

Meeting Notes Land Use Information Accessibility Advisory Group

12 July 2006

Chairman Walter Alcorn welcomed the members and brought the Advisory Group meeting to order.

Meeting schedule for the Advisory Group:

Next meeting:

- **September 6th Rooms 2&3 of the Government Center**

Future Meetings:

- **October 11th**
- **November 8th**

All meetings will now start at 7:15.

Cathy Lemmon and Greg Scott walked the group through the new Land Use and Land Development Web pages. The pages will be in production by August 1st (DIT will confirm this for the group when they go into production). The Advisory Group will use the pages once they are on the public Web site and bring comments and suggestions to the September meeting. A few comments from last night included:

- **Add links to My Neighborhood from the new pages**
- **Links to my neighborhood should bring up a separate window for the user.**

- **Historical information for re-zonings should be added to the pages**
- **County contact numbers should be added so it would be easier for users to know who to call if they had further questions that were not answered by using the pages and data available on the system.**

Jeanne Wright walked the advisory group through the LDSNET search by address (for rezonings, site plans and subdivision plans) and magisterial district search for a number of zoning applications and site related plans. Jeanne explained the navigation through the pages and links to maps. She talked about a hover feature that is being developed for the search by address. When the user places the cursor over an information point on the map, a popup list of case(s) will be displayed. User will be able to select a case from the list and link to additional information for that case. Some suggestions from the group included:

- **Should add options to enlarge the maps**
- **Would like a link to a glossary or some other way to decipher abbreviations**
- **Development plans should be required in PDF form from developers and accessible and associated with staff reports**
- **Proffers should be searchable when available**
- **My Neighborhood should be better integrated with these screens.**

The new screens will be available by the end of August on the public Web Site (DIT will let the group know when they are available). The Advisory Group will use the pages once they are on the public Web site and bring comments and suggestions to the September meeting.

The Committee also requested that as we develop new functionality that we always consider integration of new functions and existing functions so that we can ensure that the system is user friendly.

There was discussion about proffers and affidavits, when they are available for review by the public and how and where these should be best made available on the system.

Jeanne stated that there will be a focus group formed for LDSNET from the volunteers that have already signed up from the group. Sheldon Hoenig asked to be added to the group and this will be done.

There were questions about the bonds and agreements. Staff recommended that the Bond Component of LDS be demonstrated for the group. This will be done at a future meeting.

NVBIA invited a speaker - Mr. Greg Ault - to the meeting. Mr. Ault discussed land use information from an industry perspective. He was very pleased at the current state of the County's land use Web functionality. Mr. Ault discussed the audience for land use information:

- Staff**
- Citizens**
- Professional Planners**
- Researchers**
- Advocacy Groups**
- Developers**
- Technical People**

Each of these groups needs a view of the data that meets its needs.

Mr. Ault noted that the search options on the Fairfax County Web site and the views of data available were quite useful. He also thought that the idea of a committee to make the site even better was a very good idea. For search ability, the following examples were given, query by:

- **Project**
- **Permit number**
- **Address**
- **Name**
- **Registered User**
- **Approved/denied by month/year**

Mr. Ault added that any requirements for mapping, 3D imaging and site development plans to be submitted electronically should be match to the scope of the project. Small projects may not need this and the requirement can be a burden to small companies doing small jobs.

In the area of information to be made available to a developer, by a developer and for an information user, the following is important to consider:

- **Submission requirements/regulatory requirements**
- **Status of the project**
 - **General information**
 - **Dates**
 - **Current status/cumulative status**
- **History**
 - **Previously approved/not pending**
 - **Political process**

- **Clearing points**

There was a discussion about the timing of availability of proffers to the public; this will be looked into further by the group.

The group also discussed communication between the Supervisor's Office and HOAs/District Committees/other citizen groups. Staff recommended that using the Supervisors' online comment functionality on the Web might be a good way to communicate between citizens and the supervisors. This information is processed via the Supervisors' Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system and handled by office staff. This may also be a good way for HOAs and other groups to also communicate changes in leadership to the Supervisor and office staff.

There was a discussion about NVBIA hosting development project information on its Web site for citizens to access. Links, comment and chat may be available via and NVBIA sponsored site that would not be allowed on the County Web Site.

Walter discussed the need to involve staff, citizens associations and industry at looking at innovative solutions that don't overburden County staff or conflict with County policy.

Tom Conry demonstrated the new link between County real estate information and My Neighborhood. He also showed the map history that is available on the County Web site.

Chairman Alcorn passed out a draft format for the committee's recommendations. The group discussed breaking the recommendations into manageable initiatives so that they can be done over time and in the most cost effective manner. The recommendations should probably be broken down into

quick hits, medium difficulty enhancements and longer term changes, so that they can be phased in.

Topics for future meetings were discussed and include:

- **Online Reporting**
- **Demo of the LDS Bonds subsystem**
- **Feedback on new Web functionality that will be online before the September meeting**
- **Further discussion of format for recommendations**

Advisory Group Members in Attendance:

Walter Alcorn - Chairman

Judith Anderson – League of Women Voters

Allison Anderson - EQAC

David Kochendarfer – Sully District

Linus Upson – Providence District

Jon Lindgren – NVBIA

Daniel Gonzales – Northern Virginia Technology Council

Not Present

David Dale – Mount Vernon District (Sheldon Hoenig represented Mount Vernon)

James Katcham – Federation of Citizens Associations

Anne Kanter – ITPAC

Not Nominated

Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce Member