

Advisory Council Notes

Date: December 12, 2018, 4 P.M.
Location: Main Library, Basement
101 E. Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23219



Members Present: Mr. Rodney Poole, Chair
Mr. Max Hepp-Buchanan, Vice-Chair
Mr. Burt Pinnock, Vice-Chair
Mr. Jonathan Bibbs
Ms. Cyane Crump
Ms. LaToya Gray
Mr. Bernard Harkless
Ms. Elyana Javaheri
Ms. Joyce Knight
Mr. T. Preston Lloyd
Ms. Louise Lockett
Ms. Monica Lozano
Mr. Jer'Mykeal McCoy
Ms. Kendra Norrell
Ms. Gray O'Dwyer
Mr. Damian Pitt
Mr. Ted Ukrop
Ms. Meredith Weiss

Members Absent: Ms. Ashley Hawkins
Ms. Jennifer Mullen
Ms. Olivya Wilson

Staff Present: Mr. Mark Olinger, Director of Planning and Development Review (PDR)
Mr. William Palmquist, PDR
Ms. Maritza Pechin, AECOM/PDR
Ms. Marianne Pitts, PDR
Mr. Josh Son, PDR

3:30 PM Room opens

4:04 PM Call to Order

Mr. Poole called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Mr. Poole thanked the Advisory Council (AC) and audience for attending. He alerted the public to two opportunities for public comment. He noted that this is the last Advisory Council Meeting of 2018, and there is a 2019 meeting calendar in the AC members' packets.

Mr. Poole asked for comments on the November 14, 2018, Meeting Notes. No corrections or edits were presented by the AC.

Director's Report

Parking Meetings:

Mr. Olinger stated that the 2nd round of Parking Meetings started last week with meetings for Libbie/Grove/Patterson, Six Points/Brookland Park Boulevard and the Fan. He noted that DESMAN provided a good report with recommendations which were not out of bounds and focused on turnover and how to make the best use of the existing resources. He stated that the remaining meetings which were scheduled for this week have been cancelled due to the snow and will be rescheduled for January 15th - 17th.

Mr. Poole stated that he attended the Libbie/Grove/Patterson meeting and was impressed by DESMAN's presentation. He noted that citizens reacted positively to the recommendations, and he enjoyed the recap at the end of the meeting.

Ms. Pechin stated that the materials from the first three meetings will be available online by the end of next week.

Mr. Ukrop asked what some of the recommendations were. Mr. Poole stated they included shared parking and employee parking. Mr. Olinger noted that the recommendations included permit parking for residents and employees. Mr. Poole noted that employers require employees to not park in customer parking so they park in the neighborhoods.

Mr. Poole encouraged the AC members to attend one of the future meetings. Mr. Olinger noted that the Downtown meeting should have a good discussion as the boundaries have been expanded. Mr. Poole asked if revised counts have been done since the completion of the 17th Street Farmers Market. Mr. Olinger responded no.

Working Group Syllabus:

Ms. Pechin provided an updated on the Working Group Syllabus. She thanked the AC for completing the survey which was also sent to members of the Technical Team. She noted that staff is processing the comments. She stated that there is general consensus on the approach and the 5 topic areas. She noted that the working group membership is open, but the intent is to have a core group. She stated that staff is meeting with the AC Chairs next week to discuss logistics.

Mr. Poole asked what the groups are. Ms. Pechin responded that they are Land Use, Transportation, Environment, Housing, and Economic Development. She stated that the purpose of the working groups is to help develop the policies to be included in the draft plan.

Ms. Javaheri asked how staff will know more about the recommended working group members if the AC members only provided the names of the recommended individuals. Ms. Pechin stated that staff will follow up with AC members directly.

Mr. Poole asked if there is an update regarding JSA's engagement efforts. Mr. Olinger responded that he has asked JSA to come back with a targeted engagement strategy. He noted that he is waiting to hear back from JSA on their proposal.

Public Comment #1

Ms. Martha Broughton, speaking for the Church Hill Association's president, Genni Sasnett, stated that there needs to be a grassroots person on the working groups as it would be a mistake not to have one. Mr. Poole responded that there will be more than AC members on the working groups, and there will be grassroots members on the working groups.

There was no additional public comment.

Small Group Discussions:

Ms. Pechin provided instructions for the small group discussions. The AC was provided with a summary of the big ideas shared by the public at the open houses and through the online survey related to Land Use & Urban Design, Historic Preservation, Public Facilities, and Transportation. The AC was split into two groups to have two small group discussions on potential policies to be included in the Master Plan related to Land Use and Transportation using the big ideas as a starting point. After each small group discussion, the AC reconvened, and each group summarized their policy ideas. A summary of policy ideas is attached to these minutes.

Public Comment #2

Mr. Andrea Quilici noted that he liked Mr. Pinnock's diagram about land use and nodes. He stated that the nodes should be walkable and include schools. He encouraged higher densities between the nodes.

Mr. Charlie Brock, a Ginter Park resident, stated that terms such as nodes should be defined for the community.

Mr. Quilici stated that neighborhoods not just building fabric should be preserved. He noted that the urban fabric, people, and the environment should be preserved.

Mr. Brock asked if transportation solutions have to be one size fits all. Mr. Palmquist noted that they do not, and there can be different options.

Ms. Broughton stated that more one-way streets should be converted to two-way.

There was no additional public comment.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.