

MINUTES
JAMES CITY COUNTY POLICY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Building A Large Conference Room
101 Mounts Bay Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185
May 14, 2020
4:00 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. This meeting will be held electronically pursuant to the Continuity of Government Ordinance adopted by the Board of Supervisors on April 14, 2020. The meeting will be accessible through a Zoom audio meeting. Please go to <https://zoom.us/j/95687455734> or call 301-715-8592 and enter the meeting ID 956 8745 5734. Citizen comments may be submitted via US Mail to the Planning Commission Secretary, PO Box 8784, Williamsburg, VA 23187, via electronic mail to community.development@jamescitycountyva.gov, or by leaving a message at 757-253-6750. Comments must be submitted no later than noon on the day of the meeting. Please provide your name and address for the public record.

Mr. Frank Polster called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

1. Electronic Meeting Resolution

Mr. Polster presented the resolution.

Mr. Tim O'Connor made a motion to Adopt the electronic meeting resolution.

The motion passed 4-0.

Present:

Frank Polster, Chair

Rich Krapf

Tim O'Connor

Rob Rose

Staff:

Ellen Cook, Principal Planner

Alex Baruch, Acting Principal Planner

Christy Parrish, Zoning Administrator

Terry Costello, Deputy Zoning Administrator

John Risinger, Planner

Max Hlavin, Deputy County Attorney

C. MINUTES

1. February 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Rich Krapf made a motion to Approve the February 20, 2020, meeting minutes.

The motion passed 4-0.

2. February 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Krapf made a motion to Approve the February 27, 2020, meeting minutes.

The motion passed 4-0.

3. March 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Krapf made a motion to Approve the March 5, 2020, meeting minutes.

The motion passed 4-0.

4. March 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Krapf made a motion to Approve the March 12, 2020, meeting minutes.

The motion passed 4-0.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. ORD-19-0010. Zoning Ordinance Amendments to Address the Keeping of Bees in Residential Districts, Phase III

Ms. Terry Costello stated that staff presented Phase II materials at the March 12, 2020, Policy Committee meeting regarding amending the Zoning Ordinance to allow beekeeping in residential neighborhoods. She stated that the Committee discussed proposed performance standards for beekeeping. She presented a draft Ordinance that would make beekeeping a permitted use in residential districts in accordance with performance standards. She stated that the performance standards required hives to be certain distances away from property lines, rights-of-way, and structures. She stated that hives that were between 10 and 30 feet from a public right-of-way would need a barrier. She stated that a water source would need to be provided on the property with the hive. She stated that adjacent property owners would need to be notified by the person maintaining the hive. She recommended that the Policy Committee recommend approval of the draft Ordinance to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Rob Rose asked what the reasoning was to require hives to be certain distances from property lines and rights-of-way.

Mr. Krapf stated that the distances would help mitigate potential impacts to neighbors or pedestrians.

Mr. O'Connor stated that the required distances might mitigate potential impacts to neighbors mowing their lawns.

Mr. Michael Garvin, president of Williamsburg Area Beekeepers, stated that the required distances help to mitigate contact with neighbors while the bees fly to nearby sources of nectar or pollen.

Ms. Christy Parrish stated that the performance standard requiring notification letters to be sent to adjacent property owners would not be easily enforceable without a permitting process.

Mr. Max Hlavin stated that the County Attorney's Office recommended removing the performance standard for the notification letters.

Mr. Garvin stated that beekeepers should voluntarily communicate with neighbors so that they are aware of nearby hives.

Mr. O'Connor stated that he was in favor of removing the requirement for notification letters.

Mr. Polster asked if there was a consensus among the Policy Committee that beekeeping should be allowed in all zoning districts.

Mr. Krapf asked if there were concerns with allowing beekeeping in commercial districts.

Ms. Costello stated that the scope of the Initiating Resolution from the Board of Supervisors did not include Commercial Districts.

Mr. Polster stated that there might need to be a different set of applicable performance standards for beekeeping in Commercial Districts.

Mr. Rose stated that he agreed that allowing beekeeping in Commercial Districts and parks should be discussed.

Ms. Parrish stated that most County-owned parks were in the Public Lands Zoning District which permits agricultural uses.

Mr. Krapf agreed.

Mr. Garvin asked what steps beekeepers would need to follow to have hives in parks in the Public Lands Zoning District.

Ms. Parrish stated that the Director of Parks and Recreation would need to be included in discussions about how beekeeping could be included in parks.

Mr. Krapf made a motion to recommend approval of the draft Ordinance to the Planning Commission without the performance standard for notification letters along with a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to direct staff to investigate beekeeping in commercial and other zoning districts.

The motion passed 4-0.

2. ORD-19-0005. Consideration of Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to Address Combat Tactical Training Facilities, Phase III

Mr. John Risinger stated that staff presented Phase II materials at the March 12, 2020, Policy Committee meeting regarding amending the Zoning Ordinance to regulate combat tactical training facilities. He stated that a draft definition was presented which was specific to commercial operations and specifically excluded certain uses that were currently permitted in the Zoning Ordinance. He stated that the Policy Committee directed staff to prepare draft Ordinance language. He stated that staff worked with the County Attorney's Office to refine the draft Ordinance language. He recommended that the Policy Committee recommend approval of the draft Ordinance to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Polster asked if the Policy Committee had any comments.

There were none.

Mr. Krapf made a motion to recommend approval of the draft Ordinance to the Planning Commission.

The motion passed 4-0.

E. NEW BUSINESS

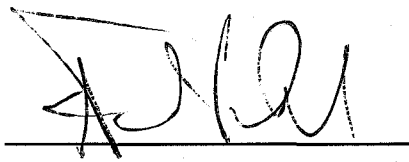
There was no new business.

F. ADJOURNMENT

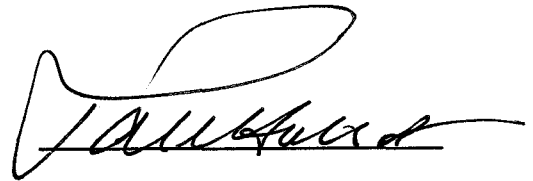
Mr. Krapf made a motion to Adjourn.

The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Polster adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:30 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'F. Polster', written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Frank Polster, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Holt', written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Paul Holt, Secretary