

Richmond: Our Town, Our Future

Approved May 6, 2015

Process Goals

The Town Plan Committee agrees to the following goals for Richmond's 2015 Town Planning Process:

- 1. Create a high-quality plan**
Plan is accessible, compelling and thorough, and has a strong vision for the future. Plan provides clear direction for the Town, builds on existing assets, and reflects input from voters and residents.
- 2. Gain support and approval from residents**
Residents support and vote for the plan. Voters do not stage efforts to defeat the plan.
- 3. Include compromise + diverse interests**
All stakeholders are considered in drafting the plan and their views are reflected in the final document. Plan Committee and planners understand what stakeholders want for Richmond.
- 4. Build buzz + awareness around plan**
People talk about the planning process informally around town. People understand the plan and process and proactively offer ideas.
- 5. Foster broad, diverse participation in process**
Plan Committee and planners proactively go to and engage a broad cross-section community. Committee builds diverse & extensive participation in planning activities (more than the "usual" participants). People feel they have meaningful opportunities to participate and feel that their concerns will be heard.
- 6. Improve planning conversations**
Process builds understanding of planning processes in general and comfort around participation and compromise. Process helps reduce contention and build cohesiveness around planning & zoning decisions, leading to more effective and less divisive future conversations around planning.
- 7. Grow social capital and vibrancy in Richmond**
Process creates energy and momentum in Richmond. A growing network of social connections fosters cooperation and vitality, ensuring that people continue to want to live, work and play in Richmond.

Process Ideals

The Town Plan Committee seeks to lead a process that is:

1. Transparent

Process is open, information is freely and widely shared, participants are honest and direct.

2. Objective

Process is impartial; participants and leaders set aside private agendas and self-interest; decisions are based on facts.

3. Informed

Process and decisions are grounded in accurate and thorough information; participants understand and pay attention to the impacts of decisions.

4. Inclusive

Process proactively reaches out to a broad cross-section of the community (including the “quiet”); process seeks equal representation of stakeholder groups; participants listen and promote a democratic process.

5. Respectful

Participants listen to different opinions with civility and consideration; people are free to express, and are comfortable with expressing, individual opinions.

6. Positive

Process builds on and appreciates Richmond’s strengths; process strengthens community ownership and energy; process is rooted in good faith and trust among all participants.

7. Forward-thinking

Process focuses discussions and decisions on the future, while appreciating and learning from the past.