

**AT A JOINT WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF JAMES CITY, VIRGINIA, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA, AND THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF YORK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, HELD ON THE 9TH DAY OF JANUARY 2012, AT 4:00 P.M. AT 2007 LEGACY HALL, 4301 NEW TOWN AVENUE, JAMES CITY COUNTY, VIRGINIA.**

**A. HOST WELCOME**

On behalf of James City County, Ms. Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**B. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mary Jones called the James City County Board of Supervisors to order. Roll Call:

Mary K. Jones, Chairman, Berkeley District  
James G. Kennedy, Stonehouse District  
James O. Icenhour, Jr., Powhatan District  
John J. McGlennon, Roberts District

Robert C. Middaugh, County Administrator

Mayor Haulman called the Williamsburg City Council to order. Roll Call:

Clyde Haulman, Mayor  
Scott Foster  
Paul Freiling  
Doug Pons  
Judy Knudson

Jackson C. Tuttle, City Manager

Vice-Chairman Noll called the York County Board of Supervisors to order. Roll Call:

Sheila Noll, Vice Chairman  
Don Wiggins  
Walt Zaremba  
George Hrichak

J. Mark Carter, Assistant County Administrator

**C. PURPOSE AND EXPECTATIONS FOR MEETING**

Mr. Middaugh said this was a unique meeting where all of the elected officials from all three governing bodies were present. He said expectations should be realistic for the meeting. He said that the

meeting is an opportunity to better understand where each of the governing bodies stands on the issues. He also stated that the meeting would be successful if it created a commitment and a framework for future meetings.

#### **D. DISCUSSION OF SIMULTANEOUS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATES**

Mr. Carter stated that the idea of simultaneous Comprehensive Plan updates began in 2006 with the Regional Issues Committee. The governing bodies agreed that 2012 would be the target for the update in order to take advantage of 2010 census data.

Mr. Reed Nester, Planning Director for the City of Williamsburg, emphasized that this process coordinated the timing of three separate review processes and that it will not result in one regional Comprehensive Plan. He mentioned a schedule of forums to solicit meaningful public input that all three localities could use. He said that the process should culminate in early 2013 as the three governing bodies consider the recommendations forwarded by their respective planning commissions.

Mr. Tim Cross, Principal Planner for York County, said that while the process is just now formally starting much work has already been done, including:

- Update existing land use maps
- Compile demographic and economic data
- Establish project website; and
- Joint transportation study by Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO)

Mr. Cross also highlighted the tasks to be done in the future:

- Joint public forums
- Joint Planning Commission meeting; and
- Summary document prepared

Mr. Cross stated there would be three forums, one in each locality.

Ms. Tammy Rosario, Principal Planner for James City County, said that the three public forums will be held as follows:

February 2 – Magruder Elementary School – will focus on the Riverside/Busch/Marquis area  
February 23 – Warhill High School – will focus on Lightfoot/Pottery area  
February 27 – Williamsburg Community Building – will focus on Northeast Triangle

Mr. Hrichak asked if the meetings were intended to discuss the region as a whole.

Mr. Carter replied that is correct, but they also are intended to focus on the areas of interest specific to each meeting.

Ms. Jones noted that each locality will still have its own Comprehensive Plan but that there would be one or two pages common to all three Comprehensive Plans.

Mr. Freiling stated that there was mention of discussing general topics that cut across borders, but that Comprehensive Plan input tends to be limited and that it was believed that more input would be received if it was focused on certain geographic areas.

Mr. Zaremba said that there should be focus on the areas with common borders.

Mayor Haulman stated that if this effort is successful there could be focus on other geographical areas in the future.

Ms. Noll stated that there has been significant coordination in the past.

Mayor Haulman said that one of the benefits of this process is to raise public awareness of the coordination that already exists.

Mr. Zaremba noted that he did not think residents of the middle and lower parts of York County would participate in this process given the location of the proposed meetings.

Mr. Carter said that the process was not intended to leave parts of York County out, but at the same time the focus of this effort is on areas with common boundaries.

Mr. Freiling asked if residents in York County that are not in District 1 would be interested in this effort.

Ms. Noll stated that it is not just a Comprehensive Plan issue but a cultural issue in York County.

Ms. Jones suggested an additional meeting be scheduled with a location more convenient to middle and lower York County.

Mr. Wiggins said that the York County Board of Supervisors needs to come together to address this issue.

Mr. McGlennon expressed concern that the focus of this effort is on three specific areas. He suggested that the focus should be on more general terms. He said that the conversation should focus on issues such as diversifying the economy or how to maintain the quality of life in the region.

Ms. Jones stated that the public forums should not restrict citizens from speaking on any topic they want.

Mr. Zaremba said that this effort should reinforce that York County is part of the Historic Triangle and reinforce the identity.

Mr. Pons said that the more coordinated the Historic Triangle is the more coordinated the entire Peninsula will be.

Mr. Freiling stated that the question was not answered about an additional meeting.

There was consensus that another meeting should be scheduled in lower York County.

Mr. Middaugh asked the group if they wanted to be broader than the current plan as Mr. McGlennon suggested.

Mr. Pons said that the discussion needs to include housing.

Mr. Carter stated that there will be summary documents on some broader issues such as transportation and possibly economic development.

Mr. Freiling said that the summary document should focus on Mr. McGlennon's comments.

Ms. Noll stated that she agreed with Mr. Freiling.

## **E. DISCUSSION OF THE HISTORIC TRIANGLE VISION PROJECT**

Mr. Tuttle asked Mr. Haulman to provide an overview of the Vision Project.

Mayor Haulman stated that the project is a review and analysis of the mission, vision, values, and plans of significant businesses, organizations, and institutions in the Historic Triangle. The purpose of the study was to identify the implied vision embedded in its long-range thinking. It is not a broad based community vision, but a good starting point. He said that the results indicate organizations are interested in a stable environment in which to operate, an effective multi modal transportation network, diversified regional economy building on the area's strengths, quality education, employment opportunities, and housing options. Mayor Haulman said there are some important issues that are not addressed in the report, such as health care and the fact that the elderly population is going to increase dramatically.

Mr. Tuttle began facilitation of discussion of the project. He asked the group how they defined smart growth and what policies led to it.

Ms. Noll stated that the issue is how can the community expand and still provide for the quality of life that the community wants.

Mayor Haulman said that the issue is how to change while preserving.

Ms. Jones stated that smart growth needs to balance property rights.

Ms. Noll said that the issue is balancing the rights of individuals and the community.

Ms. Knudson said the area is making the same mistakes as other places and is losing its uniqueness.

Mr. McGlennon said there is a sense that the area depends on being different and people are worried that the area is losing what makes it special.

Mayor Haulman stated that the underlying issue is what do citizens identify as unique.

Mr. Kennedy said that a lot of the uniqueness is gone, and small business is an example. He asked what the region could do to renew. He said that the area is devoid of high paying jobs and does not utilize the College of William and Mary.

Mr. Tuttle asked the group what it saw as the comparative advantages of the region.

Mr. Foster stated that growth does not have to equal change. He said that the region should focus on what it already does well. He further stated that location is a comparative advantage for the region. Another comparative advantage is that the area has a quality of life that citizens in other areas don't talk about.

Mr. McGlennon stated that one of the area's comparative advantages is its history. He said that this region is a place people visit because historically important things have happened that other areas cannot recreate. He said that it is hard to maintain the small town atmosphere with extraordinary growth rates. He said another advantage is that the area has a larger than expected development community. The development community could focus on redevelopment of a large housing stock that was built over the past 30 years. Energy retrofits could be exported.

Mr. Wiggins said that he felt the school system and safety were comparative advantages.

Mayor Haulman said that there are three dynamic sectors: education, which includes schools and institutions, Thomas Nelson Community College, the College of William and Mary, Colonial Williamsburg, healthcare, and the development community.

Mayor Haulman stated that the strength of the report is that it spurs thinking. He said that the next step is a broad vision.

Mr. Zaremba said that the region should stop trying to be something it is not.

**F. CONCLUSION/WRAP UP**

Mr. Middaugh wrapped up the conversation by stating that everyone seemed to agree that the undertaking to synchronize the Comprehensive Plan is good. He noted the interesting conversation about bringing lower York County into the Historic Triangle identity and that there seemed to be agreement among the group that this meeting was productive and would like to meet again in the future.

Mr. Middaugh further stated that there was concern about losing what makes the region special, but that there was no consensus on how to identify and preserve what makes us unique. He said everyone felt the region should focus on its strengths.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:57 p.m., Mr. Freiling made a motion for the City Council to adjourn.

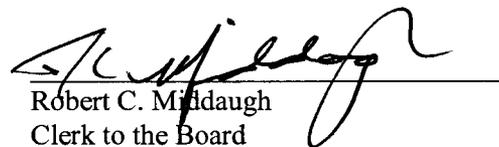
Mr. Knudson seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Icenhour made a motion for the James City County Board of Supervisors to adjourn until January 10, 2012.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

Ms. Noll adjourned the York County Board of Supervisors sine die.

  
Robert C. Middaugh  
Clerk to the Board