

Prince Edward County Planning Commission Meeting Minutes October 17, 2023 5:30 pm

Members Present: Brad Fuller Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.

Clifford Jack Leatherwood Whitfield M. Paige

John "Jack" W. Peery, Jr. John Prengaman

Teresa Sandlin Rhett Weiss

Henry Womack

Staff Present: Robert Love, Planning/Zoning Director

Also present: Chair Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.; Vice-Chair Pattie Cooper-Jones; Supervisor Odessa Pride; Supervisor Jerry R. Townsend; and Douglas P. Stanley, County Administrator.

Public Hearing comments for Planning Commission meetings will be subject to the "Citizen Guide for Providing Input During Public Participation and Public Hearings For Prince Edward County Government Meetings" revised October 12, 2022.

Chairman Prengaman called the October 17, 2023 meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., and established there was a quorum.

Chairman Gilliam called the Board of Supervisors meeting to order as a work session in conjunction with the Planning Commission.

Supervisor Townsend presented the invocation.

In Re: Comprehensive Plan Work Session

Mr. Douglas Stanley, County Administrator, stated this work session is the kick-off of the update to the County's Comprehensive Plan. He noted the current plan was adopted in 2014. The Berkley Group will make the Plan more user-friendly and optically-pleasing, and will set forth growth and development goals for the County. He added this will offer opportunity for public input, citizen surveys, a web page for the Comprehensive Plan, and with social media, the County will be able to get that information out to the public.

Tori Haynes, Planner II, Berkley Group, presented an introduction of the organization and gave an overview of the proposed Comprehensive Plan update process. She stated, by State Code, Comprehensive Plans should be reviewed at least every five years. Ms. Haynes stated their organization will engage in data gathering and public engagement, through surveys, public workshops and focus groups and stated there will be bi-monthly joint workshops with the Board and Planning Commission for input and to review drafts. She said focus groups and workshops will occur throughout November and December; the next work session for the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors is expected to be in February 2024.

Ms. Haynes spoke about the strengths the current Comprehensive Plan contains; she said it is in compliance with the Code of Virginia, and is strong on best practices on transportation, agriculture and natural resources. She said once the new Plan is complete, copies will be online and in the public library.

Commissioner Fuller questioned the process to solicit information; Ms. Haynes said there will be two scheduled public workshops and an online survey. She added the survey is both phone friendly and internet friendly.

Supervisor Townsend requested the meetings be held after normal working hours; discussion followed with the consensus being these [workshops] will be held after 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Weiss asked if the survey will be open for a few months. Ms. Haynes said it will remain open in the background through November and December, and this date can be extended; she added comment cards can be used to obtain more information during work sessions.

Joe Hines asked if there are similar Comprehensive Plans to review; Ms. Haynes said Berkley Group has also completed Comprehensive Plans for the Town of Farmville, and Dinwiddie and Richmond Counties.

Ms. Haynes then led an "Issues & Opportunities" Exercise; she asked for input on several areas of concern. Responses included:

- Affordable housing, county-wide
- Elderly housing, aging in place
- Child care
- Public safety
- Encourage growth
- Economic drivers with the colleges
- Strengthen relationships with the colleges
- Promotion of tourism
- Utilizing Sandy River Reservoir as an asset

Discussion then turned to existing opportunities that the County should take advantage of, which include an electric transmission lines, Sandy River Reservoir, opportunity for food production, and rail lines which connect the Port of Virginia to three areas of the Midwest.

Planning Commission Chairman Prengaman declared the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Supervisor Townsend made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cooper-Jones and approved by the following vote:

Nay: None

Aye: Pattie Cooper-Jones

Llew W. Gilliam, Jr. Odessa H. Pride Jerry R. Townsend

the Board meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.