

Comprehensive Plan Citizen Advisory Committee (CPCAC)
Meeting Summary
January 28, 2016
Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center
4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: John Allen, III; Phil Bomersheim; Jan Gray; Steve Groce; Rodney Hopkins; Jim Kelly; Joe Leming; Diana LoVecchio; Mike Minarik; Michael Poplawski; Sandra Powell; Jonathan Skinner, Vice-Chairman; Veronica Weymouth

ABSENT: John Dawson; Trip Ferguson; Sharyn Fox; Susan Gaston; Christine Ledford; Cleon Long; Allie Loving; Chris Morello; Dawn Ramirez; Nathan Sturre; Deirdre Wells, Chairwoman; Telly Whitfield; Beth Willis; Jeffrey Wilson

STAFF: Sheila McAllister, Director of Planning
Britta Ayers, Manager of Comprehensive Planning
Claudia Cotton, Manager of Current Planning
Angela Y. Hopkins, Senior Planner
Flora Chioros, Landscape Planner II
Sandy Hitchens, Planning Technician

Agenda Topics

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Skinner called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Review and approval of Meeting Summary

The CPCAC accepted and approved the January 14, 2016 meeting summary as presented.

3. Existing Conditions

Ms. Ayers reminded the CPCAC that as it continues its discussion of the existing conditions chapter to consider the following questions:

- Does the information tell a story? If not, what is missing?
- Does the information flow?
- Is the information structured appropriately?
- What graphics are missing?

The CPCAC was also reminded that when this discussion is completed and staff has received all CPCAC recommendations and guidance to move forward, staff will need another hiatus to incorporate that input and make the connection between existing conditions and the vision that will form "how we get there."

Questions, Comments, and Recommendations

Note: The following is a brief summary of key discussion points. All recommendations for corrections to the draft narrative made during the meeting are captured in a matrix that will be

provided to the committee with the revised narrative.

2.3 An Accessible City

Mr. Allen voiced concerns with the statement regarding traffic congestion on page 1, lines 15-16. The statement implies that there is congestion on Jefferson Avenue and Warwick Boulevard all the time. It would be more appropriate to specify that capacity is only during peak demand times of the day.

Mr. Groce asked if the information on page 2, lines 36-37 is referring to the bridges at 40th Street. Ms. Ayers stated yes and that staff will add the location and/or cross streets where the bridge replacement is to take place as well as make notation that the city is seeking funding for the project.

Mr. Allen stated the information on page 4, line 4 should be revised to reflect that the demand peak times are longer than the one hour mentioned in the statement and that there is a demand peak time that occurs in the afternoon. If staff wants to keep the current wording it was suggested to add the language "...the most congested hour is..." to the sentence to more accurately reflect the existing pattern of congestion.

Mr. Poplawski stated the word "only" on page 2, line 61 should be deleted from the statement because it gives the impression that 15% is a positive point for the city. Ms. Ayers agreed and stated this was brought to staff's attention. The sentence will be revised to state that 85% of the pavement in the city is considered good or better. Mr. Allen also stated that it may be helpful to include a statement about the paving maintenance to show the city's efforts to keep roads in good condition.

Mr. Minarik suggested on page 5, line 144 the word "commuter" be deleted because the city does not have a commuter rail service.

Ms. LoVecchio suggested that a definition for fixed-guideway system be added on page 6, line 164.

Mr. Kelly suggested to add language on page 7, line 210 about the consolidation of smaller airlines as a contributing factor as to why there has been a decline in travel.

Mr. Gray asked what makes up the 1.3 miles of city-owned parks along the waterfront discussed on page 8, line 235. Ms. Ayers stated King-Lincoln and Anderson Park. It was suggested that the language be revised to include parks that are located on other bodies of water such as Riverview Farm Park, Deep Creek Marina and City Farm.

Mr. Kelly asked if the 15,000 property maintenance calls discussed on page 8, line 242 were an average over a period of time. Ms. Ayers stated the calls were a yearly average. The CPCAC suggested that the statement be revised to reflect that the calls

were yearly or annually.

Mr. Gray suggested on page 8, line 249 the total of homeless population in Newport News be included especially since the sentence states the city had nearly half of the Peninsula's homeless population in 2014. Vice-Chairman Skinner stated that in Section 2.1, on page 8, lines 144-148 it discusses that of the six jurisdictions that comprise the Greater Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Consortium, only Hampton had a higher homeless count. If that is the case, it seems that the two statements contradict one another. Ms. Ayers stated that staff will verify the information to make sure what is stated is accurate. Also, Mr. Allen suggested it might be helpful to include information about LINK of Hampton Roads People Offering Resources Together (PORT) emergency winter shelter program as well as other similar services in this section.

The CPCAC had an interest in where Newport News ranked in comparison to the state and the Hampton Roads region with respect to affordable housing. Vice-Chairman Skinner asked staff to research and if appropriate include the information in the housing section.

The CPCAC had concerns about the phrase "aging housing stock" on page 9, line 265. Ms. Ayers stated the phrase is commonly used by housing professionals. In addition, the Census Bureau collects data on the age of housing for all localities. Ms. Ayers stated this information is important to the city because it can speak to the quality of housing and the affordability of housing in a particular area of the city.

Mr. Allen stated on page 11, line 306 there should be language added regarding where the concentrations of households that do not have a vehicle are located in the city. Mr. Minarik suggested the sentence on page 11, line 308 should identify the name of the comparison area.

The CPCAC members raised concern about the information on page 11, lines 323-328. The members stated this information is assuming all employees will live in Newport News and it has been discussed by the CPCAC that many of the workers in Newport News do not live in the city. Mr. Minarik asked if there is documentation to support the information that is discussed in this section regarding job projections generating demand for housing. Ms. Ayers stated yes. The information in this statement was based on a report by the National Housing Conference and Center for Housing Policy, but staff will clarify the language to acknowledge that not all new employees will live in Newport News.

Ms. Ayers reminded the CPCAC that the "What We Heard" section is going to change for all the sections within the existing conditions chapter. The list of challenges and opportunities will be woven into the existing conditions narrative where appropriate and all other information will be included in the "What We Heard" reports, which will be

appendices to the comprehensive plan.

2.6 A City That Balances Good Places and New Spaces

Ms. Weymouth suggested deleting either "leisure" or "relaxing" from page 1, lines 11-12 because the words are redundant.

Mr. Minarik suggested the remaining land use percentages should be included on page 1, lines 27-37. Ms. Ayers stated the land use percentages are discussed in detail in Section 2.2, on page 2, lines 52 - 61, but staff will add a reference to let the reader know where that information is located.

Ms. Weymouth suggested lines 47-48 on page 2 be combined.

Mr. Minarik suggested the phrase "is not pedestrian friendly" located on page 3, line 78 could be a characteristic that is applied to other neighborhood centers not just the Colony Neighborhood Center.

Mr. Leming stated that everything on page 4, lines 132-138 is true, but it is important to add some information to let the reader know that this area is also the starting point for the Stoney Run Greenway.

Ms. LoVecchio stated on page 3, line 92 Riverside Medical Center should be Riverside Medical Group.

Mr. Poplawski asked if there will be a map included that shows the locations of the activity centers. Ms. Ayers stated yes.

Mr. Kelly stated the information on page 5, lines 151-153 referring to no significant investment in the downtown area except for the Shipyard appears to be inaccurate. Ms. Ayers stated that outside of the Shipyard and its associated projects there has been very little, if any, private investment in the downtown area. Mr. Kelly stated there is a difference between inside the Shipyard and outside the Shipyard. Ms. Ayers stated that staff will clarify this statement so that the reader understands that it is private investment other than the Shipyard that has not occurred in the downtown area.

Mr. Gray stated that community centers as typically discussed are places like Denbigh or Midtown Community Centers. The word community center as used in the section beginning on page 3, line 80 is confusing because it contradicts what is typically thought of as a community center. Ms. Ayers stated activity centers were identified in the previous comprehensive plan and was continued in this draft. It was agreed that staff would change or at least clarify the terminology as it relates to activity centers.

Mr. Leming stated that the language on page 8, line 295 is great, but suggested that all previous plans and studies that identified this area for a public park should be included. The way the statement is written it gives the impression that the Riverview Farm Park Master Plan was the only document that recommends this area for a park.

Mr. Kelly suggested on page 12, line 417 that Downtown be defined.

Mr. Leming stated the term "comprehensive plan" on page 13, line 483 may confuse the reader. Ms. Ayers stated staff is using the word comprehensive to mean all encompassing. Understanding the confusion, staff agreed to use another term in this section.

4. Unfinished and New Business

There was no unfinished or new business to report. Ms. Ayers announce that the CPCAC has concluded review of the existing conditions chapter and now staff will need time to incorporate this input and make the connection between existing conditions and the vision that will form "how we get there." Staff will notify all members of the next meeting.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.