

THOMAS JEFFERSON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Draft Minutes of April 3, 2008 Meeting

City of Charlottesville

David E. Brown
Jason Pearson, Treasurer

Albemarle County

Sally H. Thomas
Ann H. Mallek

Fluvanna County

Charles W. Allbaugh, CPA, Chair
Grant Tate

Greene County

Jeri Allen
Carl Schmitt

Louisa County

Fitzgerald Barnes
Jackson Wright

Nelson County

Fred Boger
Connie Brennan, Vice Chair

Executive Director

Harrison B. Rue

Commissioners Present:

David Brown – Charlottesville
Ann Mallek – Albemarle County
Jeri Allen – Greene County
Carl Schmitt – Greene County
Grant Tate – Fluvanna County
Jack Wright – Louisa County
Fred Boger – Nelson County
Connie Brennan – Nelson County

Guests Present:

Howard Evergreen, F/L HF
Amy Kilroy, CRHA

Commissioners Absent:

Jason Pearson – Charlottesville
Sally Thomas – Albemarle County
Charles Allbaugh – Fluvanna County
Fitzgerald Barnes – Louisa County

Staff Present:

Harrison Rue, Exec Director
Billie Campbell, COO
Rochelle Garwood, Sr. Planner Env.
Jeff Cornelius, HMIS Administrator
Melissa Barlow, Dir. Trans. Pgms
Ann Whitham, Planner

Call to Order: Vice Chair Connie Brennan called the meeting to order.

Matters from the Public: None.

Public Hearing: Consolidated Plan and HOME Action Plan: Billie Campbell briefed the Commission on the Consolidated Plan and Action Plan, which guide the use of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in the City of Charlottesville and federal HOME funds in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District. This is the five-year update of the Consolidated Plan. The plan draws from the State of Housing Report released in January 2007, the recent Regional Housing Conference: “Finding Common Ground” held in March 2008, and the Continuum of Care submitted in June 2007. Ms. Campbell introduced Mr. Evergreen and Ms. Kilroy, both members of the Regional Housing Directors Council, who were in attendance to respond to any questions from the Commission. Carl Schmitt requested that the 5 year goal for Community Development in Greene County add the Stanardsville area. Mr. Evergreen noted that contractors have been calling the Fluvanna/Louisa Housing Foundation (F/LHF) expressing an interest in working with them, due to the slowdown in new home construction. Infrastructure issues are a concern in rural areas. Ms. Brennan opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. Ms. Brennan closed the public hearing. No action was taken on the Plans at this meeting. The public comment period is from March 24 to April 23. The revised plan will be presented for adoption at the May 1 Commission meeting.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes: The last four sentences under Commissioner Roundtable: Nelson were revised to read “The County decided to utilize ‘Insurance Only’ as a basis of its program, billing only the patient’s insurance provider, including Medicare and Medicaid, and ‘soft billing’ patients without insurance. The patient is not required to make a co-payment because the County supports the program with local government revenues. The County hired a coordinator. The program has been highly successful. The County will be undertaking a data review.” **On a motion by Carl Schmitt, seconded by Jack Wright, the Commission approved the minutes as corrected,** with David Brown, Jeri Allen and Fred Boger abstaining.

IGRs: In reference to FY08-42, the Commission directed staff to check on mitigation banks in the PDC. For FY08-44, the Commission requested details on the date and place for the Cellulosic Biofuels Summit, scheduled for September 2008 in Pennsylvania. **On a motion by David Brown, seconded by Jeri Allen, the Commission approved the IGRs.**

Commissioner Roundtable: The issue for this topical roundtable was Urban Development Areas.

Greene: Carl Schmitt reported that Greene County has not yet begun identifying Urban Development Areas, but will address this through scenario planning in the multimodal corridor study and in the comprehensive plan update. Growth areas may have urban and suburban characteristics.

Fluvanna: The Northwest Fluvanna/Southwest Louisa Corridor Study identified areas where growth would be concentrated. The update for the Comprehensive Plan is in process and should include the findings from the Corridor Study.

Nelson: Nelson County is not required to identify Urban Development Areas due to their population. There are a couple of areas that could be designated, including Lovingston.

Louisa: Jack Wright said that Louisa County has designed growth areas, but no real Urban Development Areas. The Comprehensive Plan update is three years out. In the Zion Crossroads area, the County is reviewing setback requirements for commercial development in growth areas, to put parking behind buildings.

Albemarle: Ann Mallek distributed a memo from the Albemarle County Attorney, “Living in Albemarle County’s Urban Places” and a map of Comprehensive Plan Areas. Albemarle County has found that .the provision of water and sewer is the best control mechanism for the location of new development. Currently, Albemarle County’s development areas look out further than 20 years, so some phasing may be necessary to meet the maximum 20 year horizon for Urban Development Areas.

Charlottesville: David Brown reported that the entire City is an Urban Development Area. The City is looking for ways to encourage more compact development, resulting in fewer cars and greater pedestrian safety. The City is considering some changes to by-right heights, looking for ways to preserve character and promote density.

Next Topic: The topic for the May meeting will be Economic Development Plans.

Homeless Program: Jeff Cornelius reported on the Point-in-Time Census, distributing a handout with a summary of the overall numbers. On January 30, 2008, the Census found 292 homeless people, compared to 266 in 2007. Of these 231 were sheltered adults (206 in 2007), 46 were sheltered children (32 in 2007) and 15 were unsheltered adults (28 in 2007). These 292 people meet the definition of “homeless” used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Schools use a different definition, which includes children living in shelters, substandard housing, in motels, or doubled up. The school count for 2008 was 354 children, compared to 303 in 2007. The Point-in-Time Census typically reflects one quarter to one fifth of the total homeless over the course of the year. Shelters reported vacancies. The Hope Community Center run by Covenant Church was an addition to shelters this year, and may account for the decrease of unsheltered people. This is not to be confused with the Hope House operated by MACAA or Hope Village operated by the Salvation Army. David Brown expressed concern about people coming to Charlottesville from other areas due to available services here. The survey, administered to 67 homeless

adults, indicated that 63% of those homeless were from within the Planning District and 46% considered Charlottesville their home town. 23% of those surveyed were from elsewhere in Virginia. David Brown also suggested that synchronizing the school curriculum and sequence between the City and Albemarle County would reduce the impact on school children changing schools as a result of homelessness.

Jeff also invited Commissioners to attend an extended meeting of the Thomas Jefferson Area Coalition of the Homeless (TJACH) scheduled for Tuesday, April 15. This session will focus on Coalition Building for the Future and the role of TJACH in carrying out the recommendations of the Community Plan to End Homelessness, specifically looking at the role of the lead agency.

UnJAM 2035 Update: Melissa Barlow announced that the date and place for the Regional Summit has been set for Saturday, May 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Monticello High School. Dr. Reid Ewing, professor at the University of Maryland's National Center for Smart Growth and co-author of *Growing Cooler* will be the keynote speaker. Melissa introduced Planner Ann Whitham who has taken a lead role in planning for the event and developing materials, including the web site www.UnJAM.org, built on the Neighborhood America structure. Ann demonstrated the web site, highlighting the public participation tools. These include an on-line survey, a QuickPick printable form, and the ability to download and upload documents. Ann credited graphic designer Ryan Pace with the design of the site layout and graphics. Commissioners suggested making the link to the survey more noticeable on the home page. Letters to the editors of newspapers in the region were also cited as a good way to get the word out about the Summit.

Appointment of Nominating Committee: Vice Chair Connie Brennan appointed a three-member Nominating Committee consisting of Sally Thomas, Grant Tate and Fred Boger. Election of officers will take place at the June 7 meeting. The slate needs to be sent to Commissioners by May 25.

Other Business:

Legislative Memo: Copies of a memo from David Blount on bills not considered during the session were distributed at the meeting. David will come back to the commission to report after the April 25 Mayor and Chairs meeting. Commissioners noted that David's Legislative Newsletter allowed localities to be proactive during the session.

Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Strategy: Harrison Rue reported that he was meeting with legislators and developing a strategy for legislative action to enable the formation of a Regional Transit Authority in the Planning District.

Piedmont Workforce Network (PWN): Harrison Rue reported that the PWN Council and Board were considering a shift of Staff to the Board and Fiscal Agent from TJPDC to the Thomas Jefferson Partnership for Economic Development (TJPED). There is a feeling that TJPDC does not have enough business involvement to effectively staff the PWN. The PWN Council and Board will meet April 17.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.