

SOUTHSIDE PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Annual Dinner Meeting
October 27, 2022

Executive Director Deborah Gosney welcomed everyone to the 53rd Annual Dinner Meeting of the Southside Planning District Commission (SPDC), held at the Brunswick County Conference Center in Lawrenceville, Virginia on October 27, 2022. She then introduced Welton Tyler – Chair of the Brunswick County Board of Supervisors, Leslie Weddington – County Administrator, and Alfreda Reynolds – Director of Economic Development who collectively welcomed everyone to Brunswick County.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS/SPONSORS

The following guests were recognized for their committed work and dedication to serving our communities:

- Senator Frank Ruff – Virginia Senate
- Delegate Tommy Wright – Virginia House of Delegates
- Kade Gravitt – Legislative Assistant for Delegate Tommy Wright
- Kristie Proctor – Executive Director of the Virginia Rural Center
- William Curtis – Assistant Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
- Tommy Johnson – South Hill Residency Administrator for the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Former SPDC Chairs – Coleman Speece, Gregg Gordon, Bernard Jones, Sr., and Kim Callis

The following sponsors were recognized for their partnerships and contributions:

- B & B Consultants, Inc.
- Benchmark Community Bank
- Cedric Stovall Design & Construction
- Dewberry
- EMPOWER Broadband, Inc.
- First Citizens Bank
- Letterpress Communications
- Southside Outreach Group

INVOCATION

Dr. Barbara Jarrett-Harris, Brunswick County Board of Supervisors, delivered the invocation.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair George Leonard called the meeting to order. Before proceeding with the business meeting, Vice Chair Leonard explained that SPDC Chair Glanzy Spain was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to health issues and stated, "Our thoughts are with Glanzy and his family, and our hope is he will have a quick recovery."

ROLL CALL

Executive Director Gosney called the roll. With 12 Commissioners being present, a quorum was met for this meeting. The full list of Annual Dinner Meeting attendees is attached at the end of the minutes.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY	Present	Absent
Bernard Jones, Sr.	X	
Leslie Weddington – Treasurer	X	
John Zubrod	X	
HALIFAX COUNTY		
Stanley Brandon	X	
William Claiborne	X	
Jerry Lovelace	X	
Garland Ricketts		X
Scott Simpson	X	
MECKLENBURG COUNTY		
M. J. Colgate		X
Charles Jones	X	
Charlie Simmons	X	
Glanzy Spain – Chair		X
Tom Tanner		X
SOUTH BOSTON		
Joseph Chandler III	X	
George Leonard – Vice Chair	X	
SOUTH HILL		
Kim Callis	X	
Lillie Feggins-Boone		X
PRESENT	12	
ABSENT		5

AGENDA

UPON MOTION BY JOHN ZUBROD, SECONDED BY JOSEPH CHANDLER, THE AGENDA WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Commissioners received the minutes from the previous Commission meeting, dated July 28, 2022, and the Financial Report for the period ending September 30, 2022, prior to tonight’s meeting for review. The Commissioners were asked if any of the Consent Agenda items needed to be moved to regular discussion items. Hearing none, the Consent Agenda items were recommended for approval.

UPON MOTION BY CHARLES JONES, SECONDED BY JOHN ZUBROD, THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

ELECTRONIC MEETINGS POLICY

Vice Chair George Leonard presented the “SPDC Electronic Meetings Policy” to the Commission for adoption. This policy sets forth the rules and regulations whereby the SPDC may hold all-virtual meetings and conduct business by electronic means in a regular or special Commission meeting pursuant to the *Code of Virginia 2.2-3708.3*. The policy also provides for Commissioners to be able to attend and participate by electronic means in regular or special meetings of the Commission in accordance with this policy and state law. A copy of the policy is attached at the end of the minutes.

UPON MOTION BY JOHN ZUBROD, SECONDED BY JOSEPH CHANDLER, THE SPDC ELECTRONIC MEETINGS POLICY WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY AS PRESENTED.

RECOGNITION OF PAST COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

Executive Director Gosney recognized Past Commissioners that served prior to the reduction of Commissioners from 28 members to 17 members earlier this year. Certificates of Appreciation have been mailed to each of them. These Commissioners are:

Locality	Commissioner	Years of Service
Brunswick County	Alfonzo Seward	3
Halifax County	Ronnie Duffey	2
Halifax County	David Martin	6
Halifax County	Norman Talley	1
Mecklenburg County	Wayne Carter	1
Mecklenburg County	Andy Hargrove	10
Mecklenburg County	Angie Kellett	14
South Boston	Winston Harrell	4
South Boston	Ernest Vass	5
South Hill	Joseph Taylor, III	2

Executive Director Gosney then recognized Staff by title and length of service.

SPDC STAFF	
Ashleigh Zincone – Senior Community Planner	24 years
Andy Wells – GIS & Cartography Manager	19 years
Stephanie Creedle – Finance Director/HR	16 years
Sangi Cooper – Senior Community Planner	12 years

Chad Neese – Senior Planner/GIS Specialist	5 years
Erika Tanner – Community Planner I	2 years
Julie Gill – Administrative Assistant	1 year
Ann Taylor Wright – CTW Consulting LLC – Contract Staff	3 years

As Staff receives special recognition on every fifth-year anniversary of dedicated service to the Commission, two awards were presented tonight –

- ❖ Chad Neese – 5 years of Service
- ❖ Deborah Gosney – 35 years of Service

GUEST SPEAKER

Executive Director Gosney noted that Dexter Gilliam, Mayor of the Town of Halifax, was instrumental in making the arrangements for this evening’s guest speaker. Mr. Gilliam is the current President, CEO and Chairman of The Bank of Charlotte County. He also serves as the Chair of the Community Depository Institutions Advisory Council for the 5th Federal Reserve District. Ms. Gosney asked Mr. Gilliam to introduce our guest speaker, Renee Haltom, VP & Regional Executive, Federal Reserve Bank – Richmond District.

Ms. Haltom’s work with the Federal Reserve Bank involves engaging business, banking, and community leaders on local economic conditions to inform the monetary policymaking process, as well as sharing information about the Federal Reserve System. Ms. Haltom is based at the Richmond office and has responsibility for public outreach and engagement in Virginia, as well as for the Community Depository Institutions Advisory Council. She has a bachelor’s degree in economics from Michigan State University and a master’s degree in economics from the University of San Francisco.

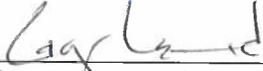
Ms. Haltom’s presentation was entitled “Improving Employment in Rural Communities.” Her presentation centered on the definition of rural communities, the reason economic outcomes tend to be worse in these rural communities and potential solutions to reverse the affects. She examined how rural communities are much more likely to be shrinking and how employment tends to be lower than in neighboring urban communities. Skill barriers such as education and training and non-skill barriers such as childcare, healthcare, infrastructure, and incentives are the problem. Solutions to these hindrances tend to be harder in rural communities; however, rural communities do have great assets. Local assets can include hospitals, community colleges, four-year colleges and universities and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs). Their roles can be vital to rural communities. Communities strengthen themselves with regional collaboration, playing to their strengths and weaknesses, creating a sense of place, telling a good story,

developing strong leadership, and taking a long-term view. Ms. Haltom explained a concept called “Virtuous Loops.” Virtuous loops are “economic activity which creates more economic activity which further promotes the first occurrence and so on resulting in a continuous process of improvement.” Virtuous loops are needed in rural communities to create success in higher employment and then to duplicate it. The Richmond Fed is actively pursuing ways to support rural communities as well by Community Partnership, Applied Research, Events and Communications and Sensing and Engagement.

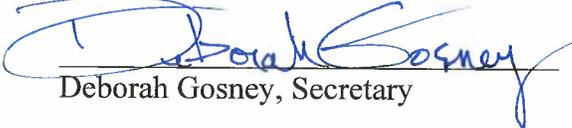
CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

In closing, Vice Chair Leonard thanked Ms. Haltom for her interesting and informative presentation and thanked Dexter Gilliam for enlisting her as our guest speaker. Additionally, he thanked Brunswick County for hosting our Annual Dinner Meeting this year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



George Leonard, Vice Chair SPDC



Deborah Gosney, Secretary

Annual Dinner Meeting Attendees October 27, 2022

John Zubrod	SPDC - Commissioner
Donna Zubrod	Guest
Leslie Weddington	Brunswick County - County Administrator and SPDC - Treasurer
Bernard Jones, Sr.	SPDC - Commissioner and Past Chair
Stanley Brandon	SPDC - Commissioner
William Claiborne	SPDC - Commissioner
Jerry Lovelace	SPDC - Commissioner
Scott Simpson	Halifax County - County Administrator and SPDC - Commissioner
Charles Jones	SPDC - Commissioner
Charlie Simmons	SPDC - Commissioner
George Leonard	SPDC - Vice Chair
Joseph Chandler	SPDC - Commissioner
Kim Callis	South Hill - Town Manager and SPDC - Commissioner and Past Chair
Wayne Carter	Mecklenburg County - County Administrator
Angie Kellett	Mecklenburg County - Director of Economic Development
Alfonzo Seward	Brunswick County - Board of Supervisors
Coleman Speece	SPDC - Past Chair
Gregg Gordon	SPDC - Past Chair
Kim King	Benchmark Community Bank - VP/Relationship Development
Tammy Robinson-White	Benchmark Community Bank - VP/Branch Manager
Dr. Barbara Jarrett-Harris	Brunswick County - Board of Supervisors
Welton Tyler	Brunswick County - Board of Supervisors
Dixie Daniel	Brunswick County - Tourism Coordinator
Keli Reekes	Brunswick County - Assistant County Administrator
Jacqueline Morgan	Brunswick County - Clerk of Court
Elmus Morgan, Jr.	Guest
Alfreda Reynolds	Brunswick County - Director of Economic Development
Mike Dotti	Brunswick County IDA - Business Director
Savannah Hall	Alberta - Town Clerk
Rebecca Spengler	Alberta - Acting Mayor
Everette Gibson	Lawrenceville - Town Manager
Kimberly Martin	Lawrenceville - Special Projects Coordinator
Scott Martin	Lawrenceville - Mayor
Dennis Barker	South Boston - Assistant Town Manager
Dexter Gilliam	Town of Halifax - Mayor and CDIAC - Chair 5th Federal Reserve District
Sevanne Gilliam	Guest
Alex Gottschalk	Mecklenburg County - Deputy County Administrator
Dusty Forbes	Chase City - Town Manager
Jeff Jones	Clarksville - Town Manager
William Curtis	DHCD - Assistant Director
Tommy Johnson	VDOT - Residency Administrator
Delegate Tommy Wright	Virginia House of Delegates
Kade Gravitt	Office of Delegate Tommy Wright - Legislative Assistant
Senator Frank Ruff	Virginia State Senate

Annual Dinner Meeting Attendees October 27, 2022

Kristie Proctor	Virginia Rural Center - Executive Director
Liz Smith	MBC & SOVA Innovation Hub - Marketing Manager
John Lee	EMPOWER Broadband - President and CEO
David Lipscomb	EMPOWER Broadband - VP Marketing & Communications
Dwayne Long	EMPOWER Broadband - Chief Operating Officer
Carol Ann Jones	EMPOWER Broadband - VP Finance & Accounting
Jim Guy	EMPOWER Broadband - General Counsel & VP of Administration
Sam Carroll	B&B Consultants, Inc. - CEO/Managing Partner
Brittany Garnett	B&B Consultants, Inc. - Engineer
Scott Ehrhardt	Dewberry - Senior Associate - Senior Project Manager
Leslie Mantiply	Dewberry - Project Engineer
Mike Johnson	Hurt & Proffitt - Project Manager
Cedric Stovall	Cedric Stovall Design & Construction - Owner
Chandra Martin	Cedric Stovall Design & Construction
Tammy Manning	First Citizens Bank - Senior Vice President
Nakai Peterson	First Citizens Bank - Senior Financial Services Representative
John Davis	Bank of Charlotte County - Vice President
Randy Lail	GO Virginia Region 3 - Vice Chair
Bryan David	GO Virginia Region 3 - UVA Weldon Cooper - Executive Director
Ilsa Loeser	Letterpress Communications - Principal
Mary Elkins	Southside VCU Foundation - Executive Director
Sangi Cooper	SPDC - Senior Community Planner
Stephanie Creedle	SPDC - Finance Director/HR
Deborah Gosney	SPDC - Executive Director
Chad Neese	SPDC - Senior Planner/GIS Specialist
Andy Wells	SPDC - GIS and Cartography Manager
Ashleigh Zincone	SPDC - Senior Community Planner
Emily Zincone	Guest
Erika Tanner	SPDC - Community Planner I
Ann Taylor Wright	SPDC - Contract Staff - CTW Consulting LLC
Linda Elms	SPDC Retiree
Wayne Elms	Guest
Renee Haltom	Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond - Vice President & Regional Executive
Tameka Vaden	Southside Outreach Group
Cassandra Barksdale	Southside Outreach Group
James Grimstead	James Solomon Russell/St. Pauls College - Chair
Bobby Conner	James Solomon Russell/St. Pauls College - Vice Chair
Tia Whitehead	James Solomon Russell/St. Pauls College - Secretary
Regina Gordon	James Solomon Russell/St. Pauls College - Treasurer
Beth Raney	James Solomon Russell/St. Pauls College - Board Member
Sylvia Allen	James Solomon Russell/St. Pauls College - Board Member



SPDC Electronic Meetings Policy

All-Virtual Public Commission Meetings

The Southside Planning District Commission may conduct all-virtual public meetings in accordance with this policy and state law. For purposes of this policy, “electronic means” shall be defined as attendance via telephone, video and/or audio conferencing, or another electronic device.

The Commission may hold all-virtual meetings and conduct business by electronic means in a regular or special Commission meeting pursuant to the *Code of Virginia 2.2-3708.3* in accordance with the following:

1. An indication of whether the meeting will be an in-person or all-virtual public meeting is included in the required meeting notice along with a statement notifying the public that the method by which a public body chooses to meet shall not be changed unless the public body provides a new meeting notice in accordance with the provisions of § 2.2- 3707;
2. Public access to the all-virtual public meeting is provided via electronic communication means;
3. The electronic communication means used allows the public to hear all members of the public body participating in the all-virtual public meeting and, when audio-visual technology is available, to see the members of the public body as well;
4. A phone number or other live contact information is provided to alert the public body if the audio or video transmission of the meeting provided by the public body fails, the public body monitors such designated means of communication during the meeting, and the public body takes a recess until public access is restored if the transmission fails for the public;
5. A copy of the proposed agenda and all agenda packets and, unless exempt, all materials furnished to members of a public body for a meeting is made available to the public in electronic format simultaneously with when such materials are provided to members of the public body;
6. The public is afforded the opportunity to comment through electronic means, including by way of written comments, at those public meetings when public comment is customarily received;
7. No more than two members of the public body are together in any one remote location unless that remote location is open to the public to physically access it;
8. If a closed session is held during an all-virtual public meeting, transmission of the meeting to the public resumes before the public body votes to certify the closed meeting;

9. The public body does not convene an all-virtual public meeting (i) more than two times per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater, or (ii) consecutively with another all-virtual public meeting; and
10. Minutes of all-virtual public meetings held by electronic communication means are taken as required by § 2.2-3707 and include the fact that the meeting was held by electronic communication means and the type of electronic communication means by which the meeting was held. If a member's participation from a remote location pursuant to this subsection is disapproved because such participation would violate this policy, such disapproval shall be recorded in the minutes with specificity.

A Commissioner's failure to comply with this policy may result in the Commission's refusal to allow the Commissioner to participate by electronic means in Commission meetings.

Provisions of this policy will also apply to any committee, subcommittee or other entity designated by the Commission to perform delegated functions of the organization.

Remote Participation By Individual Commissioners

Commissioners of the Southside Planning District Commission may attend and participate by electronic means in regular or special meetings of the Commission in accordance with this policy and state law. For purposes of this policy, "electronic means" shall be defined as attendance via telephone, video and/or audio conferencing, or another electronic device.

Commissioners may attend and participate by electronic means in a regular or special Commission meeting pursuant to the *Code of Virginia 2.2-3708.3* for any of the following reasons preventing that Commissioner from physically attending the meeting:

- The Commissioner has a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the Commissioner's physical attendance;
- A medical condition of a member of the Commissioner's family requires the Commissioner to provide care that prevents the Commissioner's physical attendance;
- The Commissioner's principal residence is more than 60 miles from the meeting location identified in the required notice for such meeting; or
- The Commissioner is unable to attend the meeting due to a personal matter and identifies with specificity the nature of the personal matter. However, the Commissioner may not use remote participation due to personal matters more than two meetings per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater.

A Commissioner who seeks to attend and participate by electronic means in a Commission meeting shall notify the Executive Director and/or Chair. If the request is approved by the Executive Director and/or Chair, a Commissioner who attends and participates by electronic means shall identify the location from which he or she is participating, as well as those present at that location. If the Commission convenes in Executive Session, the Commissioner attending and participating by electronic means shall ensure confidentiality during that portion of the meeting.

A Commissioner who attends and participates by electronic means in a Commission meeting shall have access to any materials that are presented and available to Commissioners who are physically present at the meeting.

A Commissioner's failure to comply with this policy may result in the Commission's refusal to allow the Commissioner to participate by electronic means in Commission meetings.

Provisions of this policy will also apply to any committee, subcommittee or other entity designated by the Commission to perform delegated functions of the organization.

Adopted this 27th day of October 2022 by the Southside Planning District Commission.



George Leonard, Vice-Chair



Deborah Gosney, Secretary