



2016 LOB Presentation Meeting Recap

Friday, January 22, 2016

Board Members Present:

Jeff McKay, Lee District, Budget Committee Chair
Sharon Bulova, Chairman
Penelope Gross, Mason District (Vice Chairman)
John Cook, Braddock District
Pat Herrity, Springfield District
Catherine Hudgins, Hunter Mill District
Kathy Smith, Sully District
Linda Smyth, Providence District
Daniel Storck, Mount Vernon District

Planning and Zoning (Fred Selden, Marianne Gardner, Barbara Berlin, Leslie Johnson, Dee Fredrickson)

- <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/lob/2016/g3535-ppt.pdf>
- Most employees S-24 and above
- Many retirements to date, 55% of staff in current positions less than 2 years
- Key initiative/rebranding with “Fairfax Forward” which focuses on how to make things better
- Placemaking is key - create kind of places that people want to be, throughout county, not just Tysons etc.
- Public facilities - how meet needs creatively (ie, Providence Community Center)
- Reaching out to public with social media, traditional methods, “Land Use College”, etc
- Metrics difficult to identify given unique nature of each project
- No one size fits all, want innovative ways
 - Zoning Evaluation Division focusing on improving customer service by reclassing existing positions to allow more follow-up emails to address feeling that applications went into black hole
 - Approach plan review in collaborative way with other stakeholders (agencies, etc)
 - Major areas right now are Reston, Tysons and Other areas (Penn Daw, Marham, Laurel Hill, etc)
- Days to process applications reduced from 128 in FY 2014 to 7.7 to date in FY 2016
- Discussion took place regarding difficulty in identifying good statistics given variability in projects and public involvement
 - ⌘ Categorization of applications to allow for more meaningful statistics, should have some goal/ideal time
 - Agency indicated this effort is underway
 - It was pointed out that staff does indicate a timeline/expectations based on the various factors for each project
 - 3-4 months to get single issue PCA through process generally is a standard staff has
 - The need for meaningful metrics was reiterated
- Zoning Administration
 - Lot of activity (zoning amendments, appeals)
 - Zoning Ordinance old (1978) and needs review, there are some consultant recommendations
- Electronic plan submission being piloted, really the way of the future
- Using interactive maps
- Trends and challenges
 - Population growth occurring in activity centers
 - Aging population creates new and different demands
 - Demand for information 24/7 requires keeping pace with technological developments and digital information
 - Dwindling supply of vacant land

- Discussion took place regarding a Washington Post article being written on maintenance/recovery of property values and role of planning in focusing growth the way people want.
 - ⌚ Suggested a metric could be holding on property values, bond ratings.
 - Think about when tell story.
- Staff mentioned that aesthetics are important and discussed followed.
 - ⌚ All elements should be considered when planning, make public facilities multifunctional, for example, ask what is missing and get stakeholders to table earlier
- ? Supervisor Gross asked that record digitization be added to the IT Project List
- Misunderstanding in community regarding “protecting stable neighborhoods” mentioned during presentation.
- ⌚ “Getting to Yes” (slide #19)-requires more compassion in addressing homeowners of older homes who want to update their homes and are told by DPZ cannot or obstacles are raised. Need to find a way to address this.
- Quicker way to get to end must be identified and unintended consequences of original decisions must be addressed.
 - Conditions change, look different in real life
 - Look at ordinance
 - With proffers, consider being clearer on the issue and more general in the “fix” as specificity may be limiting later (ie, underutilized HOA shuttle to metro example in neighborhood)
 - Mr. Selden responded that work is underway to improve proffer process, especially with respect to enforcement.
 - ⌚ Proffers should be simplified and include clarification of issue will help, don’t get caught up in market cycles that change.
- ⌚ Supervisor Smith commented that placemaking is important in Sully and wants to learn more about how to attract young people.

Planning Commission (Timothy Sargeant, Jill Cooper, Kim Bassarab,)

- <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/lob/2016/g3636-ppt.pdf>
- Budget mostly compensation, reflects staff and commissioners
- Community engagement supremely important, more people participating in meetings
- Number of meetings have increased over time
- Supervisors thanked staff and the Commissioners for their dedication and hard work
- ⌚ Discussion took place regarding the heavy workload and potential ideas to focus on activities that are contributing to workload
 - How big is the audience for the quarterly newsletter? Consider eliminating this work given workload (⌚ Across the county – for all agencies – consider the value of publications based on readership)
 - Concerned about recruiting and retention of commissioners given commitment of time/complexity.
 - Staff tries to consolidate meetings.
 - Don’t want to cut back on citizen engagement but what else could be reduced to alleviate workload? Use LOBs as opportunity for review
 - Mr. Sargeant suggested streamlining process to help workload. Cited changes to local child care ordinance and nearly 400 cases that came before commission was an immense workload.

Solid Waste Management (James Patteson, John Kellas, Steve Aitcheson)

- http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/lob/2016/solid_waste-ppt.pdf
- Working towards new solid waste agency
- New agreement with Covanta minimizes environmental impact, provides below market pricing,
 - transitioning to merchant plant
 - was a significant source of revenue
- Embrace use of metrics, helps with accountability
- Increasing productivity without increasing resources
- Workplace safety improved as well (injuries down approximately 50%)
- Responding to changing needs of customers (household hazardous waste, shredding events)
- ? Supervisor Cook requested one page memo Covanta contract changes and discussion on of “flow control” ensued.

- Want rate stabilization fund to last as long as possible
- Supervisors complimented staff on professionalism
- ? Supervisor Smyth asked if glass should be removed from recycling stream given high cost
- ⌚ A discussion took place regarding continuation of leaf and residential trash collection
 - ⌚ A review of the Solid Waste financial model will be done by the Environmental Committee
 - Is it really efficient when management costs are considered?
 - What are the economics?
 - Opportunity for private sector?
 - Solid Waste's ability to help clear lots etc during storms adds value to the County and helps to gauge price being charged by the private sector
- ⌚ Safety record is good news thing, emphasize and replicate elsewhere in public works