

# Richmond 300: Code Refresh Advisory Council Meeting Notes

Date: June 12, 2024, 4 P.M.  
Location: City Hall, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room/  
Microsoft Teams (<https://bit.ly/CodeRefreshAC>)



DEPARTMENT OF  
**PLANNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
REVIEW**

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**Members Present:** Chenice Brown, Wayne Credle, Bennie Gates, Elizabeth Greenfield, Philip Hart, Yanina James, David Johannas, Preston Lloyd, Eric Mai, Jennifer Mullen (virtual), Kendra, Norrell, Casey Overton, Michelle Parrish, Martiza Pechin, Burt Pinnock, Damien Pitts, Ellen Robertson, Charlie Wilson, Roger York

## ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

### Introductions

Advisory Council members introduced themselves.

### Bylaws and Freedom of Information Act

Marianne Pitts, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Review, presented the draft Advisory Council Bylaws and provided an overview of the Freedom of Information Act ([PDR Presentation](#)). She shared the purpose of the Advisory Council as stated in the by-laws and alerted the Councilors to the virtual participation policy within the document.

A brief overview of her remarks regarding FOIA included the following: Meetings are 3 or more members of the body. A meeting is only considered an official meeting if the body is discussing official public materials. Notice of meetings must be posted 3 business days prior to the meeting in the city clerk's office and the planning department. If members receive a request, they are to forward the request to the department's FOIA email: [foia.pdr@rva.gov](mailto:foia.pdr@rva.gov), or contact a staff member and the staff member will handle it according to internal FOIA processes.

***A motion was made by Ms. Greenfield, seconded by Mr. Pinnock, to approve the by-laws. The motion carried unanimously.***

### Election of Officers

Councilwoman Robertson nominated Elizabeth Greenfield for Chair. Ms. Greenfield accepted this nomination.

***A motion was made by Councilwoman Ellen Robertson, seconded by Maritza Pechin, to appoint Elizabeth Greenfield as chair of the Advisory Council. The motion carried unanimously.***

Ms. Greenfield nominated Burt Pinnock for Vice Chair to which he declined. Mr. Pinnock nominated Preston Lloyd. Mr. Lloyd accepted the nomination.

***A motion was made by Mr. Pinnock, seconded by Eric Mai, to appoint Preston Lloyd as chair of the Advisory Council. The motion carried unanimously.***

## PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair opened the floor to public comment.

Richard Hankins, Partnership for Smarter Growth, asked the Council to incorporate smart growth and affordable housing in this process.

LaGrande Northcut of the 6th district and on the board of Urban Hope shared that the East End has seen regular 50% increase of property tax bill. He asked the Council to keep this in mind and to consider the impacts to residents, nonprofits, and affordable housing developers.

Joh Gehlbach, Richmond Association of Realtors, shared that the city will continue to grow, and we have to keep in mind who can and can't live here because of affordability.

Christian Schick, Strong Towns RVA, shared that this process should set Richmond up for better growth in the future.

Christos, a developer and who lives in the Fan, asked question about the zoning in the VUU Chamberlayne area and requested the Council to give thoughtful consideration to allow more investment in this awesome place in the center of the city..

Chair Greenfield closed public comment.

## **PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION**

### **I. Richmond 300: Code Refresh Introduction with Code Studio and Consultant Team**

Rene Biberstein, project manager from Code Studio, provided a presentation of the Code Refresh, background on the Code Studio firm and partners, and individuals who will be working on the project in Richmond. ([Code Studio Presentation](#))

### **II. Engagement Strategy Review with Brick & Story**

LaToya Thomas of Brick and Story presented the engagement plan. ([Brick & Story Presentation](#))

### **III. Advisory Council Discussion**

Emily McKnight, also with Brick and Story, presented a Stakeholder mapping activity to the group following the presentation.

The Advisory Council proposed groups to engagement within various categories for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> district, Hispanic and Latinx Residents, Immigrant Communities, and Low-Income Residents.

Mr. Biberstein provided questions for the Council to respond to about priorities for a new code. Other questions were not answered due to time constraints. The remaining questions from Code Studio and the Stakeholder Mapping exercise will be provided to Council members via email to continue to add to and respond.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Greenfield adjourned the meeting at 6pm. The next meeting of the Advisory Council is July 10, 2024, at 4 P.M. at PlanRVA Boardroom (424 Hull St Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23224).