

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
"A World Class City"

Department of Neighborhood Development Services

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January 8, 2013

**TO: Charlottesville Planning Commission, Neighborhood Associations &
News Media**

Please Take Notice

A Joint Work Session of the Charlottesville City and Albemarle County Planning Commissions will be held on **Tuesday January 15, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. at the Albemarle County Office Building (401 McIntire Road) in Room 241.**

AGENDA

1. Introductions/Welcome
2. Review of Draft Joint Vision Statement and Goal document
3. Public Comment
4. Discussion of proposed issues for Joint Implementation work
5. Next Steps

cc: City Council
Maurice Jones
Aubrey Watts
Jim Tolbert
Neighborhood Planners
Melissa Thackston, Kathy McHugh
Mary Joy Scala
Craig Brown, Rich Harris

JOINT MEMORANDUM

To: County of Albemarle and City of Charlottesville Planning Commissions
From: Summer Frederick, Project Manager
Date: January 8, 2013
Re: Joint Planning Commission Meeting – January 15, 2013 -- Worksession for Livability Project:
Joint Vision, Goals, and Priorities

Joint Visions Statement and Goal Language Draft Document

After facilitating conversations focused on identified issue topics with City and County Planning Commissions, and taking into consideration public input gathered via the Public Outreach Workshop Series and Community Priorities Questionnaire, and the One Community Conversation outreach effort Staff wrote and presented proposed joint vision statements and goals at the Joint Planning Commission meeting held September 18, 2012.

During lengthy discussion at this meeting, Commissioners suggested a final review of the joint vision statement and goals be done by sub-committees. Final recommendations from the sub-committees were discussed at the Joint planning Commission meeting held December 4, 2012. Attached is the final draft document. Staff asks the Commissions to review this document and reach consensus on the proposed Visions and Goals.

Staff would like to note these Visions and Goals will be reviewed again once they are incorporated into the individual localities' draft comprehensive plans. At that point outside agencies, internal departments, boards, and the public will have an opportunity to review and react to the drafts. The individual Commissions may decide to make changes to language as a result of this final review process.

Proposed Issues for Joint Implementation Discussion

Once consensus regarding the Joint Vision Statement and Goal Language has been reached, Staff would like the Planning Commissions to choose two issue topics to recommend as future priority projects. Below are four (4) suggestions proposed by Staff. These suggestions represent those issues the Joint Planning Commissions spent considerable amount of time discussing during meetings over the past year. Ideally, Staff would like the Planning Commissions to choose two (2) of these suggestions to begin work on.

1. Coordinate to create continuity of Entrance Corridor guidelines so that distinction lies not between city and county, but between urban and rural.
2. Develop policies to encourage housing stock suitable for the elderly and people with disabilities, located in close proximity to community amenities, recreational resources and adjacent to multi-modal transportation corridors.
3. Create a plan that incorporates a unified vision for land uses adjacent to the Rivanna River that support the river corridor as a destination; and develops a shared vision for parks, trails, and recreational opportunities associated with the river.
4. Create a plan that coordinates building the sidewalk network across City-County boundaries, and creates dedicated bike-pedestrian connections across physical barriers within the community.

Charlottesville & Albemarle County Joint Vision and Goal Language
REVISED LANGUAGE – for 01/15/2013

Economic Development

Charlottesville and Albemarle County recognize the necessity of vibrant regional economic relationships and will work together toward a strong, diversified economy creating stability and opportunities for advancement in our communities.

To do this, the City and County will:

- Plan for employment centers which are connected to community amenities, housing, and services in the City and in the County's Development Areas.
- Support a range of businesses in identified target industry areas (bioscience & medical, business & financial, information technology & defense, and agribusiness).
- Encourage cultural industries including the arts, entertainment, agritourism and heritage tourism.
- Identify opportunities for small businesses and entrepreneurship and develop policies that reduce barriers to innovation.
- Partner with the University of Virginia to identify and pursue areas of mutual regional economic interest.
- Improve opportunities for advancement by encouraging a diversity of workforce training and placement programs designed to help all citizens, regardless of education or income, get jobs in our community.
- Encourage the local food, art, and entertainment economy with land use practices and policies that encourage vibrancy and flexibility.
- Continue to coordinate staff efforts to support regional economic development, including collaboration with the University of Virginia.

Entrance Corridors

Charlottesville and Albemarle County will enhance the multi-modal experiences along corridors.

To do this, the City and County will:

- Promote scale and uses that respect the distinctive character of each corridor, while connecting historic resources within the community.
- Establish a consistent approach to signage.
- Emphasize placemaking and examine opportunities to create destinations utilizing multiple means including landscaping and urban area walkability.
- Coordinate to create continuity of guidelines so that distinction lies not between city and county, but between urban and rural.
- Enhance communication between City and County Boards and Commissions related to purposed changes within Entrance Corridors and other shared boundaries.

Environment

Charlottesville and Albemarle County will continue to create a community of green neighborhoods, healthy waterways, clean air, and sustainable natural resources.

To do this for each aspect of the environment, the City and County will:

- **Air Quality**
 - Encourage clean and environmentally responsible industries.
 - Encourage multi-modal transportation and focus development and redevelopment in these locations to reduce emissions.
- **Water Quality**
 - Improve water quality of all of our waterways, especially drinking water supplies.
 - Coordinate actions intended to address all appropriate water quality standards.
- **Stormwater**
 - Improve stormwater infrastructure and reduce contaminated stormwater runoff.
 - Encourage low-impact development techniques and practices through land development regulations and education.
- **Disposal Practices**
 - Promote re-use and recycling.
 - Encourage programs to eliminate roadside litter.
- **Vegetation and Biodiversity**
 - Recognize the benefits of biological diversity and encourage the retention and use of native plants.
 - Encourage establishment, maintenance, and replenishment of urban tree canopy in the developed areas.
- **Energy Efficiency and Conservation**
 - Continue to develop resource and energy conservation strategies and practices applicable to both public and private facilities.
- **Agriculture**
 - Recognize the shared interests between the City and County in promoting a strong local food economy.
 - Improve the viability of local agriculture through promoting development concentrated in the city development areas while strengthening measures that protect agriculture in the rural areas.

Historic Preservation

Charlottesville and Albemarle County will enhance the historic character of the region by fostering community awareness of our historic and cultural resources and promoting the preservation of designated structures and areas.

To do this, the City and County will:

- Prepare and maintain information detailing requirements, responsibilities and support programs for eligible, significant and designated resources.
- Prepare and maintain a single map of designated City and County historic resources to be made available as a layer on both city and county data systems.
- Collaborate on tourism outreach related to historic resources.
- Encourage designation of historic structures and districts through state and federal programs.
- Encourage local historic designations where appropriate in cooperation with neighborhoods.
- Collaborate with the University of Virginia and Monticello on Historic Preservation matters.

Housing

Charlottesville and Albemarle County will each have a range of housing types that support various incomes, ages, and levels of mobility. These housing types should be connected to community amenities, parks, trails and services in the City and in the County's Development Areas.

To do this, the City and County will:

- Explore the idea of a Regional Housing Authority.
- Develop joint City-County housing goals, both for market-priced and affordable units.
- Facilitate collaboration and coordination among various housing staff, committees, builders and organizations to ensure an appropriate range of housing choices - in mixed income communities - for all community members.
- Promote housing located near employment centers in the City and County Development Areas and optimize multi-modal transportation links between Development Areas and major employment centers in the County.
- Increase the range of housing type choices, focusing especially on the creation of additional workforce (60%-120% AMI) and affordable housing (25%-60% AMI) units in the City and the County.
- Develop policies to encourage housing stock suitable for the elderly and people with disabilities, located in close proximity to community amenities, recreational resources and adjacent to multi-modal transportation corridors.

Land Use

Charlottesville and Albemarle County will support neighborhoods and places that allow residents to live, work, and play near their homes and where attention to the character of new development and redevelopment enhances quality of life.

To do this, the City and County will:

- Coordinate City and County Development Areas land use and infrastructure policies.
- Create a unified vision for land uses adjacent to the Rivanna River that support the river corridor as a destination.
- Promote land use patterns that encourage multi-modal transportation opportunities.
- Maintain the distinct character of the Rural Areas.
- As a means of decision coordination, continue to actively participate in the Planning and Coordination Council (PACC), which brings City, County and University leaders together to discuss issues of common concern and interest.
- Establish policies that provide for consideration of development impacts on neighboring locality and shared community resources.
- Encourage development and redevelopment in the City, and County Development Areas at recommended densities in the respective Comprehensive plans in order to relieve development pressure on the County's Rural Areas.

Parks and Recreation

Charlottesville and Albemarle County will provide a system of high quality public parks, recreation facilities and programming to meet the needs of all residents of the community.

To do this, the City and County will:

- **Coordinate shared parks and recreation resources by;**
 - Creating a common city/county park, recreation and programming "amenity matrix".
 - Utilizing existing Needs Assessment documents to initiate a dialogue on meeting recreation needs.
 - Evaluating existing user fees associated with all parks, facilities and programs to explore reciprocity programs.
 - Coordinating with UVA to identify both active and passive recreation opportunities that may be shared with the larger community.
 - Creating a plan to address need for additional recreational fields.
- **Encourage healthy choices among all of our residents.**
 - Creating multi-modal connections to and between parks and recreation areas and employment centers.
- **Share community visions.**
 - Exploring the possibility of a Regional Park Authority to manage shared resources including, but not limited to Ivy Creek Natural Area and Darden Towe Park.
 - Developing and implementing a shared vision for parks, trails and recreation opportunities associated with the Rivanna River.
 - Working with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to develop a shared vision for recreation opportunities associated with Biscuit Run State Park.
 - Exploring shared use facilities as a first option when contemplating new or replacement recreation facilities within either jurisdiction.

Transportation

Charlottesville and Albemarle County will promote regional multi-modal and accessible transportation options.

To do this, the City and County will:

- Provide community education regarding transportation options.
- Coordinate building the sidewalk network across City-County boundaries.
- Increase transit network efficiency and use.
- Coordinate transportation planning between Charlottesville, Albemarle County, and the University of Virginia through the Metropolitan Planning Organization by;
 - Storing transportation data in same format.
 - Coordinating collection of transportation data to facilitate sharing of information between Charlottesville, Albemarle County, the University of Virginia, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization.
- Create dedicated bike-pedestrian connections across physical barriers within community.
 - Rivanna River
 - Route 250 – East and West
 - Interstate 64
 - Railroad network
 - City and VDOT system connection
 - Route 29
- Collaborate to strengthen interstate rail and air transportation opportunities.
- Coordinate to provide multi-modal connections between employment centers and areas of high residential density.