

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, August 1, 2018
City Council Chambers
2400 Washington Avenue
Newport News, Virginia

PRESENT: PRESENT: Mark W. Mulvaney, Chairman; Daniel L. Simmons, Jr., Vice-Chairman; Sharyn L. Fox; Michael F. Carpenter; Katie Stodghill; N. Steve Groce (Staff: Sheila McAllister, Director of Planning; Flora Chioros, Planning Coordinator; Saul Gleiser, Senior Planner; Johnnie Davis, Planner; Connor Shapiro, Planning Intern; Lynn Spratley, Deputy City Attorney)

ABSENT: Willard G. Maxwell, Jr.; Elizabeth W. Willis; and Zachary E. Wittkamp

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Groce read the Planning Commission's purpose as stated in Section 15.2-2210 of the Code of Virginia. He made a motion to adopt the agenda before the Planning Commission. Ms. Fox seconded the motion. The City Planning Commission voted to adopt the agenda by acclamation.

INVOCATION

Mr. Simmons presented the invocation.

MINUTES

The minutes of the July 18, 2018 public hearing were approved as presented.

PUBLIC HEARING

SIGN ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

SIGN-2018-0001, City of Newport News. Request amendments to Chapter 33.01, Signs. and Chapter 38, Streets and Sidewalks. to comply with the United States Supreme Court decision in the case of *Reed v. Town of Gilbert, Arizona*. The amendments delete references to the content of the regulated signs, and substitute content-neutral requirements. The provisions regarding the size, number, duration and the characteristics of such signs generally remain the same.

Sheila McAllister, Director of Planning, presented the staff report (copy attached to record minutes). She recognized Christina Mignogna, former Zoning Administrator; Lynn Spratley, Deputy City Attorney; and Claudia Cotton, former Manager of Current Planning for their work on the sign ordinance.

CPC MINUTES
PAGE 2
August 1, 2018

Ms. Fox asked what “content neutral” means. Ms. McAllister stated it means we cannot regulate a political sign differently from a real estate sign. She stated we can regulate size, distance and height, but we cannot regulate different types of signs based on what they say. Ms. McAllister stated all of the signs you see in the ordinance that, in the past we may have regulated based on their content, they will show up as temporary signs, signs in commercial or industrial areas, but not necessarily by what we used to call them. Ms. Fox asked if it is a political sign, does the ordinance have an impact on how long it is allowed to be in place. Ms. Spratley stated it would be classified as a temporary sign and all temporary signs would be regulated in the same manner, not based on whether they are a type of sign.

Mr. Mulvaney asked when would nonconforming signs that do not meet the proposed ordinance have to be replaced. He asked if those signs would need to be 75 percent in disrepair. Ms. McAllister stated yes, that is correct. She stated until that time, as long as they are maintained, they are fine.

Mr. Mulvaney opened and closed the public hearing.

Ms. Fox made a motion to recommend adoption of sign ordinance amendment SIGN-2018-0001 to City Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simmons.

Vote on Roll Call

For: Fox, Carpenter, Simmons, Stodghill, Groce, Mulvaney

Against: None

Abstention: None

The Planning Commission voted unanimously (6:0) to recommend adoption of sign ordinance amendment SIGN-2018-0001 to City Council.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

Ms. McAllister stated Planning Commission’s August 18, 2018 meeting has been cancelled. She stated for the September 5, 2018 public hearing we may have two cases: a conditional use permit for the James River Country Club at 1500 Country Club Road; and one text amendment.

Ms. McAllister stated on August 2, 2018, we will have a Choice Neighborhoods Initiative update community meeting at John Marshall Early Learning Center, starting at 6:00 P.M.

Mr. Carpenter asked when City Council will be hearing and potentially voting on the draft comprehensive plan. Ms. McAllister stated August 14, 2018.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Carpenter stated we had a Regulations Committee meeting and we look forward to reviewing that with the Planning Commission very soon.

NEW BUSINESS

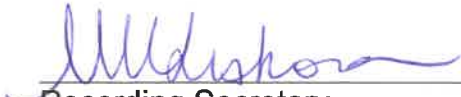
Mr. Joe Leming, 377 DeShazor Drive, stated a butterfly fluttering about can be considered as having a good time but also as being sincere. He read the following statement: *Three times, thank you. The Citizens of Riverview Farm Park believe it is appropriate to focus on three recent occasions when your public service was above and beyond the guidance provided by government regulations. The process of updating the city's comprehensive plan is written in Virginia code and, from the beginning, for us, was November 2013. Of the community's effort to replace Framework for the Future 2030 with comprehensive plan One City, One Future 2040. The Planning Commission provided three subject matter experts. The efforts made were above and beyond their normal commission duties, which they fulfilled during the time of the plan's development. The voluntary nature of planned contributions from Commissioners Elizabeth Willis, Sharyn Fox and Michael Carpenter did not end until March 2018 when the city staff made ready a draft for the required review by the full commission membership, followed by two public hearings. Park advocates from the Riverview Farm Park participated in both public hearings and were avid observers after the public participation ended. During deliberations, the three mentioned commissioners were able to address the pros and cons of the requested change that we recommended and that all of the commission agreed with. We are very appreciative and we recognize the Planning Commission's favorable opinion with one of those three thanks. Our next thanks is for the year after year of your time and energy working through the cut and the trust of public service. The third thanks goes to the three musketeers you sent for stakeholder duty in the development of the comprehensive plan.*

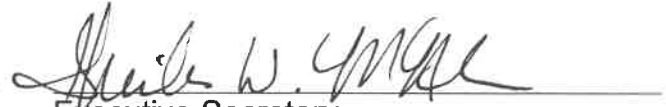
Mr. Leming stated he is as sincere as he can be. He stated he served as the last commissioner of the Regional Redevelopment and Housing Authority for Newport News, Virginia and the peninsula. Mr. Leming stated we found a job for everybody; and split the property up between Hampton and Newport News; we sent \$10 million in two directions. He stated he understands your service when you have to put up with butterflies like himself. Mr. Mulvaney thanked Mr. Leming for his comments. He stated this Planning Commission is filled with a lot of hard working and dedicated people who put a lot effort into it and it goes a long way to be thanked by our citizens.

Mr. Carpenter stated there was actually four participants from the Planning Commission because Mr. Groce attended each meeting. Mr. Leming amended his thanks to include Mr. Groce.

CPC MINUTES
PAGE 4
August 1, 2018

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:19 P.M.


Recording Secretary


Executive Secretary