

Advisory Council Small Group Discussions:

Environment Policy Ideas

Date: February 13, 2019, 4 P.M.

Location: Main Library, Basement
101 E. Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23219



At the Advisory Council's (AC) monthly meeting on February 13, 2019, 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 Parks & Recreation, Natural Resources, Utilities, and Sustainability & Resiliency. The AC was split into two groups to have a small group discussion related to Environment using the big ideas as a starting point. The AC members discussed these questions:

- 1. What would a successful Master Plan include related to the topic?*
- 2. What policies/elements must the Master Plan include related to the topic when it is adopted in 2020?*

Below is a summary of the ideas discussed. Please note that not all ideas may be appropriate to include in the city-wide master plan. This is just the beginning of the conversation about policies for the Master Plan which will continue in the Working Groups and during Community Consultation #2 and future public meetings.

Environment

Group 1:

- Recycling in multi-family
- Encourage composting
 - Create a city composting facility and programs
- Public access to the waterfront
 - Preserve land next to the river for both access and address flooding issues
- Incentivize the creation of community gardens with tax incentives
- Incentivize property owners to use vacant land and roof tops as community gardens
- Map food access in the city
- Find partners to aid in food distribution
- Encourage urban farming as it improves water quality
- Partner with schools to provide education on environmental stewardship
- Create a bike trail system throughout the city
- Include amenities at parks including skate parks
- Create sports facilities in the city for city residents to use
- Create horse trails in the city and educate people about horses
- Coordinate with RVAGreen2050 and the goal of 80% reduction in carbon by 2030

- Integrate park and ride hubs
- Encourage and incentivize green building design and energy efficiency
- Set limits on the amount of impervious surfaces allowed
 - Incrementally step incentives for stormwater best management practices
- Encourage community solar agreements
- Address light pollution
- Provide adequate trash cans at busy corridors

Group 2:

- Identify brownfields for redevelopment
 - Incentivize with abatements, credits, etc.
- Reduce urban heat islands
 - Green infrastructure
 - Tree canopy
- Environmental justice/equity in access to quality open space
- Volunteer/stewardship of environmental resources
- Reference to other plans
 - E.g. RVA Green2050, RVA Clean Water Plan, JRPS Master Plan
 - Consider land use implications of and be consistent with these plans
- Incentivize native plantings
 - Tax credits
 - VA Conservation Assistance Program – have Richmond participate
- Density bonus incentive for actual open space
- Payment in lieu of stormwater, open space or other requirements
- Density bonus for green building practices
 - How to promote use of density bonus rather than SUP process
- Reduce auto dependency and promote non-motorized transport
- Land bank for open space
- Identify vulnerable environment areas that may not be good for development
- Green energy transformation – production and storage
- Improve the stormwater system such as CSS and number of “overflow” events and/or better ground filtration.
- Bury overhead utilities, work with the private sector
- Explore green programs run by Dominion power