

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON Friday, November 3, Saturday, November 4, and Sunday, November 5, 2006 IN THE Wintergreen Resort (see meeting times below).

THE PROPOSED AGENDA IS AS FOLLOWS:

Annual Council Retreat

November 3: 4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

November 4: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

November 5: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

BY ORDER OF THE MAYOR

BY Jeanne Cox

WINTERGREEN RESORT – November 3, 4, 5, 2006

Council met in special session on these days with the following members present: Dr. Brown, Ms. Hamilton, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Norris, Mr. Taliaferro.

Mr. Bob Matson and Ms. Tyler St. Clair facilitated the retreat. Also participating in the retreat were the following staff members: Gary O’Connell, City Manager; Aubrey Watts, Chief Operating Official; Rochelle Small-Toney, Assistant City Manager; Craig Brown, City Attorney; Ric Barrick, Director of Communications; and Jeanne Cox, Clerk of City Council.

Friday, November 3, 2006

A discussion was held of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicators for Councilors and staff. The purpose was to understand how Councilors like to receive information, make decisions, and orient their lives.

The meeting was adjourned for dinner.

This session after dinner was devoted to getting to know fellow Council Members and the values and events that have shaped their lives.

Saturday, November 4, 2006

Councilors and staff divided into two groups and made lists in response to the following questions: thinking about the ideal City of Charlottesville and keeping a comprehensive, possibility-oriented perspective, in the year 2025: 1) What “things” will be want to insure we keep? 2) What “things” will we want to insure we change?

Councilors developed the following vision themes: Smart, Citizen Focused Community Economic Sustainability; A Center for Lifelong Learning; Quality Housing Opportunities for All Cville Arts and Culture; Green City; America’s Healthiest City; A Connected Community.

Councilors and staff again divided into two groups and developed the vision theme statements as follows:

CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL VISION - 2025

Charlottesville: A Great Place to Live for All of Our Citizens

- A leader in innovation, environmental sustainability, and social and economic justice
- Flexible and progressive in anticipating and responding to the needs of our citizens
- Cultural and creative capital of Central Virginia

Economic Sustainability

Our community has an effective workforce development system that leverages the resources of the University of Virginia, Piedmont Virginia Community College, and our excellent schools to provide ongoing training and educational opportunities to our residents. We have a business-friendly environment in which employers provide well-paying, career-ladder jobs and residents have access to small business opportunities. The Downtown Mall, as the economic hub of the region, features arts and entertainment, shopping, dining, cultural events, and a vibrant City Market.

A Center for Lifelong Learning

In Charlottesville, the strength of our education is measured not by the achievements of our best students, but by the successes of all our students. Here, an affordable, quality education is cherished as a fundamental right, and the community, City schools, Piedmont Virginia Community College and the University of Virginia work together to create an environment in which all students and indeed all citizens have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Quality Housing Opportunities for All

Our neighborhoods retain a core historic fabric while offering housing that is affordable and attainable for people of all income levels, life stages, and abilities. Our neighborhoods feature a variety of housing types, including higher density, pedestrian and transit-oriented housing at employment and cultural centers. We have revitalized public housing neighborhoods that include a mixture of income and housing types and enhanced community amenities. Our housing stock is connected with recreation facilities, parks, trails, and services.

C’ville Arts and Culture

Our community has world-class performing, visual, and literary arts reflective of the unique character, culture, and diversity of Charlottesville. Charlottesville cherishes and builds programming around the evolving research and interpretation of our historic heritage and resources. Through City partnerships and promotion of festivals, venues, and events, all have an opportunity to be a part of this thriving arts, cultural, and entertainment scene.

A Green City

Charlottesville citizens live in a community with a vibrant urban forest, tree-lined streets, and lush green neighborhoods. We have an extensive natural trail system, along with healthy rivers and streams. We have clean air and water, we emphasize recycling and reuse, and we minimize storm-water runoff. Our homes and buildings are sustainably designed and energy efficient.

America's Healthiest City

All residents have access to high-quality health care services. We have a community-wide commitment to personal fitness and wellness, and all residents enjoy our outstanding recreational facilities, walking trails, and safe routes to schools. We have a strong support system in place for families and for the elderly and disabled. Our emergency response system is among the nation's best.

A Connected Community

The City of Charlottesville is part of a comprehensive, regional transportation system that enables citizens of all ages and incomes to easily navigate our community. An efficient and convenient transit system supports mixed use development along our commercial corridors, while bike and pedestrian trail systems, sidewalks, and crosswalks enhance our residential neighborhoods. A regional network of connector roads helps to ensure that residential neighborhood streets remain safe and are not overburdened with cut-through traffic.

Smart, Citizen-Focused Government

The delivery of quality services is at the heart of Charlottesville's social compact with its citizens. Charlottesville's approach to customer service ensures that we have safe neighborhoods, strong schools, and a clean environment. We continually work to employ the optimal means of delivering services, and our decisions are informed at every stage by effective communication and active citizen involvement.

Sunday, November 5, 2006

It was agreed that Councilors and staff would address the following questions for each vision theme: 1) What are we doing now; 2) What do we need to do (action word/clear objective) 3) What are we going to do in one year or three to five years; and what is the implementation plan (responsibility, structure, funding, work plan steps).

It was agreed that one vision theme would be addressed at the retreat, and others addressed at work sessions to be scheduled in December and January.

Quality Housing Opportunities for All

Staff list of what we are doing now:

- supporting mixed use in zoning ordinance
- residential rehabilitation tax credits
- land or money to PHA/AHIP/Habitat for Humanity
- creating historic district to protect historic neighborhoods
- CRHA – downpayment assistance/low interest loans/1st time homebuyers
- tax relief program
- increased density allowed in certain neighborhoods in zoning ordinance
- affordable housing task force appointed
- invest in neighborhood based infrastructure
- new development in City of Charlottesville code enforcement

Staff list of what we need to do:

- prioritize and implement Housing Task Force recommendations (subject to funding)
- continue efforts with PHA, etc.
- encourage CRHA to pursue funding opportunities (grants, etc.) and use their land
- evaluate tax relief program
- housing investment trust fund
- policy on proffers

Council list of housing action steps (potential)

- working with ordinance develop for affordable units
- infill and PUD ordinance; increase in density
- University housing
- Chamber – conference on housing to get business community involved
- CAAR – workforce loan fund
- designated Housing Authority as CDBG priority for 1 year
- Housing Authority looking at/studying long term housing needs/asset development
- other organizations looking at needs – new housing analysis in Region Ten, Housing Dir, Council, JABA
- PDC regional task force to end homelessness
- legislative agenda – be more aggressive with development proffers
- recommendations – housing investment fund
- Planning Commission – affordable dwelling unit incentive – also at developer proffers
- looking at transit oriented development
- encouraging accessory apartments
- Mountainside
- living wage initiatives
- retaining equity for affordable housing stock
- partnership with Section 8 providers

Council analysis

- lots of stuff/shotgun approach
- It's a start – there are still gaps
- Do we have a way of finding out what's successful?
- Is there a better way to coordinate?
- Studies – produce needs and recommendations

Council – what to do?

- Could city do more coordination?

- City take better leadership role in better identifying – City has Housing Advisory Council to consolidate housing, dedicate dollars, and expand efforts

It was agreed that staff will bring back implementation plan, and ultimately staff and Council will create a picture of and align the vision with Strategic Plan areas, with the Strategic Plan being the five year plan for the vision. The work sessions will help Council develop one to two year priorities for getting started in this process.

Council briefly discussed a possible revision of Council meetings to enable more leadership discussion, and agreed they should spend time talking about how to keep the vision/Strategic Plan a living document.

The meeting was adjourned.