final report and the information obtained during Game Day to further educate the community on the challenges the Region will face as the Region grows and competes in a global marketplace.

Mr. Geiger said he would welcome any input from members.

Mr. Pollard asked what percentage of the participants was in the 21-25 years of age bracket. Mr. Geiger said he would guess it was less than 10 percent. Mr. Davey added that if the age bracket was expanded to 25-35 years of age, the percentage would be about 20 percent. Mr. Davey pointed out that participants were targeted to be leaders within the community who could offer life experience expertise.

Mr. Warren noted that there was no emphasis on education. In addition, he said most people prefer to live on the edge of development with easy access to their needs. He also asked if the impact of crime had been considered.

Mr. Davey said that while he would agree that most residents look for ease of access, that had not been part of the exercise. He said ULI focused on employment and housing because those are the areas of expertise for ULI. He said he would suspect that, if asked, a good cross-section of the participants would agree with Mr. Warren's assessment.

Mr. Fabricant asked if an effort had been made to ensure that participants at the tables were not all from the same locality. Mr. Geiger said the seating arrangement was very deliberate to ensure there was diversity at each table.

Ms. Jones said she found the exercise to be very enjoyable as there were no financial restrictions on where placements could be made. She said she thought that reality would be factored in during implementation as localities would need to do what they could with resources available to them.

Mr. Geiger said ULI wanted to offer the results as a tool for localities to use to guide them in comprehensive planning. Fiscal impacts would need to be applied within each locality. He said, for example, the amount of funding needed for mass transit may not be known or understood by everyone living in the locality.

Ms. Prichard said a few years ago it was difficult for developers and conservationists to agree on development. She noted that now, both groups tend to be more sensitive to residents' needs and to move toward the center with development plans.

Mr. Peterson asked if the results presented are getting the type of reaction desired. Mr. Davey said there are consistencies seen in the results. He said ULI will be looking at results from other cities as well to see how Richmond's results match up or differ. He said the final report is not intended to be a comprehensive plan for the localities to implement, but a tool to provide ideas for the localities to use in developing their own plans.

Mr. Crum asked if the results from all thirty tables would be averaged together. Mr. Geiger said they hoped to be able to put the results into a format that would be easy to understand. When utilizing GIS, the formatting of the results can change. ULI hopes to have a release event in September.

Mr. Crum asked if data could be broken down to be locality specific. Mr. Davey said he thought that would be possible by using a GIS platform. He said data can be provided for localities to use within their own GIS departments.

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek asked if an addendum could be added to the final report to show what areas had not been considered, such as education and crime. Mr. Davey said ULI did not want to put too many layers on the final results. He said they would acknowledge that there are other issues that should be considered.

Chairman Kelly-Wiecek thanked Mr. Geiger and Mr. Davey for their presentation.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Next Meeting** – Chairman Kelly-Wiecek reminded members that the August meeting is cancelled, and the next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There was no other business to bring before the Board and Chairman Kelly-Wiecek adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:20 a.m.

Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Executive Director

Angela Kelly-Wiecek
Chairman