

Advisory Council Notes

Date: September 11, 2019, 4 P.M.
Location: Main Library, 101 E. Franklin St



Members Present: Mr. Rodney Poole, Chair
Mr. Max Hepp-Buchanan, Vice-Chair
Mr. Burt Pinnock, Vice-Chair
Mr. Jonathan Bibbs
Ms. Mayda Colón
Ms. Cyane Crump
Ms. LaToya Gray
Mr. Bernard Harkless
Ms. Joyce Knight
Mr. Jer'Mykeal McCoy
Ms. Jennifer Mullen
Ms. Kendra Norrell
Ms. Gray O'Dwyer
Mr. Damian Pitt
Ms. Olivya Wilson
Ms. Meredith Weiss

Members Absent: Ms. Ashley Hawkins
Mr. T. Preston Lloyd
Ms. Louise Lockett Gordon
Ms. Monica Lozano
Mr. Ted Ukrop

Staff Present: Mr. Mark Olinger, Director of Department of Planning and Development Review (PDR)
Ms. Anne Darby, PDR
Mr. William Palmquist, PDR
Ms. Maritza Pechin, AECOM/PDR
Ms. Marianne Pitts, PDR
Ms. Emily Routman, PDR

4:07 PM Call to Order

Mr. Poole called the meeting to order at 4:07 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 the next meeting of the Advisory Council is November 13, 2019 as the October Advisory Council Meeting will be replaced with a Richmond 300 Community Consultation #2 Forum.

Director's Report

Mr. Olinger was not present to provide the Director's Report, and Ms. Pechin noted that she had nothing to report.

Mr. Poole shared that the Planning Commission is fully engaged in reviewing the Navy Hill Project. He noted that the Planning Commission has received a presentation and will have a working meeting on Monday to ask questions. He noted that the public hearing before Planning Commission is scheduled for October 16.

Public Comment #1

Ms. Gennie Sasnett, a Churchhill resident, asked how the Shockoe Small Area Plan relates to Richmond 300. Ms. Pechin responded that it will provide much more detail and noted that the Richmond 300 survey for the Shockoe Area asks if participants are aware of the Shockoe Small Area Plan. Mr. Poole asked what will occur at the next Shockoe Small Area Plan Meeting. Ms. Pitts responded that the project team will be presenting concept plans based on previous public comment for review and discussion.

Presentations & Discussion

Parking Study Update

Ms. Pechin presented an overview of the Parking Study materials DESMAN shared at the August 19, City Planning Commission meeting. Ms. Pechin noted that she is working with DESMAN to refine the final report.

Mr. Hepp-Buchanan asked if DESMAN spoke to the ideal level of parking utilization. Ms. Pechin stated that she did not know.

Mr. Poole asked if DESMAN would present again after the report is re-written. Ms. Pechin responded no, but noted that PDR will manage the reporting back.

Mr. Pitt asked how the proposed in lieu fees relate to the City reducing parking requirements. Ms. Pechin stated that she does not know if in lieu fees make sense for the city, but there is a need for additional funding to address parking needs. Mr. Olinger noted that in reality, projects do provide parking. He stated that he has an interest in not allowing on-street parking to be counted towards parking requirements.

Ms. O'Dwyer asked how much staff would be required and at what cost if more meters are added. Ms. Pechin responded that she does not know but does not think the cost of staff would exceed the additional revenue or outweigh the benefit of increased turnover on a block.

Mr. McCoy asked where and how effective are the special crosswalks shown in the presentation. Ms. Weiss responded that they are in Medford, MA, and that while some say they have slowed drivers, others note that vehicles swerve as they are

startled by the crosswalks. Ms. Weiss noted that she would like crosswalks like these at VCU.

Mr. McCoy asked for a cost breakdown of the proposals. Ms. Pechin responded that she will ask for this. She noted that the next step is to finalize the report and then incorporate it into Richmond 300.

Ms. O'Dwyer noted that there needs to be consideration of who is car dependent. Mr. Hepp-Buchanan stated that 20% of households do not have cars and that some may want to be car dependent but do not have the money.

Ms. Pechin encouraged the AC to make comments on the initiatives and prioritization of the initiatives so that changes can be made. Mr. Poole asked how in depth Richmond 300 will be in regard to parking. Ms. Pechin responded that there would be broader initiatives in the plan. Mr. Poole asked if the Parking Study initiatives can be in the plan. Mr. Olinger responded yes, and Ms. Pechin added that the three (3) goals and eleven (11) initiatives can be included. Mr. Poole asked if the study would be referenced and maintained on the website. Mr. Olinger responded yes.

Community Consultation #2 Formats and Draft Materials

Ms. Pechin reviewed the Community Consultation #2 Planning Document, presented the draft Community Consultation #2 presentation, and shared the draft survey. She asked the AC to review the survey and provide feedback by 9/15/19.

Community Consultation #2 Notices and Engagement Team

Ms. Pechin introduced the engagement team members who are helping with outreach to communities that typically do not participate in the planning process. The Engagement Team Members are: Shannon Gonzalez, Prince Hudson, Nury Mojica, Michelle Mosby, LaFonda Page, Sequoia Ross, and Sherrell Thompson.

Ms. Pechin shared the notices for Community Consultation #2 and the 5-minute Pitch Script. She noted that the 5-minute pitch should be used when promoting Community Consultation #2. The AC members then practiced giving the 5-minute pitch with each other.

Public Comment #2

There was no additional public comment.

Adjournment

Mr. Poole adjourned the meeting at 5:50 pm.