



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk

Minutes

Organizational Development Standing Committee

Monday, November 1, 2021

5:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Chair
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Vice Chair
The Honorable Andreas Addison – Member
The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Member
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Member
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Member (late arrival)
The Honorable Michael Jones – Member

Absent

The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Member
The Honorable Reva Trammell – Member

Others in Attendance

Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Jamie Isley, Boards and Commissions Administrator
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m., and presided.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the minutes of the Monday, October 4, 2021 Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting, at 5:00 p.m., and the minutes were approved as presented.

Reports from City Administration, Council Staff and Other Parties

Annual Report of Reynolds Community College

Reynolds Community College President Dr. Paula Pando provided the committee with a presentation detailing programs offered by Reynolds Community College, college admissions statistics, and how the college addressed the COVID-19 pandemic.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Member Stephanie Lynch arrived and was seated at 5:18 p.m.

Chair Cynthia Newbille stated her appreciation for the presentation, and she praised Dr. Pando and the Reynolds Community College staff for navigating college operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Member Kristen Larson inquired how the city can promote Reynolds Community College as a post high school opportunity for Richmond Public Schools students.

Dr. Pando stated promoting federal financial aid opportunities to students would help increase the number of college enrollees. Dr. Pando also stated that the application process for federal aid was too complex and needed to be simplified.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson inquired about statistics related to the drop in applications between adult students and individuals recently graduating from high school.

Dr. Pando stated that the college's applicant pool was very diverse, and that many potential students did not have time to apply and attend Reynolds, due to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on an applicant's available funds and time. Dr. Pando also stated that adult men were the largest drop within Reynolds's applicant pool.

Member Stephanie Lynch inquired about Reynolds's counselor staffing to address students experiencing hardships.

Dr. Pando stated that the Virginia Community College System previously prohibited community colleges from offering counseling or psychiatric services. Dr. Pando informed the committee that the policy changed in the past year, and now Reynolds offers counseling services and helps connect students with available services from outside sources.

Member Andreas Addison inquired if Reynolds was making efforts to help expand locally owned businesses with training opportunities.

Dr. Pando stated Reynolds was beginning to examine possible incubation facilities to help encourage local businesses to train and grow. Dr. Pando also stated that Reynolds provided opportunities to train local workers necessary to staff local businesses. Dr. Pando also provided the committee with information regarding Reynolds's work with the city's Office of Community Wealth Building.

Member Kristen Larson stated her appreciation for Dr. Pando's presentation and requested that Dr. Pando present to the full body of Council annually.

Richmond 300 Priority Project List

Kevin Vonck, Department of Planning and Development Review Director provided the committee with a presentation detailing the city's Six Big Moves initiatives and the city's progress on completing Richmond 300 projects.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Member Michael Jones inquired how the Hull Street Corridor Revitalization Plan and RES. 2021-R036 would be integrated into the Richmond 300 Master Plan. Member Jones also inquired about the impact of designating Jackson Ward as an old and historic district. Member Jones expressed his concern that designating Jackson Ward an old and historic district may bring hardships to current homeowners trying to maintain and improve their property.

Maritza Pechin, Office of Equitable Development Manager and Planning and Development Review Deputy Director, provided information regarding the Department of Public Works implementing the infrastructure improvements recommended by the Hull Street Corridor Revitalization Plan. Ms. Pechin stated that the Hull Street Corridor Revitalization Plan was in mind during the drafting of the Richmond 300 Master Plan. Ms. Pechin did note that some zoning recommendations, nodal

designations and future land use maps were necessary to be changed when drafting the Master Plan. Ms. Pechin also stated that the Department of Planning and Development Review was also reviewing the impact of an old and historic district designation on current homeowners trying to maintain and improve their property.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson stated her concerns with the number of projects listed on the presentation yet to be implemented, and informed members she was unsure if the city and Department of Planning and Development Review had the resources to act on the proposed list.

Member Katherine Jordan stated it was important to sufficiently staff the Department of Planning and Development Review to best address the needs of the city.

Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders stated that several city departments contained unfunded positions that needed to be addressed, and he informed members of city administration's work regarding the funding of necessary consultants to assist with the review and implementation of a new city zoning ordinance.

Member Stephanie Lynch confirmed that certain zoning amendments recommended by the Advisory Task Force for the Economic Revitalization of South Richmond, referenced in RES. 2020-R019, adopted May 26, 2020, were not included in the Richmond 300 Master Plan.

Ms. Pechin stated the priority of the Department of Planning and Development Review was to amend the city's zoning ordinance prior to amending zoning in certain areas of the city.

Closed Session

At 6:38 p.m., Member Kristen Larson moved that the Organizational Development Standing Committee hold a closed meeting pursuant to section 2.2-3711(A)(29) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss the terms and scope of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds for an efficiency and fiscal review to be solicited where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City and pursuant to section 2.2-3711(A)(7) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to receive briefings from and consult with the City Attorney pertaining to actual litigation concerning war monument removal and opioid manufacturing and distribution, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body.

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 6, Addison, Jordan, Larson, Lynch, Robertson, Newbille. Noes None. Jones was excused.

Member Michael Jones motioned to exit closed session. The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 6, Addison, Jordan, Lynch, Jones Robertson, Newbille. Noes None. Larson was excused.

Members reconvened in open session at 8:22 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

November 1, 2021

WHEREAS, the Organizational Development Standing Committee has convened in closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Organizational Development Standing Committee that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law:

NOW, THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Organizational Development Standing Committee hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certifying resolution applies; and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Organizational Development Standing Committee.

WITNESS the following vote of committee members, as recorded by Candice D. Reid, City Clerk:

CERTIFYING:

Cynthia I. Newbille, Chair
Ellen F. Robertson, Vice Chair
Andreas D. Addison
Katherine L. Jordan
Stephanie A. Lynch
Michael J. Jones

DECLINING TO CERTIFY:

General Assembly Legislative Update

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis and Council Lobbyist Ron Jordan provided members with an update regarding Council's legislative agenda for the 2022 General Assembly session, legislative requests by Councilmembers, prior General Assembly action, and potential changes to the City Charter. Mr. Jordan provided members with information regarding the timeline for steps moving forward on Council's legislative agenda.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Member Katherine Jordan stated her concerns with the amount of time allowed to review legislative requests by members prior to completion of Council's legislative agenda.

Member Stephanie Lynch made certain requests regarding the structure for the updated list of legislative requests prior to the next discussion.

Council Chief of Staff Update

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis provided members with an update regarding the Governmental Operations Standing Committee's work related to constructing a list of recommended changes to the City Charter to be included with Council's legislative agenda for the 2022 General Assembly session.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Member Kristen Larson also provided members with more details regarding the Governmental Operations Standing Committee's work, and informed members of certain requests identified by the committee and city administration. Member Larson addressed recommended changes that received consensus between committee members and city administration, recommended changes that did not receive consensus, and requests that were identified as only requiring a city ordinance to implement and not a change to the City Charter. Member Larson requested that members review the proposed change recommendations.

Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders informed members of city administration's preference for item 54 listed on the recommended changes to the City Charter regarding interdepartmental General Fund transfers. Mr. Saunders requested members review that requested change prior to the next discussion.

Member Larson confirmed that some requested changes would be submitted to the General Assembly at the upcoming General Assembly Session, and that certain requests required additional review and would be submitted to the General Assembly next year.

Ms. Davis informed the committee that staff would work with the Office of the City Attorney and the city lobbyists to determine if any items included in the recommended changes to the City Charter could instead be separate legislative requests that do not require a change to the City Charter.

Consideration of Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Similar Entities

Jamie Isley, Boards and Commissions Administrator, reviewed board vacancies for the committee’s consideration.

Member Michael Jones moved to continue consideration of the following appointment applications to the November 8, 2021 Richmond City Council Informal meeting:

Board Name	Criteria for Appointment	Applicant Name
Audit Committee (7 members)	Business Community Representative – Reside or work in the city (1 vacancy)	Gary Levine
Human Rights Commission (13 members)	City Resident (3 vacancies)	Jimez Ashby
		Igor Soares
		Makay Carlino
		Frederico Eloy Garza, Jr.
		Christopher E. West
		Alvin Sinsioco Misa
		Whitney Brown
		Elizabeth J. Johnson
Patricia Maina Poyer		

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 7, Addison, Jordan, Larson, Lynch, Jones, Robertson, Newbille. Noes None.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Reports of Standing Committees

There were no reports for consideration.

Papers for Consideration

There were no papers for consideration.

Discussion Item

Update on Council Retreat Crossover Topics for Standing Committees

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson provided members with information concerning goals established by Council during the recent Council retreat, and she addressed the assignment of certain goals to specific Council standing committees. Vice Chair Robertson stated she addressed the assigned goals with committee chairs in order to facilitate plans to address the goals established by Council.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.