

Advisory Council Notes

Date: October 10, 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
Ms. Cyane Crump
Ms. Latoya Gray
Mr. Bernard Harkless
Ms. Ashley Hawkins
Ms. Elyana Javaheri
Ms. Monica Lozano
Mr. Jer'Mykeal McCoy
Ms. Jennifer Mullen
Ms. Kendra Norrell
Ms. Gray O'Dwyer
Mr. Damian Pitt
Mr. Ted Ukrop
Ms. Meredith Weiss

Members Absent: Mr. Jonathan Bibbs
Ms. Joyce Knight
Mr. T. Preston Lloyd
Ms. Louise Lockett
Ms. Olivya Wilson

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

3:30 PM Room opens

4:06 PM Call to Order

Mr. Poole called the meeting to order at 4:02 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 Mr. Olinger provided excellent commentary at the Bizsense event earlier in the week, and the AIA program moderated by Mr. Pinnock went well. He asked for comments on the September 12, 2018 Meeting Notes. No corrections or edits were presented by the AC.

Director's Report

Ms. Pechin provided the Director's Report for Mr. Olinger. She noted that the rescheduled AC member south side tour will be October 24th from 9am to 12pm with the same route as the previous tour.

Ms. Pechin stated the second round of parking meetings have been pushed back until December at the request of the parking consultant, DESMAN, as the scope changes were not officially provided to DESMAN in time for the work to be completed prior to the meetings. Mr. Pinnock noted that in the Westhampton area, there are questions about the impact of new development on traffic. Ms. Pechin clarified that DESMAN's work is only regarding parking not traffic. She noted that DESMAN has a list of projects that have been approved and have pulled permits. This list was sent to the Scott's Addition Association as they requested to see this. Mr. Poole asked if the traffic study that the applicant is completing for the Westhampton School project would be helpful to DESMAN. Ms. Pechin asked for the status of the study and noted that she did not know the details of the proposed project. Ms. Crump stated that Westhampton project includes a lot of apartments (124) and commercial in addition to medical office and 400+parking spaces. Mr. Hepp-Buchanan asked about what the product of the Scott's Addition circulation study is. Ms. Pechin stated she did not know and needed to speak with Department of Public Works (DPW).

Public Comment #1

Genni Sasnett, president of the Church Hill Association, asked if the parking study areas will be extended towards Main Street. Ms. Pechin noted that part of the reason the meetings are being delayed to December is to allow time for DESMAN to do the counts for the expanded area. She noted the expanded area is to Pear Street from Franklin to the River. She stated this area was not originally included in the study area because the original boundaries replicated the boundaries of the 2009 Downtown Parking Study.

There was no additional public comment.

Visioning Progress Report:

Ms. Pechin reviewed the Visioning Progress Report which included information on who attended the open houses and outreach to promote the open houses.

Mr. Ukrop asked if there were advertisements in the Free Press. Ms. Pechin stated that the Free Press ran the media release.

Mr. Poole recommended that staff attend another 8th district meeting. Ms. Pechin stated that the challenge with the 8th District was that during the Bellemeade Open House, there was another meeting at the same time of which staff was not aware that all the civic association presidents attended.

Ms. Javaheri asked if there has been any outreach at the University of Richmond (U of R). Ms. Pechin noted that staff spoke at a Bonner Scholars event in May. Ms. Pitts noted that Ms. Gray has also spoken to classes at U of R.

Mr. McCoy asked about outreach at Virginia Union University (VUU). Ms. Pitts asked if he had a good contact at VUU. Mr. Poole recommended staff speak with the gentleman that spoke at Planning Commission on behalf of VUU.

Mr. McCoy asked about our outreach to the faith community. Ms. Pitts noted that J.J. Minor with Housing and Community Development has helped with outreach to the churches by distributing flyers.

Mr. Ukrop asked if Ms. Pechin was overall satisfied with how the visioning process has gone. Ms. Pechin stated that overall she is somewhat satisfied. She noted that she was wanted at least 50 people per meeting. She stated that staff is continuing to push the survey and that it is still early in the process.

Ms. Crump noted that she attended 4 of the events and the level of prep work that staff did in advanced was remarked on by participants. She noted that the quality of interactions at the events were high. She stated that she worried about participation at one big meeting in the future. Ms. Pechin thanked Ms. Crump for the comments. Ms. Pechin noted that the final report on the visioning process will have vision statements and a summary of qualitative information. She also shared that there will be follow up meetings with different departments.

Ms. O'Dwyer asked about expanding the online survey opportunity. Ms. Pechin noted that Mr. Son has posted about survey on Richmond 300 social media platforms.

Ms. Hawkins asked if anything was need for the Folk Festival in terms of giveaways. Ms. Pitts stated that staff has decided to give away the extra Richmond 300 buttons. Ms. Pechin noted that Tim Kaine stopped by the Richmond 300 table at the 2nd Street Festival.

Mr. Pitt recommended the survey link be placed on the front page of the website. Ms. Pechin noted that there are currently issues with the website and the front page cannot be modified until after October 25. Mr. Poole asked if the website hits can be tracked. Ms. Hawkins asked if a secondary website could be used, and Ms. Pechin responded no. Ms. O'Dwyer asked if the survey could be completed on twitter or Instagram.

Ms. Javaheri stated that she emailed her 300 co-workers and they did not know about Richmond 300. Ms. Pechin said that if AC members are connected with networks that staff should talk to, please let staff know. Ms. Norrell recommended that staff should show up on campus in a general way. Ms. Pechin noted that staff resources are limited.

Mr. Poole asked if Richmond 300 is a sponsor at the VCU Trends conference. Ms. Pechin said that staff was sharing a both with Economic Development. Ms. Mullen recommended that staff put the survey link business cards on tables at VCU Trends.

Ms. Javaheri recommended engaging with high school students and parents. Mr. Pitt suggested staff go to high school football games, and Ms. Norrell noted that she is willing to go high schools.

Visioning Open House:

Ms. Pechin shared that though AC members attended open houses, they did not get the opportunity to give comments. The AC and members of the public participated in an open house set up at the AC meeting.

Suzanne Miller, a Fan resident, asked when the collation of input on the sticky notes will be available. Ms. Pechin noted that it will be available in November.

Public Comment #2

No members of the public requested to speak at the second public comment period.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm, and members of the public joined AC members for an informal gathering at Quirk (201 W. Broad St).