

Board of Supervisors Land Use Policy Committee

October 4, 2022

Government Center Board Auditorium

Board of Supervisors (Board) Members present:

Jeff McKay, Chairman
Penelope Gross, Mason District (Vice Chairman)
James Walkinshaw, Braddock District
John Foust, Dranesville District
Walter Alcorn, Hunter Mill District
Rodney Lusk, Franconia District
Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District
Dalia Palchik, Providence District
Pat Herrity, Springfield District
Kathy Smith, Sully District (Committee Chair)

The Land Use Policy Committee (Committee) meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m.

The summary of the June 14, 2022, Committee meeting was accepted without change.

Post Emergency Ordinance:

Jennifer Josiah, Nonprofits and Places of Worship Coordinator, Department of Land Development Services (LDS) presented an overview of proposed path forward regarding land use programs upon lifting of COVID-19-related state of emergency. Also in attendance were William D. Hicks, Director, LDS, Tracy Strunk, Director, Department of Planning and Development (DPD), Leslie Johnson, Zoning Administrator, DPD, and Ken Dobbs, Department of Fire and Rescue. Ms. Josiah described the five programs that were instituted during the COVID-19 emergency, and options following the end of the declared emergency. The recommendation is to allow the four programs that were not widely used to sunset at the end of the one-year grace period. The outdoor dining program has been widely used and staff presented options that could create an administrative permit process that could allow outdoor seating in tents for restaurants to remain.

Discussion ensued regarding the administrative permit application process and fees, review considerations, approval conditions and permit expiration. Supervisor Walkinshaw requested information regarding the enforcement of smoking provisions within tents, with or without sides. Supervisor Herrity requested information regarding the list of sites that had erected tents on existing parking lots. Supervisor Gross expressed concerns about noise issues. Ms. Johnson described the applicability of the Noise ordinance. It was the consensus of the Committee that staff move forward with research and writing a draft proposal to create a permit process.

Reston Comprehensive Plan Amendment:

Tracy Strunk, Director, DPD, introduced Chris Caperton, Deputy Director, DPD, who presented the draft Reston Comprehensive Plan Amendment. Also in attendance were St. Clair Williams, Project Manager, DPD, and Leanna O'Donnell, Director, Planning Division, DPD. Mr. Caperton described the process of the development of the draft plan text, which began with authorization on Jan. 14, 2020, and comprised 58 virtual meetings of the 31-member task force. The task force was "given the pen" to draft plan language. The plan text as drafted includes new policy topic areas beyond the scope of the original authorization, including community health, equity, heritage resources, economic development, public art, and some other land use recommendations. A public comment period is underway, and county staff and the Planning Commission are also reviewing the plan text. Staff will prepare identify comments and responses and staff report and return to the Board.

Discussion ensued regarding the content of draft area plan, including county-wide policies in an area-specific portion of the comprehensive plan and ensuring there are no conflicts; the status of and coordination with other plan amendments; the timetable for continuing review and engagement; and the draft plan method of computation and amount of density. It was the consensus of the Committee that staff move forward as discussed.

Planning and Land Use System (PLUS) Release 4:

William Hicks, Director, LDS, discussed the launch of Release 4 of the PLUS system. Also in attendance were Greg Scott, Director, Department of Information Technologies, Tracy Strunk, Director, DPD, and Adam Kelly, PLUS Program Manager, LDS. Mr. Hicks described Release 4, the largest PLUS release to date and includes most of the plans and permits submitted to LDS, and the impact to business practices and customers. The transition will occur in three stages. The first stage is underway. The second stage is data conversion and will require a 10-calendar day freeze on all related systems starting October 21 and continue through launch on October 31, 2022. Stage 3 will follow launch with additional migration of submitted documents. Outreach and training for customers and staff are also ongoing.

Discussion ensued regarding the size, volume and age of the systems and data that are subject to the migration, staff resources dedicated to the process, communication and expectations of the process.

The Committee meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for November 22, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.