ALBEMARLE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION AND
CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION WORKSESSION
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2007 -- 6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM

The Albemarle County Planning Commission held a joint meeting with the Charlottesville City Planning Commission on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, at 6:00 p.m., in the City Hall Basement Conference Room.

City Planning Commissioners present were: Mr. Bill Lucy (Chair); Mr. Mike Farruggio (Vice Chair); Mr. Hosea Mitchell and Mr. David Neuman, University of Virginia Architect.

County Planning Commissioners present were: Ms. Marcia Joseph (Chair); Mr. Cal Morris (Vice Chair); Mr. Bill Edgerton, Mr. Jon Cannon and Mr. Eric Strucko. Absent were Pete Craddock and Duane Zobrist. Ms. Julia Monteith, AICP, non-voting representative for the University of Virginia was present.

Staff Present were:
Mr. Jim Tolbert, AICP, NDS Director
Ms. Missy Creasy, AICP, City Planning Manager
Mr. Wayne Cilimberg, AICP, County Planning Director
Mr. David Benish, County Chief of Planning
Mr. Greg Kamptner, Deputy County Attorney
Mr. Richard Harris, Deputy City Attorney
Ms. Jeanie Alexander, PE, City Traffic Engineer
Mr. Juan Wade, County Transportation Planner
Mr. Chris Gensic, City Trails Planner
Mr. Harrison Rue, Director, TJPDC

Call to Order and Establish Quorum:

Ms. Joseph called the Albemarle County Planning Commission meeting order at 6:10 p.m. and established a quorum.

Mr. Lucy called the Charlottesville City Planning Commission meeting order at 6:10 p.m. and established a quorum.

Presentations:

The meeting began with a power point presentation from Harrison Rue on the CHART and UNJAM initiatives. This was followed by a presentation from Juan Wade and Chris Gensic on Multimodal activities with a final presentation by Harrison on transit initiatives. Presentations ended at 6:50.

Discussion:

Bill Lucy asked for questions for the speakers and outlined that he had staff submit the demographics information and article into the packet so folks could get an idea about population trends that are predicted in the future.

Marcia Joseph was glad to hear about the number of activities occurring with trail and pedestrian connections.

Bill Edgerton asked Harrison Rue how critical the grade separation on 29 was to the project. Harrison Rue noted that it would need to occur for safety reasons. It would be positive for circulation and add places for additional development.

Eric Strucko was curious about the level of participation by UVA in the 29 transportation plans. Mr. Rue noted that UVA had participated and Julia Monteith noted that multimodal considerations had been a focus in the planning process. Mr. Strucko was concerned that parking garages kept showing up on all UVA plans. David Neuman noted that there have been many ways the University has been encouraging multimodal activities and that the parking that is being provided is mainly to meet the county requirements. Julia Monteith further noted the success of UTS.

Bill Lucy explained the article further and noted that density really was important to a successful system. The report on 29H250 led him to think about the possibility of density in the triangle and how there would be potential for a 3rd downtown. Is that what the City wants? If so, what happens to 29 near UVA? How about the changes in demographics between the City line and Rio Road on 29? He noted that the City's Comprehensive Plan focuses on transportation including the goal of decreasing single occupancy vehicles.

Marcia Joseph asked what role the City had in Places 29. Harrison Rue noted that City representatives were at the table and had been presented with information. He noted that the City is working on the extra lane ramp onto the 250 bypass at Best Buy.

Bill Lucy asked for the County's status on Places 29? Wayne Cilimberg noted that the Planning Commission had reviewed 5 chapters and has a work session planned in October. The Board of Supervisors has reviewed some issues. Eric Strucko noted that the business owners have been reviewing issues as well. Bill Edgerton said it is likely to be 9-12 months before it would move forward. David Benish concurred.

Harrison Rue noted that fewer people are concerned with the planning process as it has progressed. Wayne Cilimberg added that some businesses find change difficult and have difficulty with the notion that this planning is for far into the future. Mr. Strucko felt it was important to keep the business planning issues on the forefront. Bill Edgerton noted that people who were excited about the plan did not voice that as much as those who felt concerned. He then asked how multimodal aspects fit into Places29. Harrison Rue noted that the models were not great with transit, but there were lots of opportunities being explored.

Marcia Joseph asked Mike Farruggio for his thoughts on safety issues with multimodal development. Mike Faruggio noted that it promoted density and "eyes on the street". It was noted that there is a balance between landscaping and lighting to allow for a safe yet landscaped environment.

Ms. Joseph noted that she liked that there were different types of transit being explored.

Bill Lucy asked if UVA had specific goals for the 29 Corridor. David Neuman noted that there were plans to provide an increase in the density of housing in this area and the Arts project would add to the area as well. There are no specified plans in front of Barracks Road Shopping Center but would likely look to more density and mixed use opportunities.

There was a brief discussion on the University's plan for housing students. David Neuman noted that there is not a demand at this point but looking to the future there is interest in providing additional housing. Harrison Rue asked about sustainability efforts among the undergraduates and David Neuman noted that the University is coordinating the 12 groups that exist on campus so they can coordinate efforts.

Bill Lucy wrapped up the meeting by noting the value of getting together to discuss joint issues. Marcia Joseph noted that the chairs and staff will get together to set another meeting and topic for the near future. Harrison Rue noted that the CHART committee could use a City Planning Commission representative. If one does not come forward, information will be forwarded to the City for distribution.

The Charlottesville City Planning Commission adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Adjournment:

With no further items, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. to the Tuesday, October 2, 2007 meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the County Office Building, Second Floor, Auditorium, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia.

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V. Wayne Cilimberg, Secretary

(Submitted by Sharon C. Taylor, Clerk of Planning Commission & Planning Boards)