

Advisory Council Notes

Date: March 13, 2019, 4 P.M.
Location: Main Library, 101 E. Franklin St



Members Present: Mr. Rodney Poole, Chair
Mr. Max Hepp-Buchanan, Vice-Chair
Mr. Jonathan Bibbs
Ms. Cyane Crump
Ms. LaToya Gray
Mr. Bernard Harkless
Ms. Ashley Hawkins
Ms. Monica Lozano
Ms. Joyce Knight
Ms. Louise Lockett
Mr. Jer'Mykeal McCoy
Ms. Kendra Norrell
Ms. Gray O'Dwyer
Ms. Olivya Wilson
Ms. Meredith Weiss

Members Absent: Mr. Burt Pinnock, Vice-Chair
Ms. Elyana Javaheri
Mr. T. Preston Lloyd
Ms. Jennifer Mullen
Mr. Damian Pitt
Mr. Ted Ukrop

Staff Present: Mr. Jonathan Brown, Department of Planning and Development Review (PDR)
Ms. Kimberly Chen, PDR
Mr. William Palmquist, PDR
Ms. Maritza Pechin, AECOM/PDR
Ms. Marianne Pitts, PDR
Ms. Yessenia Revilla, PDR
Mr. Josh Son, PDR

3:30 PM Room opens

4:05 PM Call to Order

Mr. Poole called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Mr. Poole thanked the Advisory Council (AC) and audience for attending.

Mr. Poole asked for comments on the February 13, 2019, Meeting Notes. No corrections or edits were presented by the AC.

Draft Vision and Goals

Ms. Pechin provided background regarding the process for developing the draft vision and goals for the Master Plan and introduced Mayor Levar Stoney. Mayor Stoney presented the draft vision and goals to the AC.

Mr. Poole asked the AC for their thoughts on the draft goals. He noted that the vision statement is broad and encompasses much of what Mayor Stoney wants to see in the Master Plan including equity and diversity.

Ms. O'Dwyer noted that sustainability does not appear in every goal and should be included in the Land Use Goal to note that the city will be growing in a sustainable way.

Ms. Lozano noted that equity should also be included in the goals.

Ms. Hawkins stated that the terms including diverse, inclusive, and equitable used in vision statement should be defined in the document.

Ms. Weiss stated that the Land Use Goal should include something about current residents.

Mr. McCoy stated that the Economic Development Goal should mention start-ups, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Mr. Hepp-Buchanan stated that the Transportation Goal should prioritize safety. Mr. Poole agreed that was a great idea.

Ms. Crump asked if the AC can provided edits to the goals at a later time. Ms. Pechin responded yes. Mr. Poole noted that the goals will be refined during the working groups and encouraged AC members to bring their thoughts to the working group meetings.

Working Group Update

Ms. Pechin shared the updated Working Group Syllabus. She noted that an email has been sent to the members of the Land Use Working Group, and the members of the other working groups will be emailed on Friday.

Mr. Poole stated that he appreciated everyone who has volunteered to be on a working group.

Ms. Pechin shared the Land Use Working Group's meeting agenda with the AC.

Mr. Poole asked when the working group members would be receiving the agenda and meeting materials. Ms. Pechin stated the goal is to provide this a week prior to each meeting.

Mr. Poole noted that all working group meetings are open to public, and all materials will be posted online. Ms. Pechin confirmed that the materials will be posted on the Richmond 300 website (<http://www.richmond300.com/workinggroups>).

Ms. Pechin noted the working groups will operate under the ground rules included in the syllabus. Mr. Poole stated that each working group will be led by two co-leaders. Ms. Pechin stated that the co-leaders will help shape the agenda and the content for the meetings. She noted that it is her role to keep the meetings running and on-time.

Mr. Hepp-Buchanan asked that all the Land Use Working Group emails be provided to all AC members. Ms. Gray agreed with Mr. Hepp-Buchanan. Ms. O'Dwyer asked if staff could provide a digest from the meetings rather than all emails. Ms. Pechin responded that she could see in what format staff could provide information.

Ms. Pechin stated prior to each working group meeting, PDR staff will be meeting with the co-leaders.

Mr. Poole asked what the expectation was at the end of the working group meetings. Ms. Pechin responded the ultimate goal is a list of draft recommendations to share with the community in the fall.

Mr. Poole stated that the most important item for the working group members is a commitment to attend all meetings.

Ms. Pechin noted that the next AC meeting is scheduled for May 8th as there will not be a meeting in April. At the May 8th meeting, the AC will be discussing what has occurred at the working groups.

Director's Report

Ms. Pechin provided the Director's Report for Mr. Olinger. She stated that Mr. Olinger presented an update on Richmond 300 to City Council at the March Organizational Development Standing Committee Meeting. Ms. Pechin noted DESMAN will be presenting their report to Planning Commission on April 15. She stated that when she receives the Parking Study, she will email it to the AC members. Additionally, a summary of the study will be provided at the May AC meeting.

Public Comment

Mr. Daniel Klein commented that the word beautiful should be included in the vision and goals. He noted that the plan needs to protect and highlight the James River. Mr. Poole commented that the Riverfront Plan will be reviewed. Mr. Klein also noted that cultural arts should be included in the goals.

Ms. Lynette Thompson asked if the deadline to join a working group has passed. Ms. Pechin responded that the form is no longer available online, but the meetings are will be open to the public. She noted the there was a deadline to complete the interest form to allow staff time to prepare for the meetings based on their sizes. Ms. Crump noted that a member of the public could attend any working group meeting; but if they would like to join a working group, they must commit to attend all meetings.

Mr. Dustin Dunbar asked if the plan was for the region or only the city and if there is the opportunity to involve the surrounding counties. Mr. Poole responded that this is a city plan and that the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (RRPDC) brings together the surrounding localities. Ms. Pechin noted that Barbara Jacocks from the RRPDC is on the Land Use Working Group and is a member of the Technical Team. She also stated that staff from GRTC which is a regional entity is on the Transportation Working Group and the Technical Team as well.

Ms. Sara Weisiger commented that the Land Use Goal focuses on residential and needs to also speak to commercial and industrial land uses.

There was no additional public comment.

Adjournment

Mr. Poole shared the following upcoming meeting dates:

- March 20, 4-7 PM Land Use Working Group Meeting #1 (Main Library, 101 E. Franklin St)
- April 17, 4-7 PM Land Use Working Group Meeting #2 (Main Library, 101 E. Franklin St)
- April 23, 4-7 PM Transportation Working Group Meeting #1 (Studio Two Three, 3300 W. Clay St)
- April 24, 4-7 PM Housing Working Group Meeting #1 (Location TBD)
- April 25, 4-7 PM Economic Development Group Meeting #1 (Dominion Payroll, 3220 Rockbridge St #300)
- May 8, 4-6 PM Advisory Council Meeting (Main Library, 101 E. Franklin St)

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.