

Planning and Coordination Council Quarterly Meeting Minutes

May 21st, 2015

Albemarle County Office Building (McIntire Road)

Room 241

2:00pm

PACC Members in Attendance: Tom Foley, Satyendra Huja, Diantha McKeel, Brad Sheffield (Chair), Colette Sheehy, Dede Smith, Teresa Sullivan, Aubrey Watts

Others in Attendance: Chip Boyles, Missy Creasy, Mike Gibson, Ron Lantz, Matt Lawless (secretary), Chris Roberts, Sean Tubbs, Ron Short, Mike Wagner, and members of the public.

1. Call to Order

Tom Foley, Albemarle County Executive, called the meeting to order at 2:06pm.

Supervisor Brad Sheffield welcomed those in attendance and introduced the agenda.

2. Approval of Past Minutes

There were no corrections to the minutes. The minutes of the November 20, 2014 meeting were approved by voice vote.

3. Safety Update: University of Virginia

President Teresa Sullivan thanked PACC members for their history of strong collaboration and she talked about new venues for partnership. She reported on recommendations by the new safety work group which was established late last year: bystander training for faculty and students has expanded under the title "Hoos Got Your Back" to include nearby merchants and landlords, with the goal of empowering bystanders to take action to prevent crime; on-Grounds lighting has been enhanced, with night tours proving very helpful; cameras have also been increased, with 70 new cameras online in 2015; an additional shuttle van has been added; and counseling services have been enhanced, increasing long-term support and adult counseling options. She stated that the University has an ad hoc group on Climate and Culture which includes students, parents, visitors, faculty, and staff. She noted that three related working groups have focused on prevention, response, and culture, and these have delivered reports to the ad hoc group. She reported that recommendations from that group include short-term, medium-term, and long-term actions, some of which are already underway and an integrated report is forthcoming.

President Sullivan stated that orientation and online modules will improve safety education for incoming first year students. She said another major effort is an interim policy implementation on sexual- and gender-based harassment. In addition, she said the University is expecting to include findings from the Governor's task force regarding campus violence. She stated that the University is incorporating policy changes from new state legislation and these bills will address emergency response, police coordination, and student transcripts. She reported that the University is also in the process of hiring a new Title IX

coordinator and a new Clery Act compliance coordinator. She explained that Clery geography for UVA's compliance includes much of Charlottesville and parts of Albemarle County. In addition, she said UVA will monitor serious criminal activity in the area and communicate that information to students and the public online and in print.

Mr. Sheffield asked in what ways Albemarle County might help support these new initiatives. President Sullivan said the new Clery coordinator will need to meet with the police forces and UVA's General Counsel will also work to update memorandums of understanding.

UVA Police Chief, Michael Gibson, provided an update on the Ambassador Program and the new substation. He said Ambassadors work 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. in the areas of Rugby Road, Preston Ave., 10th St., and University Ave. He stated that ambassadors are approachable and engaging, and dedicated to personal relationships and communication. He said the program is active and will be modified during the summer. He reported that ambassadors are private contractors and introduced two management staff from G4S Security, Ron Short and Chris Roberts.

City Councilor, Dede Smith, asked about hiring locally. Mr. Roberts said 42 ambassadors have been hired within a 5-10-mile radius locally, and come from a variety of backgrounds including military and security. All personnel receive customer service training. He noted that the local Virginia Employment Commission Office was very helpful in this regard. County Supervisor, Diantha McKeel, asked about any problems in hiring. Mr. Roberts said there was some delay initially but they reached full staffing in spring. He reported that background checks are thorough and linked to state standards and databases. He added that bike patrols are used. Ms. Smith asked about training. Mr. Short said training includes first aid, bicycle, campus security, Clery compliance, and other training all of which lasts about two months. Ms. McKeel mentioned that the ambassadors she has seen are clearly identified, and are working in pairs for on-the-job training. To Ms. Smith's question, G4S is eager to partner with City economic development efforts to identify candidates.

Ms. Smith also asked about results data. Chief Gibson said he hopes to have increased data for an initial report by the end of June to tailor the services locally. He said the program is based loosely on a successful service at the University of Pennsylvania. Ms. McKeel asked about a relationship to the County's geo-policing model with local assignments and relationships. Chief Gibson described the value of high visibility officers as they provide a walking escort, observe changes in behavior, and share information and do repeat safety messages. Mr. Huja asked about program evaluation. Chief Gibson said he will examine numbers of contacts and especially crime rates. Mr. Short shared anecdotes for services provided to students around Rugby and Wertland and noted that services are more accessible. He mentioned that ambassadors will not have arrest powers.

Chief Gibson then reported on the police substation which was implemented on a temporary basis in January with a pod across the street from the permanent home at the old framing shop. He said the substation will open in August and noted that shared offices will be used to base the G4S ambassadors, store and maintain their bikes, and house meeting space to work with merchants and partner police forces.

County Police Lieutenant Mike Wagner reported on results from the Foxfield Races and presented images from the event. He noted that the bike patrol was valuable; however, this was a more difficult year for traffic flow. He reported that the traffic control contractor had limited local knowledge and

training, which will be improved in the future. He said traffic congestion created significant safety risks and limited emergency response capacity. He reported that attendance was about 18,000, with 75 more buses than last year and more attendees from elsewhere in the state. He said, with a change in law enforcement strategy, there are now fewer arrests and far more EMS calls which helps law enforcement focus resources on safety. He said, in order to improve basic information, an AM radio broadcast could be very helpful in the future. He stated that UVA safety briefings were helpful but they were overwhelmed this year. He noted that UTS does not provide buses for the event because of high risk and liability; liability for private buses falls on them and their insurance. Mr. Foley agreed to follow up and continue to improve event planning in the future.

4. Lighting Update: City of Charlottesville

Missy Creasy from Charlottesville Neighborhood Development Services said the City has consultant services for a lighting study in partnership with the University and the timeframe is five and half months once the contract is finalized. She reported that the work will be focused on the Corner, West Main, and downtown. Ms. Creasy said nighttime surveys will be done, with follow-up analysis work. She reported that community groups are active in the partnership and Mr. Foley has been actively involved; she commended the three police chiefs for their coordination.

5. Identify Future Agenda Items

Mr. Sheffield said he would be interested in hearing about overlap in each partner's strategic plan and stated that this may reveal opportunities or gaps for improvement. He said a one-page summary at the next meeting would be helpful. Ms. McKeel agreed that overlap in the strategies would be interesting and a simple report might help to begin a conversation. Ms. Smith agreed that adjacency needs to be considered. UVA Vice President, Colette Sheehy, asked for clarification that the strategic plan referred to land use plans rather than operating plans. It was acknowledged that there are some areas of operations that may lend themselves to joint conversations.

Ms. McKeel also noted the potential for shared, linked planning around walkability, bike trails, and the like. She said the Hedgerow Property is a key opportunity for shared land use planning and connectivity.

Mayor Huja noted shared transit systems as another area of opportunity. Ms. McKeel agreed and said she would like to hear information about a possible consolidation of CAT and UTS systems. She said Harrisonburg and Blacksburg have planning, funding, and operational agreements with the universities within their communities.. Mr. Sheffield said he would be interested to hear about barriers in organizational partnership and would like staff to define any fundamental obstacles. Ms. Smith serves on CAT Advisory Board which was empaneled by City Council to assist in the decision making process with regard to CAT service changes restructuring. The CAT board includes citizen representation as well as representation from UTS and JAUNT. New electronic fare boxes will greatly improve ridership data. Mr. Sheffield said he has observed duplication of services, but sharing the GoDriver training is a good example and mentioned that this could be a County economic development opportunity.

Mr. Foley said he would follow up with Maurice Jones and Pat Hogan and report back.

Ms. Smith agreed about the value of coordinating paths and trails. Mr. Sheffield added that the Route 29 projects are an opportunity for shared infrastructure - the idea of biking to work from Forest Lakes to UVA, expanding bike share programs through the community would also be valuable. Mr. Foley

remarked on City-County cooperation in comprehensive planning and noted that the MPO's long-range planning encompasses some of this work. Mr. Foley restated the value of following up on regional connectivity and general strategic alignment for the next meeting.

Mr. Sheffield said he would also like to hear an update on the GoDriver program.

Ms. McKeel mentioned affordable housing needs as a topic and commended Ridge Schuyler's ideas on housing in university communities. She said Mr. Schuyler's address to this group at a future meeting could be very informative. Ms. Smith agreed, noting that a program like the University of Pennsylvania's procurement of goods and services from the local community could have an economic impact here.

Mr. Foley will work with the other staff partners to complete this follow-up work.

Ms. Sullivan said she expects half of the University's faculty to retire in the next decade. She said spouses of new faculty members will need employment opportunities and that would be part of a successful recruitment. Additionally, she said alumni often wish to return or retire to this community. She noted that the University is increasingly able to generate start-up businesses and employment in key driver industries. She announced that a new residence hall will be named for William and Isabella Gibbons.

Ms. Smith praised PACC's coordination for being as good as ever; she said progress is notable even in local history and historic preservation.

The next meeting is targeted for August 20th. There may be a scheduling problem with the beginning of classes.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31pm.