

NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS QUARTERLY MEETING

Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 5:30 – 7PM

Facilitator: Sam Sanders, City Manager

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| 1. Welcome | Sam Sanders, City Manager |
| 2. Citywide LED Streetlight Project | Office of Sustainability |

A. Presenters:

1. Kristel Riddervold, Office of Sustainability, Director
2. Kirk Vizzier, Energy Management Coordinator

B. Handout attached

Project webpage: <https://www.charlottesville.gov/1820/LED-Streetlights-Upgrade>

C. Questions:

1. Is there a form to get a streetlight removed?
 - a. Brennan Duncan, City Traffic Engineer: Residents can use the same form that is used to request a streetlight to be installed. However, after the LED Streetlight project is completed, this process may change.
 - i. [Form Center • Street Light Request](#)
2. Are their conversations regarding pedestrian lighting? Especially the ones for sidewalks. How would you request a light for pedestrian walk?
 - a. Kristel Riddervold, Director, Office of Sustainability: The LED Streetlight project has a limited scope which only includes the streetlights owned by Dominion Energy.
 - b. Brennan Duncan, City Traffic Engineer: Post-top lights are managed by the City. These cost approximately \$15,000 each and there is currently not a budget line or funding source for these.
3. What is the City doing for the gas lanterns in Johnson Village that run 24/7. What happens when they break? (**Public Works/Office of Sustainability**)
 - a. Lauren Hildebrand, Director of Public Utilities, confirmed that Charlottesville Gas manages this infrastructure. Residents with questions may reach out to her with questions.
4. Is the County partnering with the City on the LED Streetlight Project?
 - a. Kristel Riddervold, Director, Office of Sustainability: The County is not partnering on this project. VDOT manages all the roads in the County and therefore they do not lease streetlights as the City does.
5. Is there any opportunity for residents to pay for the shielding?
 - a. Kirk Vizzier, Energy Management Coordinator: It is important to try to get the level of shielding right at initial purchase. The Office of Sustainability is working to manage shielding levels as they review each light purchase.

However, if shielding needs to be installed after a light is installed, a discussion can be had regarding cost.

6. What is the cost of this project of the Streetlight Project?
 - a. Kristel Riddervold, Director, Office of Sustainability: We have a \$600,000 line item in the current CIP budget.
7. What is the current rent per fixture per year? **(Office of Sustainability)**
 - a. The cost is dependent on the type of fixture and the wattage level.
 - o High intensity discharge (HID) fixtures – Mercury Vapor, Sodium Vapor, High Pressure Sodium – Anywhere from \$96 - \$564 per fixture (per year).
 - o LEDs - Anywhere from \$72 – \$276 per fixture (per year).
8. What is the payback?
 - a. Kristel Riddervold, Director, Office of Sustainability: It is a 3-4 year pay back.

3. Remarks

Sam Sanders, City Manager

A. VDOT Portfolio

- a. Previously the city had a large portfolio of VDOT grants, approximately \$185 million in projects. However, not all projects were progressing. Sam and staff revisited the projects in collaboration with VDOT to make the portfolio more manageable and affordable. This resulted in the cancellation of two projects. These two projects were not cancelled due to lack of importance, but rather the projects were not affordable and the City could not deliver on them in a responsible amount of time. These projects may be revisited in the future. We are much more confident in the portfolio as it stands today, and have additional personnel committed to the VDOT projects.
- b. What specific projects have been cancelled?
 1. **Names of cancelled projects will be provided. (Public Works/Traffic Engineer)**
- c. What has changed regarding the Fontaine Street Project?
 2. Brennan Duncan, City Traffic Engineer: The project has been narrowed to fit within the right of way, and parking has been reallocated. Changes were needed due to cost as the original design was done pre-COVID and since then costs have skyrocketed. **(Public Works/Traffic Engineer)**
 1. **Updated design will be provided.**

B. Flock

- a. Chief Kochis provided 3 success stories regarding FLOCK.
- b. Chief Kochis is presenting to City Council in February 2025.
- c. Is there an update on where the funding was from?
 - i. The second year of the FLOCK program will either be funded through seized assets or the Virginia HEAT grant.

C. Low Barrier Shelter

- a. Conversion of Thrift Store on Cherry Ave to Low Barrier Shelter by The Salvation Army
- b. City has evaluated other options such as buying a hotel. However, options were either too far (distance from services was too far, or not on a bus line), or too costly.
- c. No decision has been made as to what operating hours of the low barrier shelter will be. Also, there has currently been no decision on who will operate the shelter as we need a cost for operations.
- d. Sam Sanders, City Manager, presented to City Council on October 21, 2024, Community Interventions
- e. If another option is presented, Sam Sanders, City Manager is open to having a conversation.
- f. Sam Sanders, City Manager, is attending the Fifeville Neighborhood Association (FNA) meeting next month to discuss the Low Barrier Shelter with FNA residents.

D. Questions

- a. Can the City help the Neighborhoods with Communication? For example, can the City pay for 1 mailing a year per neighborhood to help Associations get a more accurate representation of their neighborhoods to engage with the Associations. This mailing could include a QR code that residents could use to sign up to the mailing list.
- b. Adopt A Street Program: Can the City provide an explanation as to why the program went away and can the program be brought back?
- c. Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Has the study been completed?
 - i. Parks and Recreation response:

1. **Timeline Review and Recommendations:**

- Posting of Concepts and Connectivity Analysis on Project Website: Wednesday December 11 – Tuesday January 7
- Review, Summarize, and Incorporate Comments and Suggestions into Plans: Wednesday January 8 – Wednesday January 22
- Final Framework Plans and Connectivity Analysis Maps by Friday, January 25
- Final Plans Posting on Project Website: Tuesday January 28
- Draft Master Plan Document: Thursday January 30th – post on project website for comments through February 14th and distribute to Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Planning Commission
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting: Thursday February 6

- Planning Commission: February 11 (Mike Only – Virtual)
 - Final Draft Plan requested edits via public comment, parks and rec advisory board and planning commission – Friday February 28th.
 - Final Draft Plan posted on project website and distributed to council – week of March 3rd.
 - City Council 1st Reading: March 17 (In-Person – you are welcome to join)
 - City Council 2nd Reading: April 7 (Virtual)
- d. Safety Talks- Can we bring these back?
- i. Chief Kochis will look into previous Safety Talks and evaluate potential to begin these again.
- e. Car Thefts: What is going on with cars being stolen?
- i. Chief Kochis requesting Neighborhood Leaders to tell their neighbors to lock their car doors. Many gun thefts are the result of people leaving guns in their cars and leaving the cars unlocked. Please do not leave guns in your car. Please store them safely and responsibly.
- f. Signage: Greyhound bus using 6 ½ street
- i. Brennan Duncan, City Traffic Engineer will send a letter to Greyhound.
- g. Airbnb:
- i. Kellie Brown, Director, Neighborhood Development Services, has recently developed a work plan and presented it to the Planning Commission. Workplan will be presented to Council in early 2025. Airbnb issue is listed on the workplan. NDS is working to procure software that will help the city understand the magnitude of the issue. Additionally, NDS is looking at other jurisdictions for guidance on how they manage Airbnb and the enforcement of the zoning ordinance.
- h. Alleys
- i. Sam Sanders, City Manager, alleys are also listed on the work plan. We currently do not have an Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) for when we will begin to work on this item.
- i. Shamrock Intersection: There are cones and a Porta Potty at this intersection, but no work has been done in 3 months. Can we get this taken care of?
- i. Brennan Duncan, City Traffic Engineer, we will look into this and follow up with an ETA. (Public Works/Traffic Engineer)
- j. Parking Code
- i. Need updates for the parking code (Public Works/Traffic Engineer)

4. 2025 Meeting Schedule

- A. March 20, 2025: Zoom
- B. June 26, 2025: Zoom
- C. September 18, 2025: Zoom
- D. December 18, 2025: In Person

5. Adjourn 7:10pm

