

April 18, 2024

At the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Robert Russa Moton Museum, 900 Griffin Boulevard, Farmville, Virginia, thereof, on Thursday, the 18th day of April, at 6:00 p.m., there were present:

Pattie Cooper-Jones
J. David Emert
Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.
Odessa H. Pride
Jerry R. Townsend

Brad Fuller
Whitfield Paige
John "Jack" W. Peery, Jr.
Teresa Sandlin
Rhett Weiss
Henry Womack

Absent: Victor "Bill" Jenkins, E. Harrison Jones, Cannon Watson, Clifford Jack Leatherwood, John Pregelman

Also present: Douglas P. Stanley, County Administrator; Robert Love, Director of Planning & Community Development; Shawn Rozier, Vice President of Housing, STEPS; Tori Haynes, Senior Planner, Berkley Group; and Benjamin W. Tripp, CEcD, AICP, CZO, Senior Planner, Berkley Group.

Board of Supervisors Chair Cooper-Jones called the special meeting to order.

Planning Commission Vice-Chairman Jack Peery called the special meeting to order.

In Re: Joint Comprehensive Plan Work Session

Mr. Stanley, County Administrator, stated a lot of work has been going on to make this Comprehensive Plan a plan that the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission can support; he introduced Tori Haynes and Benjamin Tripp, Senior Planners with Berkley Group.

Tori Haynes opened the presentation with a review of the process and schedule to date. She presented an overview of Longwood Symposium Day, and said they challenged the students to come up with ideas to attract and retain residents. She said the students will submit an action plan with a focus on educational improvements including teacher incentives. She said they are also interested in a Community Center facility that would connect more students and recent graduates to job opportunities.

Ms. Haynes then presented an updated draft Vision Statement: *"Prince Edward County is a progressive, diverse, and inclusive community committed to maintaining a high quality of life for its residents through a strong economy, academic excellence, and strategic growth to support a thriving future for all."* She stated this corresponds with the County's strategic plan.

Ms. Haynes gave an overview of “Chapter 3: Natural and Historic Resources.” She touched on Natural Environment, Natural Habitats and Ecosystems, Water Resources, Rural and Historic Assets, and Planning for Resilience. She presented a Goal Statement, *“Prince Edward County’s natural resources and community character will be stewarded for future generations by protecting the natural environment, preserving rural and historic assets, and planning for resilience.”*

Commissioner Fuller questioned what “planning for resilience” refers to, and if DCR or DOF are solicited for their input in this section. Ms. Haynes said some of the things discussed regarding resilience are planning for things such as climate change, population migration, hazard mitigation, natural disasters such as floods, and infrastructure improvements. Discussion followed. She said DCR and DOF are not contacted, but DEQ is required to read plans in the Tidewater area. Discussion followed concerning the use of passive voice. Ms. Haynes stated they will reword to active voice.

Ms. Haynes reviewed Goals and Strategies, and spoke about light pollution, air quality, noise pollution, perceived impacts, hazard mitigation, preserving rural and historic assets, and how quickly the community can bounce back after a disaster. Discussion followed.

Benjamin W. Tripp presented an overview of “Chapter 4: Housing & Livable Communities.” He reviewed Existing Housing Characteristics, Market Forces and Trends, Expanding Housing Opportunities, and Creating Livable Communities. Discussion followed on the proposed Goal Statement: “Prince Edward County is a community with high-quality housing and neighborhoods that are available, accessible, and affordable to all residents.”

Discussion followed on the types of housing available in Prince Edward County currently, and the affordability. The consensus was to amend the statement to reflect that these standards are the goal, along with other suggestions; Mr. Tripp said they will work on a revision to reflect those suggestions.

Commissioner Weiss questioned the intent of Section *“4.1.3 Support those in mobile homes constructed before 1976 that do not meet current HUD standards, or are otherwise in states of disrepair, through federal and state rehabilitation grants and homeowner assistance programs.”* He asked if the County is attempting to get the residents in older mobile homes to improve them or subsist in them. Discussion followed on the prices of used mobile homes versus new mobile homes, and renovation of mobile and manufactured homes.

Discussion followed on the need to expand housing opportunities and to create livable communities. Chair Cooper-Jones stated there is an unavailability of Section 8 housing in the area.

Commissioner Weiss requested a definition of affordable housing. Ms. Haynes said there will be a glossary as an appendix; she said they can feature key definitions in the context in which they are used, in addition to the glossary. Mr. Stanley stated the accepted definition was no more than 30% of a household's gross income. Further discussion followed.

Mr. Tripp then reviewed the next steps in the process; he asked that Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission members to provide comments on Chapters 3 and 4 by Friday, May 3. The next work session will be held Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss "Economic Growth and Development" and "Community Facilities and Services."

Board Chair Cooper-Jones declared the Board of Supervisors meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Planning Commission Vice Chair Peery declared the Planning Commission meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.