

Better Site Implementation
Wednesday, July 26, 2006; 11:00 a.m.
JCC Government Complex: Bldg. A Conference Room

I. Review of Minutes

There were no corrections to previous minutes from July 13, 2006.

II. Updates

The committee reviewed its progress on established goals. All agreed the progress in setting the committee's direction was a priority and the current track was satisfactory. No updates on TV programming were available, but Ms. Cook noted that the website was now up and a "status" column for Principle updates was available on the Excel spreadsheet on the website. The committee wished to add an informational link to Builders for the Bay on the website.

Principle 10 was assigned to Ms. Ellen Cook under new assignments. Mr. Cosby and Mr. Almquist were assigned to Street Width Principle (No.1) as part of street design.

Mr. Woolson and Mr. Almquist informed the committee that PRIDE has agreed to write and publish a brochure, "Open Space Management Program of James City County." This will help meet Principles 9, 14, 17 and 18. The committee stated approval with the right to draft document review. Additionally, the committee believed a letter to new home owners and home owner associations should be drafted along with this brochure. Ms. Hughes shared her findings regarding RPA buffers and natural vegetation to address Principle 17. The committee discussed how to compile a list of natural vegetation for home owners based on the Virginia Cooperative Extension and commercial lists to ensure availability of plantings. Ms. Hughes would like to examine ordinances and incentives for homeowners to avoid disturbing the RPA buffer. Concern was expressed with native aggressive vegetation and fertilization causing more damage to the environment. Ms. Hughes gave an example of permitting paths which would then encourage homeowners to buffer the path from their property via additional landscaping. Mr. Cleary strongly encouraged the County to encourage a new project to become a poster child as good examples are often the best way to encourage others.

Ms. Hughes also shared her concerns with Principle 10, Open Space Design. She stated the committee should define "valuable open space." She also expressed concern in protecting existing subdivision character. Mr. Cosby agreed and mentioned the practice of creating a buffer between subdivisions as a solution. Ms. Hughes expressed that she would like if the committee looked at "Conservation Design Resource Manual." The committee also discussed the process of ordinance changes for wording concerning R-1 with respect to open space design (cluster).

Ms. Cook announced she had shared the proposed shared parking agreement with the county attorney. There will be a revision made and then reviewed.

III. Meeting Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m. The next meeting will be August 9, 2006 at 11 a.m.