

MINUTES FOR THE WEEKLY MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2008 AT 4 PM IN THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER BOARD ROOM, BUILDING F.

PARTICIPANTS:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Fraley
James Nickols
Bill Porter
Mary Jones
Vaughn Poller
Rick Krapf
Julie Leverenz
Tom Tingle
Mark Wenger

NOT PRESENT:

George Billups
Chris Henderson

STAFF PRESENT:

Tammy Rosario, Planning
Jason Purse, Planning
Terry Costello, Planning
Allen Murphy, Development Mgmt.
Doug Powell, Community Services

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Jack Fraley called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. He stated that at the end of the meeting the Committee will decide on continuing to hold the Steering Committee meetings in the Board Room versus the Worksession Room. He also stated that a new schedule and roster have been distributed to all committee members.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. John Whitley, a City of Williamsburg resident, spoke on behalf of elderly citizens. He encouraged the committee to think about establishing a partnership to help actualize seniors on a daily basis. He stated recreation and inclusion was very important for the senior population. Dr. Whitley stated all should be mindful of the civil rights of the elderly. He felt it was also important to realize that the elderly population has human growth potential. Dr. Whitley stated it was essential for the senior population to not be isolated, but to interact with other populations and groups. He stated transportation and access was a significant issue for seniors. He felt that sustainability was important in that the senior population likes to work and contribute. Dr. Whitley pointed out that the County has a Youth Council, but nothing similar for the senior population.

Ms. Dorothy Neiman, who lives at 105 Broomfield Circle, spoke on ordinance changes concerning wireless communication facilities. She cited Chapter 24, Section 24-121 of the Zoning Ordinance which states the intent of the ordinance with regard to wireless communication facilities. She felt this statement is in conflict with the changes that were made in July 2005 when the policy was amended to allow wireless providers to build 120-foot camouflaged towers in a residential community by-right. Ms. Neiman felt that these towers may have been essential in the past but there has since been advances in technology that make cell towers obsolete. She stated the opposition with the towers proposed in Kingsmill is an example of public opposition to the standard tower. She strongly recommends that a special use permit be made mandatory for all wireless communication towers in residential communities.

Ms. Lisa Gibson, of 123 Hempstead Road, spoke as the Executive Director of The Historic Triangle Senior Center. She stated that many times the problem of isolation and socialization are left out of discussions when referring to the senior population. She cited data collected from the Harvard School

of Public Health that showed seniors who were the most socially active integrated had a memory decline of less than half of those that were less socially integrated. She cited a governmental report, *Aging in the Shadows*, which stated that isolation is a leading contributor to premature institutionalization, disability and death. Ms. Gibson cited another study done by Dr. Cohen of George Washington University that showed that seniors who engage in creative arts and have an opportunity to form relationships with their peers had significant improvements in health--less hip damage, fewer falls, and diminished vision problems. Ms. Gibson stated the Senior Center plays a critical role in the continuum of health care in the community. The Center is always looking for ways to expand their services, especially with the increased population of seniors in the community. Ms. Gibson stated the Center appreciates the support of the County and looks forward to continuing the partnership in order to maintain and improve the health of the senior citizens in the area.

Ms. Sarah Kadec, of 3504 Hunter's Ridge, spoke on the behalf of the James City County Concerned Citizens Coalition. She spoke on wireless communication facilities. She stated residents continue to be opposed to high towers in their communities. She stated that the Coalition has been active in educating citizens in advanced tower technology. Ms. Kadec stated the Coalition would like to see the ordinance amended so that it would require a special use permit for all towers in residential communities. She stated the Coalition requests that a review be done of the current policies and ordinances with the intent of requiring a thorough review of currently available expandable technology before towers are proposed anywhere in the County.

Ms. Linda Rankee, of 128 North Quarter in the City of Williamsburg, spoke on behalf of senior citizens. She stated that the Senior Services Coalition will be having a community forum on November 10th with the intent of addressing some of the needs of the aging population. She stated her concerns of services that were available in the home, but only if the funds were available. Ms. Rankee spoke of her concerns of the cost of this and other types of care, and the limited resources that many of the senior population encounter.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Fraley had a minor correction to the minutes. Ms. Leverenz motioned adoption of the October 27th minutes with corrections, with a second from Mr. Krapf. In a unanimous voice vote, the minutes were approved.

IV. POPULATION NEEDS GOALS, STRATEGIES AND ACTION REVIEW

Mr. Jason Purse spoke about the technical report for population needs. He spoke on the community sustainability spotlight and the concerns of some of the committee members with regard to the issues being too broad. A discussion took place as to changing some of the wording to reflect more action-oriented words.

Mr. Tingle suggested including senior and other adult kinds of items in the sustainability spotlight. He referred to some of the concerns that were mentioned by speakers in the first public comment period.

Mr. Purse said that more senior items can be added in the community sustainability spotlight. Mr. Purse stated that the senior section in the technical report did not contain a lot of specific information about senior issues because the County was still working with the Senior Services Coalition on a strategic

plan, but there were a number of issues mentioned in the goals and actions about addressing the senior issues that were being brought by the public.

Mr. Tingle asked if there was an opportunity to add to the senior section once more information was made available.

Mr. Purse stated the information received to date from the Senior Services Coalition had already been added to the technical report, but information received later will have to wait until the next revision of the Comprehensive Plan. He stated that since more information could not be put in the technical report that staff had focused on putting more actions into the Goals, Strategies, and Actions section of the plan, to ensure work will continue to be taking place before that next update.

Mr. Poller stated that comments received at Community Conversations were about aging in place. He stated it was mentioned that youth and seniors, at both ends of the spectrum, have similar needs. He suggested that combining these things would serve the Comprehensive Plan better.

Mr. Fraley spoke about comments he heard at an aging forum about affordability for continuing retirement communities. He would like to see, wherever it was appropriate, to encourage these facilities to offer beds at a reduced rate or to those who receive subsidies.

Mr. Purse addressed the changes that Mr. Tingle had suggested and posted to the blog. The first was listing the work that is done by private organizations in the community. Mr. Purse suggested including the “Greater Williamsburg Youth Prevention Services Program Inventory” as an appendix to the technical report. In addition, staff will make sure that both the titles and website addresses of any plans referenced in the technical report are included.

Mr. Tingle mentioned his concerns on senior housing, and how that gets lumped into a group with other housing issues. He stated that he felt it was important to address these issues separately.

Mr. Fraley asked Ms. Rosario to explain how the technical report is viewed and how it is incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan text.

Ms. Rosario stated that technical report is viewed as both the text of the report and the goals, strategies and actions. Once the technical report is approved, staff will condense the text into a reader friendly, abridged format for the actual Comprehensive Plan. She stated the goals, strategies and actions remain in unabridged form when part of the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Rosario stated staff is supportive of making the relationships in all goals, strategies, and actions (GSAs) more clear and adding responsible parties and timelines as presented in the Roanoke example provided by Mr. Krapf. For the Population Needs GSA revisions, she stated staff renumbered the goals, strategies and actions so that they all tie together and easily match up. Ms. Rosario stated Community Services has revised some of the language so that it is more actionable, with the idea that more may be needed, and also noted that some actions did not lend themselves easily to changes. She stated the importance of not duplicating the work of the Strategic Management Plan. She felt more work could be done explaining the relationship of the Strategic Management Plan in the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Fraley stated he felt that wording and verbiage are important.

Mr. Krapf asked if the technical reports would be available after the Comprehensive Plan is completed.

Ms. Rosario stated that having it on the website or another form would be possible.

Ms. Jones suggested whenever applicable to reference the different studies and policies, such as the Natural Resource Policy and the different corridor studies. Ms. Jones also suggested tying all of the master plans together and referencing them when applicable.

Mr. Purse then went through the goals, strategies and actions. Staff and the committee went through the goals, strategies and actions and made suggestions and comments. The committee made suggestions on how to clarify certain items, either with different language, and or by adding more specific actions. Committee members also suggested added language to include seniors whenever applicable.

Mr. Tingle asked about internal connectivity. He stated that some localities have programs by which a developer can contribute to a greenway or sidewalk fund as opposed to building a sidewalk that may not be able to be connected.

Mr. Purse stated the transportation section will address that issue, and noted that the sidewalk issue was also raised as a question at the second round of the community conversation meetings. He stated he would be sure to pass this idea along.

Mr. Wenger suggested not using acronyms or abbreviations since some of the committee members may not know what the full title is.

Mr. Tingle asked if there was an ordinance where vacant buildings need to be kept up to code or removed as it relates to safety.

Mr. Porter stated they can be declared nuisances but that is difficult to do. He stated there is no adopted maintenance code.

Ms. Jones asked if York County had their ordinance written in such a way that it is more actionable.

Mr. Porter did not know.

Mr. Poller stated that the York County Ordinance did not have volume with respect to building maintenance.

A discussion ensued how to attract businesses and encourage businesses to offer internships and opportunities for youth.

Ms. Rosario addressed incentives in the legislative case review process that the County would use to offer youth-oriented opportunities.

Mr. Tingle spoke about the County's youth workforce and the workforce discussion in general. He suggested removing it from the action from the youth section, but also suggested adding it to the economic climate section.

Ms. Rosario stated the Comprehensive Plan is viewed as a twenty-year document and to keep this in perspective when discussing and developing the actions to accomplish the goals and strategies.

Mr. Fraley agreed with the actions, but thought that twenty years was a long time frame for a vision.

Mr. Purse asked for committee members to continue posting their comments on the blog.

Ms. Rosario stated that Mr. Purse will post all changes to the blog and asked the committee members to review it with the goal of taking action on this section on November 17, 2008.

V. OTHER ITEMS

Ms. Rosario asked the committee members to make a decision whether to continue to have the meetings in the Board Room, either on a permanent basis or as needed.

The committee agreed to continue using the Board Room on a permanent basis.

Mr. Fraley reminded the members there will be no meeting next week. The meeting on November 17, 2008 will begin at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Fraley stated that there has been a request from a speaker for ten minutes on November 17, 2008.

Mr. Porter encouraged the speaker to supply materials ahead of time.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Nickols made a motion to adjourn, with a second from Mr. Krapf.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Jack Fraley, Chairman