

RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
June 13, 2013

Members (Alternates) Present

Parker C. Agelasto.....	City of Richmond
Jonathan T. Baliles	City of Richmond
Karin Carmack	Powhatan County
Timothy M. Davey	Chesterfield County
Steve A. Elswick	Chesterfield County
Evan Fabricant.....	Hanover County
Daniel A. Gecker.....	Chesterfield County
Richard W. Glover	Henrico County
James M. Holland.....	Chesterfield County
Bonnie-Leigh Jones.....	Henrico County
Angela Kelly-Wiecek, Vice Chairman.....	Hanover County
John H. Mitchell.....	Henrico County
Patricia S. O'Bannon.....	Henrico County
C. Harold Padgett	Hanover County
Ken Peterson, Treasurer	Goochland County
Edward W. Pollard	New Kent County
Faye O. Prichard, Chairman	Town of Ashland
Charles R. Samuels.....	City of Richmond
Randall R. Silber (A).....	Henrico County
Carson Tucker	Powhatan County
David Williams, Secretary	Powhatan County

Members Absent

L. Ray Ashworth	City of Richmond
Kathy C. Graziano.....	City of Richmond
Russell J. Gulley.....	Chesterfield County
Dorothy Jaeckle.....	Chesterfield County
David A. Kaechele	Henrico County
Lynn McAteer	City of Richmond
Floyd H. Miles.....	Charles City County
Tyrone E. Nelson.....	Henrico County
W. Canova Peterson	Hanover County
Frank J. Thornton	Henrico County
C. Thomas Tiller.....	New Kent County
Arthur S. Warren	Chesterfield County

Others Present

Tyee Davenport Office of Sen. Tim Kaine
Lynn Pharr United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg
Joanne Simmelink Chesterfield County
Myra Goodman Smith Leadership Metro Richmond

Staff Present

Robert A. Crum Executive Director
Jo A. Evans Assistant 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
Greta Ryan Senior Planner
Matt Smith Intern
Randy Selleck Principal Planner
Jackie Stewart Director, Planning
Peter M. Sweetland Finance and Contracts Administrator
Tiffany Dubinsky Senior Planner

Call to Order

Chairman Prichard called the regularly scheduled June 13, 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. Requests for Additions or Changes to the Order of Business

Chairman Prichard 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 Prichard closed the public comment period.

D. Chairman's Report

Chairman Prichard noted this will be her last meeting as Chairman. She said it has been a pleasure to serve as Chairman and to work so closely with RRPDC staff. She said staff always exceeds expectations, and she is consistently impressed with staff's level of enthusiasm, good judgment, and general willingness to work with the jurisdictions. She thanked staff for all of their help during her tenure.

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 noted that staff is continuing to meet with community partners in preparation for the Community Indicators Project. He said positive feedback is continuing to be received on the opportunity for the PDC to serve as the hub for this project. Mr. Crum said he believes this is a good opportunity for the PDC to evolve into a central clearinghouse for good, reliable data for the Region. He said staff will provide regular updates to members of the Commission as the project moves forward.

The Capital Region Collaborative (CRC) is receiving reports from the work groups that were formed around the CRC's seven priority areas. So far, reports have been received from the James River, Social Stability, and Transportation Work Groups. There are four remaining work groups to report out to the CRC. Once all of the work groups have presented their reports to the CRC, an update will be provided to members of the Commission during the fall.

The Urban Land Institute (ULI) Reality Check RVA event was held in May. Mr. Crum said he has been working with Mr. Davey and others from ULI on a report that will be provided to members of the Commission in July. He said he believes this will be the first presentation of the results from Reality Check. Mr. Crum asked Mr. Davey if he had any additional comments.

Mr. Davey thanked all of the members who participated in the event. He said ULI will be aggregating the results to formulate recommendations from the event. Mr. Davey said ULI is hoping that members of the Commission will be able to offer suggestions on how the data can be used by the Region.

F. Regional Interest Items

Chairman Prichard asked for Board members to take about thirty seconds to mention something positive going on in their locality. She asked those who had participated on the Denver InterCity Visit to offer feedback on the trip.

- On July 27, Ashland and Hanover County will team up to host a Street Party; Ashland typically holds five Street Parties each summer to benefit the ongoing maintenance for the downtown plaza; the fifth Street Party held each year will be hosted jointly by the town and county to benefit a local charity; this year that charity will be to raise funds for a local citizen who needs a kidney transplant; members of the Hanover Board of Supervisors and Ashland Town Council will be working at the Street Party
- Hanover County has approved the first upscale apartment complex to be built in the county since 2004; this will be a first step in attracting young professionals to the county and will impact economic development as well
- Goochland County operates two farmers markets that sell locally grown produce; one of the farms in Goochland County provides fresh produce to the Region's food bank
- Mr. Williams introduced Ms. Karin Carmack, who has been appointed by Powhatan County to serve as the county's Planning Commission representative to the Commission; the county has hired a new attorney, Thomas E. Lacheney, who is currently serving as Orange County's attorney
- Mr. Davey said he went on the InterCity Visit to Denver and was impressed with, as it was referred to during the trip, the quality plan, quality design, and quality place making; Denver has created great places around the entire city and some discussion should be held on what the city did that can be replicated in the Richmond Region
- Mr. Fabricant noted that there are some issues regarding a children's hospital being proposed by PACKids and the current children's facility located within the VCU healthcare system; he asked if this was something RRPDC should be involved with and if so, what role the RRPDC could play
- Chesterfield County staff is working on the fall bond referendum with the county school board
- Discussions are ongoing in New Kent County on locations for proposed truck stops along I-64 in addition to other proposed commercial development
- Ms. O'Bannon offered additional information regarding the children's hospital proposals as well as changes that all hospitals will need to address with the implementation of the Affordable Healthcare Act; she said there are specific hurdles that must be overcome before a children's hospital can be built

Chairman Prichard asked if members could limit their regional interest items to positive events within their localities. She said if there is a need to discuss the children's hospital issue, it can be proposed as a future agenda item.

- Ms. O'Bannon said that while she was in Denver, she noted there was a lot of regionalism, based on the practice of moving forward even if one locality did not want to participate in whatever regional effort that was being proposed; Coors Field was built downtown in a vacant field that required the removal of only one structure
- Ms. Jones commended ULI on the Realty Check event; she said she will be looking forward to seeing the resulting recommendations and to see how these will fit into what can actually be undertaken
- Plein Air Richmond will finish up this weekend; the event benefits the Richmond Symphony and is being hosted by the Brazier Gallery; artists from across the country have been painting outside in various locations around the city during this week; on Saturday the artists will be at the Lee statue on Monument Avenue
- A crisis brought the localities around Denver together; it's good to see that a crisis is not needed to bring together the localities in the Richmond Region
- Mr. Gecker reported that he has participated in several high school graduations recently, and he has enjoyed seeing the excitement the students have about moving forward; he said he has been impressed with the students and their optimism about their futures
- Mr. Padgett noted that Ms. Kelly-Wiecek had to leave the meeting to attend a ribbon cutting event in her district; the county planning commission will hold a public hearing tonight on the long range growth plan for the county
- The Powhatan County Board of Supervisors will honor Dr. Margaret Meara, Superintendent of Powhatan County Schools, on Monday; she is retiring after 24 years of service to the county's schools; Standard and Poor has given Powhatan County its highest rating for a county of that size due in part to the county's effort to maintain a balance between its agricultural and commercial enterprises; this rating also included a "stable outlook" rating
- The new state park in Powhatan County will open officially on July 6 at 2:00 p.m. with a ribbon cutting ceremony that will include the governor; everyone is invited; there will be tours of the park offered; the park is located on the back side of Beaumont Learning Center, on 1,800 acres of mostly pristine land near the bend in the James River that is shared with Goochland County
- Redskins training camp will open with a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 8 at 1:00 p.m.
- There was an incident at Richmond International Airport on Tuesday morning that involved a bomb threat; in addition to response from Henrico County, several other localities responded to offer assistance; Henrico County appreciated the assistance
- Mr. Holland said he has also enjoyed the high school graduations he has attended this season; during the trip to Denver, he was impressed with the power of the cooperation within that region; he said the Richmond Region has the ability to achieve anything through cooperation
- Ashland has been named a Designated Main Street Community by the governor

Chairman Prichard thanked members for sharing their information.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Prichard said the Executive Committee recommended approval of the items listed on the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes – May 9, 2013
- B. Approval of April 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. Williams and seconded by Mr. Davey, 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. Report of the Nominating Committee

Chairman Prichard offered a report from the Nominating Committee on behalf of Ms. Graziano, who served as the committee's chairman.

During last month's Executive Committee meeting, Chairman Prichard appointed the following persons to serve on the Nominating Committee: Mr. Glover, Mr. Miles, Mr. Tiller, Ms. Graziano (chairman), and Chairman Prichard.

Based on the established rotation of jurisdictions to serve as officers in FY14, the Nominating Committee is proposing the following slate of officers:

Chairman: Angela Kelly-Wiecek, Hanover County
Vice Chairman: Ken Peterson, Goochland County
Treasurer: David Williams, Powhatan County
Secretary: Dan Gecker, Chesterfield County

The slate of officers was endorsed by the Executive Committee during its meeting this morning. Chairman Prichard said that if there are no nominations from the floor, she would ask for a motion to elect those presented to serve as officers of the Commission during FY14. Mr. Tucker so moved and the motion was seconded by Mr. Samuels. There was no additional discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Members of the Commission congratulated the new officers with a round of applause. New officers will be sworn into office during the July Commission meeting.

B. United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg

Chairman Prichard asked Mr. Crum to provide information on this item.

Mr. Crum said he was pleased to be able to introduce today's guest speaker, Lynn Pharr, who has been serving as the CEO of the United Way over the past thirteen months.

Ms. Pharr thanked members for the opportunity to speak with them today. She began her presentation by explaining what the United Way does – the United Way helps people of all ages and walks of life and people who need hope in the eleven localities that make up the service area.

The United Way joins with many different community partners to provide over 80 different programs to address needs in education, income, and health. Ms. Pharr provided lists of partners in each area.

The Community Fund creates opportunities for a good life by focusing on the following:

- education: helping children and youth achieve their potential
- income: promoting financial stability and independence
- health: improving people's health

Information is collected from around the Region to help identify where needs are the greatest, where trends are developing, and what programs work best. Support goes to all needs including the less obvious ones.

Ms. Pharr pointed out that the Indicators of Community Strength report is a reference tool and resource for United Way and other agencies. She said accurate and timely information is critical for decision making and community planning. She said the report is available on the United Way's website. Ms. Pharr said United Way is looking forward to participating in the Community Indicators Project that is being undertaken by RRPDC.

During this year's fund raising campaign, about \$16.2 million has been invested in the Region. Funds collected in the Region remain in the Region, and volunteers meet to determine how the funds will be allocated to nonprofit organizations in the areas of quality programming, governance, finance and administration, and measureable results.

United Way also serves as a hub to address new problems or to increase funding to address current issues. Volunteers are always welcome. Some of the new partners with United Way include Metrocash, Age Wave, Smart Beginnings, Full Days RVA, Women's Leadership Initiative, and Virginia 2-1-1.

Ms. Pharr concluded her presentation by saying it takes everyone working together to make a difference. *Live United* is a reminder that when individuals think outside themselves, they have the power to facilitate change.

Ms. Pharr said she would like to thank Mr. Crum and Ms. Stewart for their assistance and encouragement as she has transitioned into her new position with United Way.

Mr. Baliles asked if United Way was still involved with the Loan Leader Program. Ms. Pharr said this program is no longer active based in part on the economic downturn. She said when the economy improves, the program may be initiated again.

Ms. O'Bannon asked what type of information is available when someone calls 2-1-1. Ms. Pharr said a person will answer the phone and has access to a database, based on zip code, for health and human services assistance located within that zip code.

Mr. Crum asked how people could volunteer to help with United Way programs. Ms. Pharr said there are many volunteer opportunities. If any of the Commission members want more information, they should contact her.

C. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update

Chairman Prichard asked Mr. Crum to introduce this agenda item.

Mr. Crum said information will be presented to members on the CEDS project over the next several months. In October, members of the Commission will be asked to endorse the CEDS. Today Ms. Jacocks will provide information on focal areas for development within each of the jurisdictions. Data used to develop these focal areas was obtained in part from the economic development staffs in each of the localities. Mr. Crum said no action will be required following this presentation.

Ms. Jacocks said the CEDS is being developed to link strategic investments in human capital and physical infrastructure to lead to a more dynamic Region. Ms. Jacocks pointed out the summary of the CEDS development as presented in the agenda packet.

Goals for developing the CEDS are:

- create best-in-class Pre-K – 12 education system
- expand productive workforce participation
- focus capital investments on priority economic development opportunities
- grow and retain jobs that advance the Region
- expand choice in housing and employment access

Ms. Jacocks presented information on distressed and opportunity areas in the Region, including data on regional development centers and their relationship to distressed

neighborhoods. She said data collected through various studies already completed by the RRPDC has also been used as building blocks in the CEDS process.

Information was presented on regional industrial employment and office employment clusters, and Ms. Jacocks broke this down by jurisdiction. She also showed illustrations on daily commuter flows for the City of Richmond and indicated this information was also developed for each of the localities. Housing density by Census block and activity drivers within the Region was also illustrated for members.

From all of this data, regional economic development sites for the Region were identified. Ms. Jacocks reviewed each of these centers by jurisdiction. Five focal areas have been developed through discussions with the CEDS Strategy Committee. Ms. Jacocks reminded members that this committee includes members of their economic development departments as well as representatives from various businesses and nonprofits in the Region.

1. **Route 1 – I-95/295:** northern gateway/I-95; emerging distribution hub at Vitamin Shoppe; Northlake industrial/commercial center
2. **RIC Airport / White Oak:** proposed J. Sargeant Reynolds campus-Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CCAM) model; aeronautical test facility site; White Oak data processing/technical center; Laburnum Avenue industrial/distribution corridor; bus bridge – RIC/Main Street Station/Staples Mill Road AMTRAK
3. **Rivers Bend / Mechanicsville:** Meadowville Technology Park activity, access, and property control; Appomattox Business Park and environs-supplier opportunities from south; freight access – Route 10 bridge; I-95 southern gateway
4. **Innsbrook / West Creek / Short Pump:** Innsbrook mixed use opportunity; interchange modification report – Broad Street/Route 288 and I-64/Route 623; The Notch at West Creek; transit circulator opportunity; Tuckahoe Creek Park greenway; Route 288 connection into Powhatan County at Route 711 (SE quadrant)
5. **Port Activity:** investments in highway, rail, and port; future interchange driven by development; Alleghany Warehouse potential; Philip Morris operations center; JRIC/Willis Road interchange

Ms. Jacocks noted there are also strategy building opportunities for the residential population around the Port, for example. Data shows there are 50,287 residents in that area who are of working age (18 to 64 years of age). There are 21,766 households in the Port focal area with less medium income; this is about 80 percent of the residents in the area. This distressed area meets requirements for CEDS grant opportunities. Ms. Jacocks said this type of analysis will be done for each of the focal areas.

Ms. Jacocks said the CEDS Strategy Committee will continue to meet and another update will be provided to Commission members in September.

Mr. Williams asked if the opportunities listed for each of the focal areas had been coordinated with what has been identified by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (EDP). He also asked how this information is being integrated with some of the other efforts that are ongoing, for example work being done by the Capital Region Collaborative (CRC) and the MPO. Ms. Jacocks said the original data used in the CEDS came from the Virginia EDP and VirginiaSCAN. She said efforts will be made to keep the CEDS information up to date without duplication of efforts. This will also include input from the local economic developers. Ms. Jacocks said this information can also be used by the MPO to help develop priority projects listings based on emerging trends.

Mr. Crum said the CRC took great care to make sure there is integration of data. He noted that Greg Wingfield (Greater Richmond Partnership) is a member of the CRC Job Creation Work Group and also the CEDS Strategy Committee. Some of the output from the CEDS will be integrated with what is being done by the CRC work groups.

Mr. Williams asked if all of the CRC work groups will be involved. Mr. Crum said that was correct. The CRC work groups are taking every effort to integrate data across priorities.

Mr. Williams asked if the CEDS information will be included in the Community Indicators Project. Mr. Crum said the hope is that the Indicators Project will take data from all of the sources – CEDS, CRC, Bridging Richmond, etc. – to identify emerging trends, monitor success, and determine if the strategies are working positively or negatively.

Mr. Williams said he is concerned that there will be no synchronization of the information released from all of these reports and that the reports will be stand-alone without taking a look at how to identify recommendations and solutions.

Mr. Crum said the goal is for the RRPDC and CRC to work together to ensure that all of the data is collected and integrated into one hub. He said both groups are very committed to making this happen.

Ms. Jacocks added that the CEDS development time was extended in order to work with the CRC work groups. She said many of the CEDS work group members are also serving on CRC work groups. Ms. Jacocks said the CEDS will be updated on at least an annual basis.

Chairman Prichard asked if information on the Town of Ashland could be broken out from the data for Hanover County. Ms. Jacocks said that can be done in areas where there is Ashland-specific information available.

Ms. O'Bannon asked if the report is available online. Ms. Jacocks said the PowerPoint presentation she used today will be available online; however, there is no

draft report for the CEDS work yet. She said she expects this will be in draft form by September. There is also a CEDS website. Ms. O'Bannon said she knows of changes that have occurred already from what was presented today. Ms. Jacocks said the data will be updated.

Mr. Gammel added that over the next few months, meetings will be held with the local economic development staffs to update data for each locality. He said information will also be cross-checked with VirginiaSCAN.

Ms. O'Bannon said the information will be of greatest value to the localities if it is up to date and accessible.

Mr. Crum said that is the goal – to make the CEDS useful to the localities as well as other organizations.

Chairman Prichard thanked Ms. Jacocks for her presentation.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Next Meeting – Chairman Prichard reminded members that the next meeting will be on Thursday, July 11.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There was no other business to bring before the Board and Chairman Prichard adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:35 a.m.

Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Executive Director

Faye O. Prichard
Chairman