

## **Accomack County Planning Commission Minutes of November 27, 2012**

Virginia: At a meeting of the Accomack County Planning Commission held on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of November 2012, in the Accomack County Administration Building School Board Conference Room, Room #201, Accomac.

### **1. CALL TO ORDER:**

#### **A. MEMBERS PRESENT AND ABSENT**

##### **Planning Commission Members Present**

Mr. E. Phillip Hickman, Chairman  
Mr. George Parker, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Spiro Papadopoulos  
Mr. Pete Onley  
Mr. Tony Picardi  
Mr. David Lumgair

##### **Members Absent:**

Mr. Leander Roberts  
Mr. C. Robert Hickman  
Mr. Alan Silverman

##### **Others Present:**

Mr. Rich Morrison, Director of Planning and Community Development  
Mr. Robert Testerman, Land Use Planner

#### **B. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

There being a quorum, Chairman Hickman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

**On a motion made by Mr. Parker and seconded by Mr. Lumgair, the Planning Commission members present voted unanimously to adopt the agenda.**

### **3. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE DISCUSSION**

#### **A. Draft Schedule/Timeline**

Mr. Morrison presented a draft timeline for the Comprehensive Plan update to the Planning Commission.

The schedule was developed under the assumptions that there will not be a lot of new initiatives and not a lot of public outreach and it reflects a strategy of working more from substance already in the Comprehensive Plan.

The Planning Commission raised concern that other issues may arise and alter the timeline.

Mr. Morrison assured the Planning Commission that the schedule is flexible and that it was generated with the understanding that other issues will require staff time.

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The next steps are as follows:

- Staff will develop a formal, written statement to the Board of Supervisors explaining that the Comprehensive Plan was reviewed by the Planning Commission and that the focus of the 2013 update will be on the Future Land Use Plan and the changes in demographics throughout the entire Comprehensive Plan.
- Staff will prepare a draft introduction to Chapter 6: Future Land Use Plan of the Comprehensive Plan that will explain what changes have been made and why.

### **B. Population Projections**

Weldon Cooper Center population projections for 2020, 2030, and 2040 were distributed to the Planning Commission and it was discovered that the population projections are relatively flat.

Mr. Morrison noted that flat growth is fairly common in rural localities and suggested that the Planning Commission decide what to do in response to the flat growth.

It was noted that there is and will be a need for certain facilities and infrastructure in order to maintain the population.

It was pointed out that the population in Accomack County is aging and as a population ages, they tend to want to live relatively close to healthcare facilities instead of maintaining a single-family home. This proves the need for multi-family housing near healthcare facilities.

It was also observed that the population of Hispanic residents in Accomack County is increasing, which may also reflect the need for more multi-family housing.

### **C. Review Future Land Use Plan Text**

The discussion of the population projections led itself into the review of the Future Land Use plan text.

In addition to the discussion of the need for multi-family housing in Accomack County, it was noted that the children age group is growing and there is a shortage of parks in the County that would provide recreation opportunities for the growing youth demographic.

It was also pointed out that among the 20-30 year-old age group, having the fastest internet possible is one of the most important factors in determining living location. A suggestion was made that Village Development areas and multi-family housing should be located in areas where broadband is expected to be available.

The maps showing the district boundaries also need to be revised.

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**4. OTHER BUSINESS:**

No other matters to discuss at this time.

**5. NEXT MEETING:**

The next regular Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. in the Accomack County School Board Chambers, Accomac.

**6. ADJOURNMENT:**

**On a motion made by Mr. Picardi and seconded by Mr. Parker, the Planning Commission members present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.**

Chairman Hickman adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

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E. Phillip Hickman, Chairman

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Robert Testerman, Land Use Planner