

Long Range Educational Facilities Planning Work Group
Meeting #4
City Hall – Sister Cities Conference Room, #1101
Wednesday, June 26, 2013, 5:30pm
Meeting Summary

Meeting notes are recorded by City Staff to provide a written record of principal items of discussion, key comments, decisions of the Work Group, and comments from the public. They are not intended to be a verbatim transcription of the meeting.

Meeting Attendees

LREFP Work Group Members

Ken Billingsley
Ronnie Campbell
Karen Graf
Mark Eisenhour
Mayor Euille
Yvonne Folkerts
Chris Hartman
Judy Noritake
Julie Rocchio
Justin Wilson

Members not in attendance

Herb Berg
Debra Collins
Dr. Tammy L. Mann
Keith Jabati
Dr. Morton Sherman

ACPS

Laurel Hammig

City of Alexandria

Karl Moritz
Steve Chozick
Pat Mann
Ron Kagawa
Ryan Price
Katherine Carraway
Ariel Giles
Dana Wedeles

Community Members

James Durham

Welcome and Introductions

Karl Moritz, Deputy Director for the Department of Planning and Zoning, welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the meeting's agenda.

Confirmation of Work Program and Schedule

Mr. Moritz turned the meeting over to Laurel Hammig, Facilities Planner/GIS Specialist for ACPS, who summarized the work program/schedule and subcommittee discussion from the Work Group's April 8th meeting. Ms. Hammig noted that there was much discussion about the timing of the Student Assignment Subcommittee, including whether it should be removed from the Work Group's schedule. The April 8th meeting ended with the decision to leave it on the schedule pending further discussion.

Ms. Hammig asked that the group again discuss and finalize its decision on the Student Assignment issue as well as the work program/schedule.

Julie Rocchio shared that the Alexandria PTA Council (PTAC) would like to be a part of the Student Assignment dialogue, whether it is addressed by this group or the School Board. Mr. Moritz noted that if a new school is being built, student assignment needs to be discussed – not necessarily by this group.

Karen Graf expects that the School Board will address School Assignment when it reconvenes in September, pointing out that it has not been reviewed for several years. With work and planning beginning at Jefferson-Houston and Patrick Henry, it's necessary to explore student assignment for those schools as well as for the city as a whole.

In addition to establishing a timeline for addressing student assignment, Ms. Graf will propose to the School Board that the Work Group have a role in the study of the issue as it is already conducting a lot of the analysis and has familiarity with the topic.

Mr. Moritz asked for confirmation that the proposal is to have student assignment discussed by the School Board in September with the idea that it would look to the Work Group for information and coaching, to which Ms. Graf agreed.

With regard to Patrick Henry planning, Mark Eisenhour mentioned that a community engagement committee meeting is being held on July 9th – noting that it's not a community meeting. Judy Noritake emphasized that it is critical for a member of the Park and Recreation Commission, not just staff, of the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities (RPCA) be a part of this meeting and Mr. Eisenhour concurred.

Report on Enrollment Forecasting/Demographics Subcommittee Meeting

Steve Chozick, Division Chief, GIS, updated the group on the Enrollment Forecasting/Demographics Subcommittee meeting held on June 10th.

The purpose of this first meeting of the subcommittee was to clarify its role. In an effort to ensure that committee members were apprised of all research and findings, Mr. Chozick said that staff focused on presenting information that has been collected and analyzed to date, as well as explaining the city's

long-term development forecasting methodology and what impact it might have on enrollment. Subcommittee and community members discussed the information presented. As a result of the discussion, staff will design an action plan and timeline of topics to research and analyze, and will take the plan back to the subcommittee for approval.

Mr. Chozick listed a few of the areas affecting long-term enrollment forecast:

- Housing affordability and its impact on generation rates
- Job growth
- Migration patterns
- Historic cohort survival rates

The next meeting of the subcommittee will be scheduled toward the end of July, at which time the members will be asked to approve the research plan and will be presented with Housing Affordability information and analysis.

Update on Architecture and Engineering (A&E) Scope of Work

Ms. Hammig summarized what was discussed at the previous quarterly meeting regarding the A&E scope of work, and updated the group on the facilities analysis process.

Three main phases comprised the scope of work:

- Document existing conditions - building interiors, update floor plans / exterior site considerations
- Update educational specifications (ed specs) for elementary and middle schools (work performed for the Jefferson-Houston project will not be replicated)
- Analyze facilities based on ed specs – i.e., educational adequacy assessment – finalize recommendations for additional capacity or renovations to facilities to bring them in line with the ed specs

Ms. Hammig explained that the procurement request was divided into two parts: 1) Document existing conditions, which should be complete by mid-July; and 2) Ed specs and the educational adequacy assessment, which should be complete by the end of July/beginning of August. The schedule of the work with estimated completion dates will be communicated to the group after the consultants are on-board.

The timing of the first Facility Capacity Needs Analysis Subcommittee meeting depends on contracting a consultant, at which time Ms. Hammig said one will be scheduled.

Yvonne Folkerts asked Ms. Hammig about the timing. Ms. Hammig said that phasing of proposed recommendations (i.e. renovation versus building new) is part of the plan which will be finalized by the fall of 2014. The recommendations included in the plan will inform future CIPs.

Proposed Community Engagement

Mr. Moritz suggested to the group that it consider opportunities for community members to be involved in this project, aside from participating in the regular quarterly and subcommittee meetings. He proposed that events be designed to engage the community and give them a voice in the group's work.

One public meeting is scheduled in September, which will include an expanded Road Show presentation (Recent Growth in Alexandria's School Enrollment). Mr. Moritz explained that this can start a conversation with the community about the enrollment challenges in Alexandria and known factors that are shaping them.

Mr. Moritz recommended having another community meeting in December, during which the work group can produce its draft long-range enrollment forecast, illustrating all of the scenarios and considerations in their development. Community members can take that opportunity to comment or make suggestions, which can be incorporated into the final draft.

The draft LREF plan is expected to be available by the fall of 2014. Community members will again have the opportunity to provide feedback through a forum designed specifically for that purpose.

Ms. Folkerts asked for confirmation that the group's work plan is being coordinated with the School Board's budget calendar. Mr. Wilson called attention to the exit ramps that were created in the work program schedule to address these types of issues, especially as it relates to the City's CIP.

Mr. Moritz said that the draft short-term forecast is needed for the CIP and could possibly be completed in time to meet the budget schedule (October/November 2014). The draft long-term forecast, which extends beyond what is needed for the CIP, would most likely be available in the November/December 2014 timeframe.

Updates

Mr. Moritz updated the group on completed and scheduled Road Show presentations, as well as the status of focus group meetings which were discussed during April's work group meeting.

Because some community members are looking at Cameron Station as a model for making decisions about Potomac Yard school development, Ms. Rocchio asked that the group find an opportunity to accurately communicate the reasons pointing to overcrowding in the west end of Alexandria – indicating that Samuel Tucker Elementary is not filled (overfilled) with students from only Cameron Station.

Ms. Hammig suggested that the Road Show meeting in September would be a good time to open up the discussion.

Next Steps

- Staff will email the group a status doc of the Road Show presentations
- Staff will update group on the status of the focus groups with realtors

Meeting Handouts

Agenda
Draft Community Engagement Strategy
Enrollment Subcommittee Meeting Summary
April 8 Work Group Meeting Summary
LREFP Work Program Schedule