PLACE Design Task Force Minutes
June 9, 2016 - 12:00 p.m.
Neighborhood Development Services Conference Room

<u>Members Present:</u>
Chairman: Mark Watson, Rachel Lloyd, Scott Paisley, Paul Josey, Mike Stoneking, Tim Mohr, Andrew Mondschein, Fred Wolf, Kathy Galvin

<u>Staff Present</u>: Alex Ikefuna, Amanda Poncy, Heather Newmeyer, Carrie Rainey, Krystal Riddervold, Carolyn McCray (Clerk)

<u>Visitor's Present</u>:   Lena Seville, Bill Emory

<u>Call to Order</u>

Chairman Watson called the PLACE Design Task Force Meeting to order at 12:00 pm

<u>Agenda</u>

1. Committee Updates

    <u>Mr. Mohr</u> discussed the exterior lighting study, and noted it appeared to be focused on safety concerns due to the incident with the Hanna Graham. He said it would be nice to see a coherent approach to exterior lighting, which we still don't have. As a BAR member, he walks the mall quite frequently at night. He noted we need to figure out what a good strategy is.

    <u>Mr. Paisley</u> said we never discussed Ragged Mountain trails. He asked if this is something appropriate for PLACE to discuss. He said it is being addressed by Parks and Recreation, and next month by the Planning Commission and City Council.

    <u>Mr. Mohr</u> asked if PLACE was going to have an election. We have a lot slots for PLACE members that need to be filled. He said there is a re-definition for the secretary available since it is more action than recording.

    <u>Chairman Watson</u> said another issue is slots we've got open that maybe need to be adjusted with different expertise than what we currently have. He asked if we are evolving into a different type of group with a differently set of skills than what we have currently.

    <u>Ms. Lloyd</u> said last month when Mark was not here, we discussed the process approach we want to take with scheduling, meetings and agenda topics. We should probably re-visit that since Chairman Watson is the City appointed the staff liaison.

2. Green Infrastructure - Program Briefing Krystal Riddervold

Ms. Riddervold said that Charlottesville is committed to sustainability and promotes green practices that improve the quality of our natural resources and that contribute to healthier natural habitat, increased recreational opportunities and improved aesthetics.

Ms. Riddervold said she wants to share an online interactive map called CityGreen with a lot of data input from the various departments and many folks involved in green infrastructure. Many folks think green infrastructure means stormwater but green infrastructure is a much broader topic. She said we want to create a library of all of the programs, initiatives and projects that contribute to the City's goal to be a green city. There are a lot of facts sheets, case studies and websites developed by other partners, but people haven't known where to go.

Ms. Riddervold noted the six themes of CityGreen:

•Green Stormwater Infrastructure
•Sustainable Buildings & Energy
•Natural Resources
•Sustainable Agriculture
•Sustainable "Getting Around"
•Sustainable Waste Management

Ms. Riddervold said green stormwater infrastructure utilizes plants, trees and other measures to mimic natural processes that control and treat stormwater before it enters creeks, streams and rivers. Green stormwater infrastructure includes practices such as vegetated roofs, bio-retention, tree planting, permeable pavement, and rainwater harvesting that aim to intercept, evaporate, transpire, filter, infiltrate, capture and reuse stormwater. Green building increases the efficiency with which buildings use resources such as energy, water and materials while reducing the building impacts on human health and the environment. Adding renewable energy systems can reduce operating costs and the greenhouse gas emissions associated with buildings. Stewardship of natural resources in an urban environment can lead to clean air and water, diverse forests and plant communities, healthy habitats, access to outdoor recreation and natural beauty and management of the historic landscape in which Charlottesville has developed. Locally, this includes farmer's markets and community gardens where you can buy local produce, explore options to grow your own fruits and vegetables, and find community gardens that increase access to healthy, local food. She said Charlottesville encourages sustainable options for getting around town including public transit, bike and pedestrian infrastructure, ride sharing and alternate fueling locations.

Ms. Riddervold said through a technical assistance grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry and the Green Infrastructure Center (GIC), the City is working to identify and prioritize high value green assets and develop strategic opportunities to protect, enhance and restore them. She explained the concept of "reduce, reuse, recycle." The most effective way to reduce waste is to not create it in the first place. Reducing, reusing and recycling/composting items helps save natural resources, protects the environment and saves money.

Councilor Kathy Galvin said the presentation was fantastic.

Mr. Paisley asked if there is some way to tie funding based on stormwater management and tree canopy to impact the storm water utility program.

Ms. Riddervold said that is a topic up for discussion.

Councilor Galvin said that would be a recommendation from Council.

3. 3-D Modeling Subcommittee Findings

PLACE discussed ways to incorporate the 3-D modeling system into the preparation of staff reports to City Council, Planning Commission and the Board of Architectural Review. In coordination with Paul Josey, PLACE is partnering with Guoping Huang at the University of Virginia to develop the following 3-D model programs:

> 1. Create functional 3D models with Sketch Up for SIA, phase 1.
> 2. Develop workflow to import and archive 3D models in the City's geo database.
> 3. Create a City Engine website to publish the 3D models with contextual models in the background.
> 4. Create applications with the City Engine technology to help the City compare design scenarios and get public feedback.

Mr. Josey said with a 3-D aerial map of everything, you would be able to see the trees and have an accurate map of the City.

Councilor Galvin said you will need a human being to enter the data.

Mr. Mohr said the BAR would be very interested to see what this would be versus what our (BAR's) guidelines would be.

Councilor Galvin said she doesn't think it needs to be a presentation. The model could show what the code calls for, and what the guidelines are. She said to invite Chris Engel to PLACE to discuss how place-based economics relate to the quality of a place, whether the best character gives a competitive edge to the City to attractive a packaging division.

Councilor Galvin said it was shocking to see the worst new by-right developments. We don't need the BAR, we need a good code.

Mr. Mohr said issues such as height floor to ceiling depending on use are not addressed when you have a code focused on land use.

Councilor Galvin said we don't want someone learning on the job. West Main has gone through three code changes since 2005, changes in heights, uses and density. It is important to have really sound practices.

<u>Mr. Ikefuna</u> said with these properties providing for women and minorities through an effective housing authority, we could cut that housing in half. He said send the job description outlining pay scale, technical qualifications. It is important to find somebody that understands quality.

4. <u>Additional Public Comment</u>

Congratulations were offered to Rachel Lloyd, for meeting with the Blue Ribbon Committee.