

RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
June 12, 2014

Members (Alternates) Present

Parker C. Agelasto.....	City of Richmond
Daniel Arkin.....	City of Richmond
Jonathan T. Baliles.....	City of Richmond
Karin Carmack.....	Powhatan County
Timothy M. Davey.....	Chesterfield County
Steve A. Elswick.....	Chesterfield County
Daniel A. Gecker, Secretary.....	Chesterfield County
Kathy C. Graziano.....	City of Richmond
Russell J. Gulley.....	Chesterfield County
James M. Holland.....	Chesterfield County
Dorothy Jaeckle.....	Chesterfield County
Floyd H. Miles.....	Charles City County
John H. Mitchell.....	Henrico County
C. Harold Padgett.....	Hanover County
Ken Peterson, Vice Chairman.....	Goochland County
W. Canova Peterson.....	Hanover County
Edward W. Pollard.....	New Kent County
Faye O. Prichard.....	Town of Ashland
Randall R. Silber (A).....	Henrico County
Frank J. Thornton.....	Henrico County
Carson Tucker.....	Powhatan County
Arthur S. Warren.....	Chesterfield County
David Williams, Treasurer.....	Powhatan County

Members Absent

Evan Fabricant.....	Hanover County
Richard W. Glover.....	Henrico County
David A. Kaechele.....	Henrico County
Angela Kelly-Wiecek, Chairman.....	Hanover County
Eric Leabough.....	Henrico County
Tyrone E. Nelson.....	Henrico County
Patricia S. O'Bannon.....	Henrico County
Rodney Poole.....	City of Richmond
Charles R. Samuels.....	City of Richmond
C. Thomas Tiller.....	New Kent County

Others Present

John Amos RRPDC Legal Counsel
Tim Joyce Greater Richmond YMCA
Sara Link Greater Richmond Age Wave Coalition
Joanne Simmelink Chesterfield County

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
Chuck Gates Communications Coordinator
Barbara Jacocks Principal Planner
Jin Lee Senior Planner
Daniel N. Lysy Director, Transportation
Josh Mallow Intern
Dillon Massey Intern
Leo Pineda Intern
Kathy Robins Senior Planner
Greta Ryan Senior Planner
Jackie Stewart Director, Planning
Peter M. Sweetland Finance and Contracts Administrator

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Peterson called the regularly scheduled June 12, 2014 RRPDC meeting to order at approximately 9:15 a.m. in the RRPDC board room. He 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

Vice Chairman Peterson 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

As there were no requests from the public to address the Commission, Vice Chairman Peterson closed the public comment period.

D. Chairman's Report

Vice Chairman Peterson reported that Chairman Kelly-Wiecek was not feeling well today and would not be in attendance. He said he did not have a report to present on behalf of the Chairman.

E. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Crum brought members' attention to the 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 reminded members that in December, the Board adopted the Region's first regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS was submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) for review and comment. Mr. Crum said he was glad to report that the EDA approved the CEDS, which will offer the Region an economic development strategy with regard to infrastructure development and workforce development; the document also gives the Region eligibility to compete for public infrastructure grants through EDA.

The Board had also authorized staff to partner with the Crater PDC, along with the Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Commonwealth Center for Advanced Logistics Systems, to submit an application for both regions to be designated by the U.S. Economic Development Authority as a Manufacturing Community. Twelve regions around the country would receive the designation that would provide competitive advantages. Notice was received the other week that the combined application from the two PDCs was not awarded one of the twelve designations. Areas that did receive the designation included Chicago, northern Alabama, and Portland (WA). Mr. Crum said he could provide the entire list to members if they'd like to have it. He said the application process was a good experience and provided an opportunity to identify the strengths of both regions when coordinating together. Mr. Crum said contact will be made with EDA to see if they can provide information on where the regions fell short in the effort to receive the designation.

During last month's MPO meeting, the MPO Board took action recommending that the RRPDC should adjust its dues structure to accommodate those jurisdictions that have a portion of their jurisdictions outside of the MPO Study Area. This will impact the rural areas of Powhatan and Goochland Counties, as well as the rural areas of New Kent and Charles City Counties and the southern portion of Chesterfield County, which is included in the Tri-Cities MPO. The dues structure will be changed so that those portions of the

jurisdictions that fall outside of the MPO Study Area will not be included in the five-cents per capita dues calculation that helps support the MPO. Details will be provided to members during next month's meeting. The RRPDC Board will be asked to take action to revise the dues structure as recommended by the MPO Board.

Mr. Tucker asked if there had been any indication from EDA as to why the Region had not received the Manufacturing Community designation. Mr. Crum said no critique was received from EDA. Dr. Barry Johnson, from UVA, has contacts with EDA and will be setting up a meeting to discuss where the Region had shortcomings. Mr. Crum said he understands there were 72 applications for the twelve designations.

Ms. Graziano said the CEDS report is a very valuable piece of information for the entire Region, and she offered her thanks to Mr. Crum and the RRPDC staff for developing the report. Mr. Crum said the real credit should go to staff – Barbara Jacocks, Anne Darby, Sarah Stewart, and Billy Gammel. He said staff put a lot of effort into the CEDS development and he appreciated Ms. Graziano's comments. Vice Chairman Peterson agreed that the CEDS is a very important work product.

F. Small Jurisdictions Report

Vice Chairman Peterson asked Ms. Prichard to provide this report.

Ms. Prichard reported that the Small Jurisdictions Committee met on May 20. The meeting discussions focused on the similarities and differences with regard to economic development needs in the smaller jurisdictions. She said some jurisdictions have needs for revitalization and new business. She said all of the members will look forward to receiving ongoing support from the Greater Richmond Chamber.

Vice Chairman Peterson said the focus of the meeting was to identify the common economic development challenges and opportunities that could be shared for discussion to begin to develop best practices and ideas for improved outcomes.

G. Bridging RVA Report

Vice Chairman Peterson asked Ms. Prichard and Mr. Elswick to provide this report.

Ms. Prichard said she would offer this report as well. She said after discussions with the RRPDC Board regarding Bridging RVA's goal to increase the number of two- and four-year degrees in the Region, she and Mr. Elswick reported the RRPDC's suggestion that attention also needs to be given to those students who will not go on to college but who will still be in need of some sort of job training. Bridging RVA's mission has been changed to include post high school training in addition to two- and four-year colleges.

Ms. Prichard also reported that she had attended a training session with Bridging RVA on how that board can move forward. She said there was some feeling that not all of the Bridging RVA members had an equal voice. She said she does not necessarily agree with

this assessment, but there will be discussion on how the Bridging RVA board can move forward.

Vice Chairman Peterson said he knows that many of the jurisdictions are looking for ways to ensure that all students receive what they need to make their best way forward after leaving high school.

Mr. Holland said he agrees that attention needs to be paid to those students who do not attend college, for whatever reason. He said he serves on the Workforce Investment Board, which is discussing how to assist those students who need some type of training after high school if they are not going to attend college. He said these students also need skills to be productive.

H. Environmental and Intergovernmental Reviews

Vice Chairman Peterson asked Mr. Crum to provide information on this item.

Mr. Crum said RRPDC staff contacts partner agencies to ask for comments regarding each review and then compiles the comments to return to the appropriate reviewing agency. This report is provided for members' information only and requires no action. He said these are provided to members to inform them of the work being done by RRPDC staff in cooperation with local staffs as part of the statutory requirements for the agency and to let members know about development activities in their neighboring jurisdictions.

Mr. Crum said he'd like to point out one item in particular with reference to Powhatan State Park. He brought members' attention to the information under Tab 2, page 1. The Department of Conservation and Recreation plans to develop an overnight camping area at the park as well as additional river access points. The campground will have RV sites and cabins as well as waterfront parking, septic facilities, and a canoe put-in ramp.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2014
- B. Financial Report – April 2014
- C. Resolution for the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission With Regard to the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Employer Contribution Rates for Counties, Cities, Towns, School Divisions, and Other Political Subdivisions in Accordance with the 2014 Appropriations Act Item 468(H)
- D. Proposed Change to Sick Leave Policy for Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Hybrid Plan Employees

Vice Chairman Peterson asked Mr. Crum if he would provide more information on these items.

Mr. Crum said the first two items are routine – minutes from last month’s meeting and the monthly financial report. Item C deals with setting the employee contribution rate for VRS. Each governmental agency is required to enact a resolution to set this rate.

Item D is a proposed change to the agency’s sick leave policy. The Hybrid Plan is in effect for all new employees hired after January 1, 2014. The proposed change is consistent with similar actions being taken in each of the jurisdictions that participate in VRS. There is a short-term disability provision in the Hybrid Plan that necessitates a change to how sick leave is accrued for those in the plan compared with those who are not in the plan. Ms. Evans researched how the jurisdictions are handling the issue, and what is being proposed is in line with what the jurisdictions are doing for their employees. Mr. Crum reminded members that the Executive Committee received a detailed review of the proposed sick leave revision during last month’s meeting.

Mr. Crum said staff is requesting that action be taken to approve the Consent Agenda.

Vice Chairman Peterson asked if there was a request to remove any of the items from the Consent Agenda for more discussion.

Mr. Pollard said he did have a question on the sick leave change proposal. He asked how the accrual rate had been determined. Ms. Evans said that for those employees covered under the Hybrid Plan, the state has mandated that the employer provide short and long term disability coverage. Employees who are not covered by the Hybrid Plan do not have short or long term disability coverage. These employees can accrue sick leave which acts as their short term disability coverage, and the employees are offered a long term disability plan that can be purchased at their own cost. Employees covered under the Hybrid Plan will be receiving a benefit (short and long term disability) that is not offered in the same manner to employees who are not covered under the Hybrid Plan.

Ms. Evans said it is the general consensus of VRS participating human resource departments around the state that the sick leave accrual benefits should not be the same for both groups of employees. Ms. Evans said the agency’s current sick leave policy was adjusted by capping the amount of sick leave that can be accrued by Hybrid Plan employees. Most jurisdictions have made similar adjustments to address the inequity. The agency opted not to initiate a Paid Time Off program as some jurisdictions have done. Instead, the agency opted to cap the amount of sick leave that can be accrued by employees under the Hybrid Plan. Hybrid Plan employees will be paid by the agency under the short term disability (or long term) when they get sick. If there is sick leave on top of that benefit that equals employees who are not covered under the Hybrid Plan, this results an additional benefit that an employee who is not in the Hybrid Plan will not have.

Mr. Pollard asked if employees not in the Hybrid Plan will receive more sick leave. Ms. Evans said employees not in the Hybrid Plan will receive five hours of sick leave per pay

period or 15 days of sick leave each year with no cap on how many hours can be carried over from year to year. The sick leave for those under the Hybrid Plan has been capped because they will receive short and long term disability benefits that employees who are not in the Hybrid Plan will not receive.

Mr. Pollard asked for clarification on the statement that no sick leave will be paid on retirement. Ms. Evans said in 2003, the RRPDC Board took action to remove the cap on sick leave accrual. The Board also took action to pay only one-third of accrued sick leave to employees (up to \$5,000) when the employee retires. If an employee resigns, accrued sick leave is not paid. If an employee retires, one-third of the accrued sick leave is paid up to the \$5,000 cap. Employees receive 100 percent of accrued annual leave regardless of how the employee separates from the agency.

Vice Chairman Peterson wanted to clarify that for Item C, there are two potential VRS rates. The resolution sets the rate at the certified rate.

Ms. Graziano made a motion that the Consent Agenda be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Williams. There was no additional discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business to bring before the Board.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of FY15 Officers

Vice Chairman Peterson reported that the Executive Committee took action during this morning's meeting to endorse the slate of officers as presented:

Ken Peterson,	Goochland County:	Chairman
David Williams,	Powhatan County:	Vice Chairman
Dan Gecker,	Chesterfield County:	Treasurer
Floyd Miles,	Charles City County:	Secretary

Vice Chairman Peterson asked if there were any nominations from the floor.

Mr. C. Peterson moved that the nominations be closed and that the slate as presented be elected. Ms. Graziano seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion and the motion carried unanimously. Vice Chairman Peterson noted that the new officers would be sworn into office during the July meeting.

B. Update on the Region's Age Wave Planning Efforts

Vice Chairman Peterson asked Ms. Sara Link, Director of the Greater Richmond Age Wave Readiness Coalition, to make this presentation.

Ms. Link thanked members for the opportunity to speak with them today. She said the Coalition is a joint effort between Senior Connections and the VCU Department of Gerontology. Ms. Link thanked Ms. Stewart and RRPDC for their assistance in the development of the Readiness Plan.

Ms. Link showed a brief video entitled "Coming of Age in America." She said the video did a good job of pointing out the issues that need to be addressed in an aging America.

Virginia has been preparing for the Age Wave in conjunction with other localities and organizations. The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services will be hosting a forum in August for other organizations and coalitions to meet and share best practices. Older Dominion Partnership has compiled data on aging baby boomers versus those who are already considered senior citizens. Ms. Link reported that Chesterfield County has also developed its own plan.

The Coalition has partnered with Senior Connections and the VCU Department of Gerontology around three goals: visibility and marketing; programs and services; funding and resources.

Ms. Link provided a list of other partners working with the Coalition.

She said it is important to have product-based deliverables. Work groups have been formed around four key areas – Toolkit; Scorecard; GeroTrifecta; and Localities/Age Friendly.

Adoption of the Age Wave Plan will depend on local governments embracing the key changes and the key product deliverables.

The Toolkit – Welcome to Aging – is being developed by Senior Connections and the VCU Department of Gerontology. The purpose of the Toolkit is to engage seniors who are socially isolated. Providing essential program, housing, and transportation options is important. It is hoped the prototype Toolkit can be launched in September.

The Scorecard will monitor and check the work being completed. Data has been collected from various sources to determine what is already available to incorporate into the plan.

The GeroTrifecta connects students, seniors, and community leaders who will go into neighborhoods to assess walkability. This work group will begin by walking the three neighborhoods – Woodlake, Willow Lawn, and Church Hill. The VCU Public Policy

School is also being brought into this particular effort. RRPDC has provided mapping and related data.

The Age-Friendly Business Strategy looks at businesses in terms of having spaces that are welcoming to seniors. Flexible work force policies will also be reviewed that can keep workers in place for a longer time. Ms. Link thanked Mr. Tucker for his assistance with this work group. Mr. Tucker said the group has been working with the business community to help them understand the economic potential of drawing in seniors as repeat customers.

Ms. Link said the Coalition is hoping that by following the four areas she outlined, the jurisdictions will become involved to help realize some of the goals.

Ms. Stewart noted she has worked extensively with the Charles City staff on how to implement the Age Wave Plan. Last week the county held a health and wellness fair for seniors. She said the Charles City work group determined they would like to hold four events over the course of this year. One of the events will have attorneys present to offer pro bono work on wills, powers of attorney, etc.

The Charles City health and wellness fair included about 25 vendors that covered various services and health concerns. There were also activities to promote fitness. Feedback has indicated there was a lot of interest from the participants.

Another effort is the Friendship Café in cooperation with Senior Connections and the Charles City public library. Some of the activities held at the Café include story time with young children and classes in computer literacy. Ms. Stewart said there are 19 senior centers around the Region that offer activities such as fitness classes, computer classes, and community gardens.

Ms. Stewart said work is ongoing with interagency forums on aging and local needs assessments as well as the development of resource guides.

Ms. Link said one intergenerational activity is called Catch Healthy Habits. Individuals who are 50-plus years of age work with younger individuals on healthy eating and fitness activities. Three sites are being developed for this effort – one in Chesterfield County, Church Hill, and Charles City County. Ms. Link said this is a free program.

Ms. Link said the Age Wave Planning effort is seen as an opportunity. There will be 80 million seniors in the country by 2050. There are opportunities in the following:

- housing – age-friendly, universal designs for aging in place
- transportation – reduce the risk of social isolation and keep people engaged in the community
- business – keep the Region competitive by investing in matters that define quality of life and where people want to age

Ms. Link noted that there are two upcoming events:

- Friday, June 27, 9:00 a.m. – Chesterfield County is hosting an Age Wave Leadership progress report
- Friday, September 26, 3:00 p.m. – HealthSouth is hosting an Open House Party and Annual Progress Report release

Ms. Link also noted that September 21-27 is Active Aging Week and events will be held during the week to celebrate, such as the City of Richmond's Centenarian Event. Several of the Friendship Cafés will be having special events and Elder Spirit will hold an art show featuring art works by seniors from several of the area's adult day care centers.

Mr. Agelasto said he appreciated the inclusion of transportation in the planning process as many seniors in the Region do not have ways to get around. He said in his district he's encountered a need for assistance with estate planning. The City of Richmond finds itself having to mediate with several family members regarding these types of properties. Mr. Agelasto said having some type of pro bono assistance to provide to seniors will not only mitigate the estate planning situations but it will also help seniors realize the true value of their property. He said there are instances of scams where people are coming into the neighborhoods to offer seniors cash for their homes and paying amounts that are significantly below the home's actual value.

Ms. Link said the Coalition has been working with the Better Business Bureau on information regarding various types of scams in order to alert seniors to these activities. She said this type of information will be good to add to the Toolkit. She asked members if they have any other information that can be included in the Toolkit to please contact her. She thanked RRPDC for their help in adding information on transportation. She noted that Senior Connections offers a Mobility Management Program but this is not widely advertised because the demand would overwhelm the program. Ms. Link also said that the Legal Aid Society has offered pro bono work in the past to assist with wills and estate planning.

Mr. Agelasto also mentioned that the more established neighborhoods are in need of assistance to have older trees removed. He said many of the trees are diseased or damaged, but since they are on private property, the City cannot help. Mr. Agelasto said that many of the seniors living in the homes are on fixed incomes and cannot afford to have the trees removed. He suggested that arborists many want to offer deep senior discounts or pro bono work.

Mr. Thornton asked if the Coalition would be able to participate in local constituent meetings to provide this information. Ms. Link said she will provide her contact information and will be glad to either provide information or to attend meetings.

Vice Chairman Peterson thanked Ms. Link and Ms. Stewart for their presentation. He noted that the change that's coming is an opportunity for the Region to embrace. He encouraged members to contact Ms. Link with any additional questions.

C. Presentation and Review of YMCA Strategic Plan

Vice Chairman Peterson asked Mr. Crum to introduce the speaker – Tim Joyce, President and CEO, Greater Richmond YMCA.

Mr. Crum said that Mr. Joyce has been leading the YMCA through a significant strategic planning process which has just been completed. He thanked Mr. Joyce for attending today's meeting.

Mr. Joyce said he appreciated the opportunity to speak with members this morning. He said he's originally from Raleigh and has been in Richmond for about eighteen months.

Mr. Joyce said that the YMCA has been establishing its roadmap – 2025 Strategic Plan. He said inquiries were made in the community as to what one thing could be solved within the community that would have a transformational impact. The next question he asked was the perception of the YMCA that people held and third, given the perception and need, how can the two work together. Mr. Joyce noted that he's been privileged to work with the Age Wave Coalition and to be active in the Friendship Cafés. He said the YMCA is active in all of the RRPDC jurisdictions with the exception of New Kent County. The Y is active in Petersburg and Hopewell.

Mr. Joyce said the YMCA is about community development. This year marks the 160th anniversary of the Y in Richmond. The movement began in England 170 years ago – June 6. He said the YMCA's approach is to sit at the table, to listen, and to learn about a community. The Y wants to help and support the community.

The YMCA is also active in the area of philanthropy. Mr. Joyce noted that the Y will no longer participate with full day pre-school programs. He said this was not an easy decision, but there are other organizations providing this service more efficiently than the YMCA. Mr. Joyce said there are other areas where the Y can assist. The funders who provided assets for the YMCA's pre-school program were steered toward other organizations and agencies that will continue to provide pre-school services. Mr. Joyce said the YMCA needs to be better stewards of its resources and concentrate on how it can best serve the community.

The Strategic Plan includes the following objectives:

1. Youth Development – Strengthen learning opportunities and capacity for academic success in YMCA out of school time programming with an emphasis on third and fifth grade reading literacy (before and after school programs)
2. Youth Development – Equip teens with the skills to be leaders of tomorrow; the Y employs more than 500 16-19 year olds; through all teen activities, the Y engages almost 1,000 teens per year
3. Healthy Living – Stem the tide of the obesity and diabetes crisis that threatens the community; there is a 15-year gap in life expectancy from the east end of the community to the Short Pump area; before and after school programs and summer

camps provide activities that keep the participants active, including swimming lessons

4. Social Responsibility – Be accessible to everyone in the community by identifying, addressing, and eliminating economic, geographic, and cultural barriers; one focus is a program to tutor students for whom English is a second language

Mr. Joyce said the YMCA has a significant regional presence and it's up to the community leaders to decide how to use the YMCA to the best advantage for the community.

Mr. Joyce shared a video that focused on keeping the area's youth active to combat obesity and related illnesses. He said the Pedometer Project involved putting pedometers on each of the children who participated in all 43 summer day camps. All of the children completed a combined total of 194,470 +/- miles. The children who attended camps in more suburban areas completed more miles than those in more urban settings. This helps to illustrate the health disparity within the community.

Mr. Joyce provided information on the Woodville Elementary School year-round program. Beginning this summer, a day camp will be offered for the first time. The YMCA is partnering with the school system and Feed More to provide meals. A pool will be opened behind the school in cooperation with the Richmond Parks and Recreation Department to teach swimming each morning. Summer school for elementary schools is optional in Virginia. At Woodville, if a child attends summer school, they can attend the summer camp free of charge.

Mr. Joyce said he hopes the community will continue to support the YMCA. He said the YMCA will know it's being successful when the community comes to the Y for assistance with community issues.

Ms. Jaeckle said several teachers in her district approached their school board member about tutoring students after school. There is a large trailer park in her district with about 600 children in residence. The school system donated a trailer to use for the classes, and the YMCA assisted with setting up that program. Ms. Jaeckle said she really appreciates the Y's support in her district. Mr. Joyce said the program is doing very well. Ms. Jaeckle said, in addition, the parents asked for English lessons. Half of the parents attended classes during the day for one semester while the other half of the parents provided day care. During the second semester, the parents switched roles. Ms. Jaeckle said this program could not have been set up without help from the YMCA.

Vice Chairman Peterson thanked Mr. Joyce for his presentation and for all of the YMCA's assistance to combat childhood obesity and other health issues within the community.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to come before the Board.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no additional business to bring before the Board, Vice Chairman Peterson adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:40 a.m.

Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Executive Director

Ken Peterson
Vice Chairman