



SUSTAINABILITY · UVA

# Master Planning Council (MPC)

MEETING NOTES - May 18th, 2011

Office of the Architect for the University

## Summary: Sustainable and Livable Communities Report 2011 Sustainability Assessment Update

### Meeting Agenda

- Report on the 'Many Plans, One Community' Planning Process by Steve Williams, Executive Director of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission
- Update on the 2011 Sustainability Assessment by Andrew Greene, Sustainability Planner, Office of the Architect

### Presentation Summaries

#### Report on the 'Many Plans, One Community' Planning Process by Steve Williams, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

Mr. Williams began with a brief introduction about the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC). The TJPDC is a regional planning agency that includes the counties of Greene, Louisa, Fluvanna, Nelson, and Albemarle, and the City of Charlottesville. The TJPDC coordinates planning, administers grants, engages in transportation planning, environmental planning and community planning and administers the RideShare program throughout the region.

In 2010, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced a Sustainable Communities Grant Program. The City of Charlottesville, County of Albemarle and TJPDC collaborated to apply for a grant. The timing was right for pursuing the grant because both the City and the County are beginning their comprehensive plan updates and the Metropolitan Planning Organization is beginning the update of its Long Range Transportation Plan.

The grant proposal focused on several key points:

- It was recognized that many plans over the past 10 years included reference to, or are based on, sustainability principles, but many of the recommendations from these plans have not been incorporated into Comprehensive Plans and/or Zoning Codes.
- Many sustainability goals did not have an available source of funding to incorporate into Comprehensive Plans.
- There was a desire to develop a performance management system to establish baseline livability and to model and evaluate future plans.
- There is a need to create a single map showing the City, County and University comprehensive plan land use maps
- There is a need to detect commonalities and find areas of collaboration among the city, county and university
- Development of ways to codify sustainable/liveability principles was needed.
- Development of voluntary programs to increase sustainable practices by the public in the region was needed.

The proposal was successful, resulting in a \$1 million HUD award. The

#### MPC Members

David J. Neuman, Chair  
Architect for the University

Arthur Garson, Jr  
Executive Vice President and Provost

Nancy Rivers  
Chief Of Staff for The President, Associate Vice  
President for Administration

Ed Howell (Kevin Fox attending)  
Vice President and CEO, UVA. Health System

Pat Lampkin  
Vice President and Chief Student Affairs  
Officer

Craig K. Littlepage  
Director of Athletic Programs

Yoke San L. Reynolds  
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Colette Sheehy  
Vice President for Management & Budget

Kim Tanzer  
Dean of the School of Architecture

Dorrie Fontaine  
Dean of the School of Nursing

**Ex-officio**  
Wayne Cilimberg  
Director of Planning, Albemarle County

Ed Smith  
Albemarle County Planning Commission

Genevieve Keller  
Vice Chair, Charlottesville Planning Commission

Judy Maretta  
Director of Space and Real Estate Management

Julia Monteith,  
Senior Land Use Planner, Office of the Architect

Donald E. Sundgren  
Chief Facilities Officer

Jim Tolbert (Ebony Walden attending)  
Director of NDS, City of Charlottesville

Rebecca White  
Director of Parking & Transportation

Ida Lee Wootten  
Director of Community Relations

#### Student Members

Spencer Boice  
Graduate Representative

Danielle MacGregor  
Undergraduate Representative

region was one of 45 recipients across the country chosen for funding.

The planning effort has already begun with a focus on getting disparate groups together to begin a constructive dialogue about growth issues. As the effort is developed further, there will be a series of five products that will be brought before the Planning and Coordination Council (PACC) for approval. The first of these is the consortium agreement that will be brought to PACC in May for review, but will not be considered for approval until there has been suitable public participation. The next step in the process is to develop the **performance measurement system** and present it to the public in late June.

## University of Virginia Context

Aerial Photograph



Jurisdictional Map



UVa has an advisory role in the 'Many Plans, One Community' planning process, and will be a key contributor to the process. Both the 2008 Grounds Plan and Environmental Footprint Reduction Plan will be used as guidance documents. The overall goal of the process is to improve livability in the Charlottesville/Albemarle area, and from a planning perspective, address the area as a single entity. In addition to the advisory role the University is playing, there is also an academic symbiosis through graduate student participation in the development of the performance measurement system.

So far, there has been strong public interest in the planning effort. In April, there was a kick-off event at the Albemarle County Office building that was attended by over 160 individuals. Following his comments on the 'Many Places, One Community' planning process, Mr. Williams answered several questions, which are summarized below:

Q: What are some examples of performance measures?

A: Five systems make up the community experience, enjoyment and needs; 1) neighborhoods and communities, 2) natural systems, 3) economy, 4) housing, 5) transportation and infrastructure. The performance measurements are still being established, but will be based on readily available and regularly collected data. For example, for economy, one measure would be employment by industry. There are anticipated to be 35-40 measurements in all.

Q: How will the performance measures be used?

A: The use of the measures is still being developed. One idea is to develop a point system with an overall sum and a breakdown to highlight areas needing improvement.

Q: How will this integrate with other smaller plans (transit, water quality plans, etc.)?

A: Part of the planning effort is to fold the sustainability goals of these smaller plans into the comprehensive plan updates of the City and the County. A database is currently being created that captures every recent community plan recommendation. This database will be used to collate recommendations and figure out how they interact with other recommendations to better utilize them in the comprehensive plans being developed.

Q: What is the definition of livability?

A: There is no specific definition. The definition will be established as an outcome of the process. The community will develop their values of livability and sustainability.

Q: What two big issues might be a barrier to the process?

A: One barrier is that this community has many different groups with many strong opinions, but not always much interaction. The challenge is to get these groups to the table and participating. Some groups are possibly trying to scuttle the process. If it occurs that agreement, or consensus cannot be reached, it may be necessary to bring in a conflict resolution expert to advance the process.

Q: What if one community takes a different stand on their livability goals than the other?

A: The name of the process is intentional: 'Many plans, one community.' There are big differences between the expectations of the City and County, so it is not anticipated that they will do the same thing. The hope is to achieve the best decision by both the City and County on how to best proceed.

Q: Are you making an effort to make sure other community's metrics are comparable?

A: The graduate student researchers have started looking into this through benchmarking. They found there are few examples out there, but they are getting good ideas from them. Blacksburg is close to our area, and they also won one of the grants. It does not appear that Virginia Tech played a role in the grant application. Our area was one of the few that had a structure (PACC) already established, so the oversight group (PACC) continues when the grant is completed.

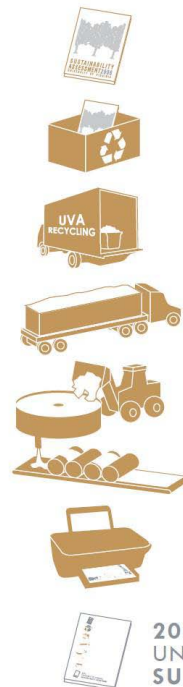
### **Update on the 2011 Sustainability Assessment by Andrew Greene, Sustainability Planner, Office of the Architect**

The Sustainability Assessment, first undertaken in 2006, is being updated in 2011. This effort dovetails with sustainability initiatives going to the Board of Visitors. The assessment documents sustainable practices and programs at the University.

The update began in Summer 2010 by sending out the sustainability assessment survey. In Fall of 2010, assessment research and benchmarking was done. The results of the assessment were summarized into a report in winter of 2011 and the committee on sustainability reviewed the first draft in Spring of 2011. The assessment will be presented to the committee for adoption in late May and released to the public in June 2011.

The goal of the 2011 assessment is to document accomplishments since 2006 and to develop new sustainability goals for the future. The assessment is divided into four sections. 1) Strategy for Sustainability, 2) Governance and Culture, 3) Academics and Learning and 4) Management Centers (land use, energy, built environment, water, transportation, waste and recycling and food)

Four key strategies for sustainability are contained in the assessment: 1) Develop and approve a comprehensive set of objective and measurable goals for sustainability designed to focus priorities and drive change 2) adopt a concise, motivating sustainability vision, 3) create an interdisciplinary center for sustainability and 4) standardize an approach to use the Grounds as a teaching tool and living/learning lab.



2011  
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SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT



In support of strategy #1, UVa has become a member of STARS (AASHE sustainability reporting system), which will help to track sustainability programs and serves as a common reporting system among colleges and universities.

UVa has several accomplishments in the category of governance and culture: It has created the President's Committee on Sustainability, developed a UVa Sustainability logo and website and launched the sustainability pledge. Several student initiatives, like the student vegetable garden, annual sustainability poster competition and fraternity/sorority recycling program highlight the importance of their interest in establishing a sustainable culture at the University.

The University is incorporating sustainability into its academics and learning. Enrollment in the Global Sustainability course continues to grow and an interdisciplinary minor in Global Sustainability was approved in February of 2011.

All of the management centers have made progress since 2006. Land use has been guided by the 2008 Grounds Plan and subsequent Precinct Plans and Health System Area Plan. Sustainability is a central theme of these plans. For the Built Environment, new buildings and major renovations at UVa are now required to be LEED certified, leading to more sustainable construction practices and improved thinking about the life cycle of a building. In transportation, the University has adopted a Transportation Demand Management plan and adopted strategies such as CavPool, ZipCar and online bus finder. To improve the sustainability of food on Grounds, Dining is trying to increase the use of local food, and is composting its waste and using reusable to-go containers. Reduction in energy consumption through efficiency and retro-commissioning has been a big part of the improvement in energy since 2006. Water use and quality are being addressed in a variety of ways. Stormwater is being impounded in cisterns below permeable pavement for use in watering the landscape. For building systems, low flow toilets are the norm. Lastly, the University's waste and recycling operations are being improved by engaging in composting, recycling construction waste and setting up an office supply exchange to promote reuse.

The plan also looks at what other Universities are doing to implement sustainability goals and provides recommendations for furthering sustainable practices at UVa over the next five years.

