

Minutes from the work session of the Planning Commission of the County of Henrico held in the County Manager's Conference Room, County Administration Building in the Government Center at Parham and Hungary Spring Roads, beginning at 4:30 p.m., March 28, 2024.

Members Present: Mr. William M. Mackey, Jr. Chair (Varina)
Mr. Robert H. Witte, Jr. Vice-Chair (Brookland)
Mr. Brian Winterhoff, (Tuckahoe)
Mr. Bob Shippee, (Three Chopt)
Mr. Jaron N. Dandridge, (Fairfield)
Mr. R. Joseph Emerson, Jr., AICP, Director of Planning,
Secretary

Members Absent: Mr. Tyrone E. Nelson (Varina)
Board of Supervisors Representative

Also Present: Ms. Jean M. Moore, Assistant Director of Planning
Mr. Ben Sehl, Senior Principal Planner
Ms. Rosemary Deemer, AICP, County Planner

The Commission convened a work session in the Manager's Conference Room at 4:38 p.m.

Mr. Mackey called the work session to order, then turned the meeting over to the Secretary of the Planning Commission, Mr. Joe Emerson, Director of Planning. Mr. Emerson provided a brief introduction regarding the work session's agenda, then turned the meeting over to Ms. Jean Moore.

Ms. Moore briefly reviewed the purpose of a comprehensive plan and Virginia State Code requirements. She outlined the schedule and the various phases of the planning process. She also highlighted the branding of HenricoNEXT.

Ms. Rosemary Deemer provided an overview of several background reports, which she noted were a snapshot in time. More current information would likely be added to the individual plan chapters or appropriate appendices. The Recreation and Parks existing condition report identifies the various county parks and facilities and includes an inventory of amenities. It also includes a physical assessment of various sites which could have a direct effect on the quality of user experiences. Information contained in the report will assist the Division of Recreation and Parks with prioritization of repairs and improvements.

Ms. Deemer continued with a presentation of the State of the System report of the county's transportation network. She explained the county's road network and provided information on traffic volumes, capacity, crash data and potential locations for safety improvements. She finished her report with an overview of our active transportation facilities, railroads, air, and transit service.

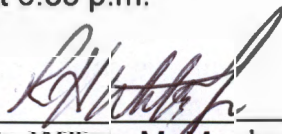
Mr. Seth Humphreys provided details from the Sociodemographic report, including population, households, income and poverty, educational attainment, and employment data. He displayed a series of slides showing how Henrico's population density has changed between 1960 and 2020, with the most-dense areas occurring adjacent to the city and the western portion of the county. In addition to becoming more racially/ethnically diverse, our population is aging. Approximately 28% of our residents are 55 and older. Median household income has remained stagnant, consistent with regional and statewide numbers. Between 2010 and 2019, education attainment has risen, with more residents completing their associates, bachelor's, and graduate degrees.

Ms. Deemer returned to discuss the results of the Residents' and Recreation and Parks Surveys. These scientific, statistically valid surveys were conducted by VCU's Survey Evaluation Research Laboratory between September 2021 and January 2022. First, she highlighted residents' responses to questions related to core county services as well as those related to planning. She then discussed the recreation and park results, which found there was high satisfaction with county facilities and programming.

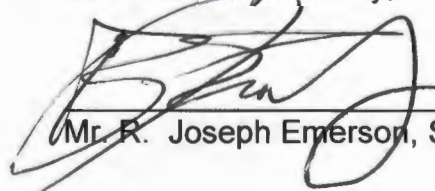
Mr. Ben Sehl spoke next about the website designed for the project and how it's intended to be hub of information for all things related to HenricoNEXT. Between those registering through the website for our email blasts and those signing-up via the surveys, we have over 1,300 contacts. He then provided an overview of the March 2022 community visioning event and the results of the polling exercise. Held in-person with an online version posted for four weeks, we received over 3,000 responses from more than 620 individuals. He reviewed the results of several questions including "Why do you live in Henrico?", "How would you rate the overall quality of life in the county?", and "Where do you want the county to grow?" and provided results by magisterial district.

Ms. Deemer reviewed transportation-specific information from both the Residents' and Rec/Parks surveys, the Community Visioning Event and a Draft Bike/Trails mapping exercise. She concluded the presentation by mentioning our interactive map, community events attended by staff, and a summary of key themes identified through the various community engagement efforts.

The Commission recessed their meeting at 6:33 p.m.



Mr. William M. Mackey, Jr., Chairperson



Mr. R. Joseph Emerson, Secretary