

Richmond Planning Commission

Wednesday, January 3rd, 2018

Unapproved Minutes

Members Present: Lauck Parke, Joy Reap, Alison Anand, Brian Tellstone, Scott Nickerson, Mark Fausel
Others Present: Jessica Draper, Town Planner; Jeff Forward; Virginia Clarke

Called to Order: 7:09pm

Public Comment

Jeff Forward thanked Mark for the email sent out to hearing attendees, and Mark Fausel offered to add Virginia Clarke to that email list.

Administrative Items & Updates

Jessica Draper provided an update from the CCRPC regarding the town's standing without an approved active town plan, and outlined a new timeline of plan implementation. A new plan would have to be ready for warning in early May. She also provided an update about the creamery project. The planning commission members requested new copies of the current draft of the town plan and accompanying meeting materials for the next meeting.

Town Plan

Mark Fausel sent an email to hearing attendees and steering committee members to ask for further feedback.

Alison Anand mentioned that at the hearing we learned that there needs to be more changes than just what we heard during the hearing, since the suggested changes made at the hearing were not enough to put the plan forward at that time.

Mark Fausel asked the two public attendees what further changes they are looking for themselves.

Jeff Forward suggested that the goals are too long term and that some goals are not ambitious enough.

Alison Anand suggested that synthesizing the format might help to synthesize the content.

Virginia Clarke suggested that some goals are too aspirational and the plan should include only realistically achievable goals.

Other feedback mentioned that the community resilience section of the plan was pretty good, the goals need more detail to provide structure, and that it might be worthwhile to have public meetings to discuss "hot button" topics in the plan.

The planning commission decided to put the From Vision to Action section back in the front of the document. They then discussed their game plan moving forward, which will include reviewing the plan by sections at future meetings.

Based on already received feedback, the planning commission decided to add language regarding a laundromat and other facilities to page 10 and page 42.

The planning commission requested a format change to the list of feedback points. They also requested a map from the CCRPC that would depict the undevelopable areas overlaid transparently to the future land use map. They also requested to Jeff Forward that the Richmond Climate Action Committee review the Energy Technical Plan and provide the planning commission with proposed changes.

The planning commission decided to update target dates to the date of the proposed next expiration year: 2026. They also discussed the possibility of sorting the goals of the plan differently into possibly short and long term, or placing the more aspirational goals in the From Vision to Action section and keep the more realistic goals in the technical plans.

The planning commission decided that feedback pertaining to specific technical plans will be reviewed when those plans are reviewed in their own meetings. They approved the language change of wildlife corridors to habitat connectors. They also approved the addition of Contiguous Habitat Units from the Science to Action report to the Almanac portion of the plan, as well as the natural resource figures from the Science to Action report. They chose to create language regarding the usage of the Science to Action report in town decision making as well, which the planner will work on drafting.

The planning commission decided to keep the two local character areas as depicted in the Future Land Use map and tables, but expand the narrative to include the reasoning behind them. They also decided to add town forest management to the recreation section of the Community Resilience and Development section as well as include the town forest parcel in the maps section. All other feedback points were deferred to future meetings.

The planner suggested the removal of the redundant lists of state policies and “taking action” sections for the technical plans which was then approved by the planning commission. Information in these sections will be redistributed to other sections where pertinent.

The planning commission decided that for the next meeting, the planner will provide hard copies of the current draft of the plan, a new reformatted copy of feedback points, and packets of meeting materials.

The newest draft will also be posted in place of the old draft on the town website. The agenda for the next meeting was set to include discussion of plan format, discussion of plan feedback, and review of the Community Development & Resilience Technical Plan.

Adjourn

Brian Tellstone made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Joy Reap. All in favor, so moved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04pm

Respectfully submitted, Jessica Draper, Town Planner