

Advisory Council Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: January 11, 2018, 4 P.M.
Meeting Location: Studio Two Three, 3300 W. Clay St.,
Richmond, VA 23230
Notes Date: March 7, 2018



Organizational Business

I. Introductions

Each Advisory Council member introduced themselves.

The meeting was attended by 21 Advisory Council members, 5 staff members, 1 consultant, and 24 community members.

II. Bylaws and Freedom of Information Act

Mr. Haskell Brown, Assistant City Attorney, gave an overview of the Freedom of Information Act. A brief overview of his remarks included the following: Meetings are 3 or more members of the body. A meeting is only considered an official meeting if the body is discussing official public materials. Notice of meetings must be posted 3 business days prior to the meeting in the city clerk's office and the planning department. There must be one copy of meeting materials available at all meetings. Individuals are allowed to audio tape and video tape meetings. Electronic meetings are not permitted. Because this group is a study group, staff are not required to maintain minutes, but staff may wish to maintain minutes anyway. If individuals violate FOIA, they may be personally liable to pay a fine. Advisory Council members should submit any FOIA requests to Mark Olinger and he will forward it to Isaac Marks, a staff member of the Dept. of Planning and Development Review: mark.olinger@richmondgov.com or 804-646-6305. If members receive an email from city staff, do not reply all to the email. If members have a legal question, they should forward legal questions to the Chair Rodney Poole and Mark Olinger, who will direct questions to an Assistant City Attorney, Neil Gibson, neil.gibson@richmondgov.com or 804-646-1234

Mr. Preston Lloyd moved to adopt the Bylaws. Second by Mr. Jer-Mykeal McCoy. Bylaws adopted unanimously.

III. Future meeting schedule

Discuss the frequency and schedule of future meetings.

Mr. Mark Olinger stated that the City received funding over two funding cycles to 1) hire a project manager, 2) hire a parking consultant, and 3) hire a public engagement consultant. We are working on two pieces of information: 1) Insights Report, and 2) Map Booklet.

Mr. Poole suggested that the next meeting take place in March and hence forth have monthly meeting.

Move by Mr. McCoy to adopt that plan. Adopted unanimously.

Public Comment

IV. Public Comment

Open time for the general public to comment on items not on the agenda.

Laney Sullivan, resident of Swansboro, founded a food forest adjacent to Carter Jones Park on land that is owned by the Parks Dept. The current master plan shows the current area designated as medium density residential. Ms. Sullivan is concerned that the land they are growing trees on could be developed in the future.

Staff explained that there are many community garden spaces that are not zoned for green space. The new master plan can change the future land use to be green space.

Max Peaker, works for CoStar Group, as a company they are advocates for helping Richmond grow. He conducts real estate research on the Richmond market.

Stewart Schwartz, policy chair for the Partnership for Smarter Growth, hopes that the Master Plan can be completed by 2019, if not sooner. Will sector plan areas be studied in advance in the interim? Are there more rezoninings happening?

Mr. Olinger said it will be difficult to do small area plans during the Master Plan process. The Master Plan update will be a singular project for the department. I do not have enough resources to run small area plans at this time.

Elizabeth Theirault, Richmond Health District, is offering support from the Health District in the Master Plan development process.

Ginny Campbell, [what did Ms. Campbell say at the meeting? Our notes are incomplete]

Jamison Price, resident of Swansboro, asked if the public engagement meeting will be coming to existing neighborhood meetings.

Staff explained that they have attended all the District meetings twice and will continue to use the District meetings to share information. Staff updated the civic association data base and will use those email addresses to disseminate information. It may not be possible for staff to attend every single civic association meeting.

Presentations

V. Master Plan Overview

Presentation by Mr. Olinger giving an overview of the Master Plan update process.

VI. Initial Analysis

Presentation by Mr. Olinger of initial demographic analysis.

Max Ewart asked if the presentation will be posted.

Maritza Pechin said it is already on the website - richmond300.com

Mr. Ewart asked if participation on the sub-committees and attending the meetings be open to the public?

Ms. Pechin responded that all meetings will be open to the public and be posted.

Ms. Sullivan noted that the flipping of homes has created increased tax bills for people on fixed incomes in her neighborhood. She stated that it is important to make sure people are not displaced. She noted that homeless shelters are too full and therefore, homelessness should be addressed in the plan.

Mr. Schwartz suggested it may be good to go to the various sectors in the community to make sure their voices are included.

Mr. Poole said that is why we have a diverse Advisory Council - so we can make sure to reach various sectors of the community.

VII. Meeting Adjourned