

THOMAS JEFFERSON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Draft Minutes of May 1, 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:

Sally Thomas – Albemarle County
Ann Mallek – Albemarle County
Jeri Allen – Greene County
Carl Schmitt – Greene County
Jack Wright – Louisa County
Fred Boger – Nelson County
Connie Brennan – Nelson County

Guests Present:

Meredith Richards, Piedmont Rail

Commissioners Absent:

David Brown – Charlottesville
Jason Pearson – Charlottesville
Charles Allbaugh – Fluvanna County
Grant Tate – Fluvanna County
Fitzgerald Barnes – Louisa County

Staff Present:

Harrison Rue, Exec Director
Billie Campbell, COO
Rochelle Garwood, Sr. Planner Env.

Call to Order: Jeri Allen called the meeting to order.

Matters from the Public: None.

Consent Agenda:

On a motion by Carl Schmitt, seconded by Jack Wright, the Commission approved the minutes of the April 3, 2008 meeting and the IGRs, with Sally Thomas abstaining on the minutes.

Commissioner Roundtable: The issue for this topical roundtable was Economic Development Plans.

Greene: The county has a new Director of Economic Development, Tony Williams. His objectives are 1) to promote and serve locally-based businesses, 2) to fast track new businesses offering good jobs through the approval process, and 3) to support agri-business and tourism.

Albemarle: Albemarle County adopted an economic development policy in 1995, with the stated purpose to “provide the local citizenry an improved standard of living, improved job opportunities and competitive wages, and work force development opportunities, rather than to seek to stimulate further population growth.” The policy is part of the Comprehensive Plan and the county is updating it now. The industrial base is shrinking, but the recent growth in jobs is greater than the growth in population. Retail is now the second largest sector, following government, which includes UVA. The county wants to emphasize segments that preserve rural character. The population is changing due to aging and smaller households. Only 30% of households have children.

Louisa: Existing businesses are the best recruiters for new business. The expansion of the North Anna Station is the most significant economic development expected in the near future.

Nelson: Nelson County's economy depends on agriculture and tourism. There is not a strong commitment in the county toward economic planning.

Next Topic: The Commissioner Roundtable will be waived at the June meeting due to the discussion of the search and selection process for a new Executive Director.

Piedmont Rail: Meredith Richards presented key points from Amtrak's short term action plan completed in January 2008. DRPT requested Amtrak to identify potential markets and service schedules in the state that could be implemented in a short time and with minimal cost. Amtrak identified two potential opportunities: 1) Newport News through Richmond to Washington, DC and 2) Lynchburg to Washington, DC continuing on to New York/Boston. The Lynchburg service has fewer technical and operating issues and could be implemented much faster and at lower cost. Ms. Richards presented a draft resolution in support of enhanced passenger rail service for the Piedmont Corridor. **On a motion by Sally Thomas, seconded by Ann Mallek, the Commission approved the resolution of support**, with the addition of a paragraph on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Consolidated and Action Plan: Billie Campbell presented the revised 2008-2013 Consolidated Plan and FY08-09 Action Plan. Changes to the plan since the April public hearing were limited, and generally reflected additional information and comments received during the public comment period. **On a motion by Carl Schmitt, seconded by Fred Boger, the Commission approved the 2008-2013 Consolidated Plan and FY08-09 Action Plan.**

FY09 Budget and Work Program: Billie Campbell presented the draft FY09 Budget and Work Program for discussion and action by the Commission. There are two significant items creating uncertainty for FY09: hiring a new Executive Director, and the possibility that the PWN program will be shifted to another entity. Some localities have not fully funded the TJPDC request for FY09. In general, shortfalls have been taken in the per capita total, leaving the Rideshare, Legislative Liaison, and Solid Waste Management Plan totals unchanged. For Louisa, the shortfall was taken out of the mapping line item. Jack Wright indicated that this line item may be deleted from the Louisa budget entirely, which would reduce local funding an additional \$6,998 from the budget as presented. The Commission asked about inclusion of items from the strategic plan into the FY09 work program, specifically the provision for a grant writer. The Commission discussed the 07-09 Strategic Plan at the November 2007 retreat, offering additions and revisions at that session. Notes from the retreat were distributed, but the full Strategic Plan has not yet been completed. **On a motion by Carl Schmitt, seconded by Jeri Allen, the Commission adopted the FY09 budget including PWN and the FY09 work program as presented.**

Piedmont Workforce Network (PWN) Update: Harrison Rue reported that the Thomas Jefferson Partnership for Economic Development (TJPED) had submitted a revised proposal for Staff to the PWN Board and Fiscal Agent. The PWN Council and Board will be holding a series of informational meetings, leading up to a decision by the end of May.

Executive Director Search: Harrison Rue outlined some possible approaches for the Executive Director search process. Jeri Allen reported that Greene County was pleased with the services provided by Springsted in their search process for a County Administrator. Other Commissioners were also familiar with the firm. The need for effective background checking was cited as a critical element of the search process. The Commission directed staff to schedule a special meeting of the full Commission to discuss the search process and the job description, and to solicit a proposal from Springsted. An Open House in Harrison Rue's honor is being planned for Friday, June 6, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Other Business:

Honoring Rodney Lewis: Sally Thomas shared a newspaper article by Bryan McKenzie from the Daily Progress about the death of Rodney Lewis, TJPDC's first criminal justice planner and former Charlottesville police officer, in November 1973. Mr. Lewis was a TJPDC employee at the time of his

intervention in an incident near the Charlottesville Police Department, in which he sacrificed his life to stop an armed assailant. A week before the article was published, the City erected a monument to its law enforcement officers who died on duty, but this did not include Rodney Lewis, since he was not on the City's Police Force at the time he was killed. The Commission felt that some recognition of Mr. Lewis would be appropriate, but should not be tied to the June 6 Open House. No further details were established at the meeting.

JABA Community Awareness Grant: Harrison Rue reported that JABA had contacted him to request a letter of support for the Charlottesville Radio Group Community Awareness Grant to provide approximately \$90,000 in radio air time to promote JABA's services. **On a motion by Jack Wright, seconded by Ann Mallek, the Commission authorized the Executive Director to provide a letter of support for JABA for the Community Awareness Grant.**

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