



VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION

2012 Legislative Agenda

Approved by APA Virginia Chapter Board of Directors

16 September 2011

Planning & Zoning Issues

- Urban Development Areas The Chapter supports making the use of the UDA as defined and set forth in the Code of Virginia **optional for all localities** in the Commonwealth. While the Chapter strongly supports the *concepts* contained in the Urban Development Area provisions in the Code of Virginia, the Chapter believes that the mandated density and intensity factors are inappropriate “one size fits all” standards that do not work well in all localities to which they apply. The Chapter opposes establishing any review requirements for adopted UDA designations that differ from the existing review requirements in the Code of Virginia applicable to the Comprehensive Plan as a whole.
- Aquaculture The Chapter supports the expansion of aquaculture options and opportunities in the Commonwealth; however, the seafood processing often associated with aquaculture is an industrial operation that may be, and often is, incompatible with the peaceful enjoyment of nearby residential uses and the protection of private property values. Thus, localities must be vested with appropriate authority to protect residential communities (regardless of how they may be zoned) from encroachment from seafood processing associated with aquaculture.
- Cash Proffers The Chapter opposes any effort to establish state-mandated caps on development fees and proffers, including caps on water and sewer fees, review fees, and existing or prospective proffers; however, the Chapter would not oppose a requirement that fees be based on actual and anticipated costs in each locality and providing that the rational basis for such actual and anticipated costs be established by each locality by ordinance in setting the fees or proffers.
- Universal Design The Chapter supports legislative and administrative actions to encourage the development and promotion of building standards to incorporate practices that are family-friendly, enhance "aging-in-place" and promote livability. Universal Design practices and “visitability” design principles are two approaches.

Infrastructure Issues

- Lifecycle Costing The Chapter supports extending the requirement to consider the lifecycle costs of public investments to all state agencies and institutions.

Eminent Domain

The Chapter requests that the 2012 Session of the Virginia General Assembly define "lost profit" and "lost access" in the proposed amendment to the Virginia Constitution **before** the citizens of the Commonwealth are asked to vote on the proposal. The Chapter urges that the definitions be drafted in a way that is fair to both property owners and taxpayers who pay for necessary public improvements and not apply to temporary conditions and situations.

Other Issues

Local Planning Authority

The Chapter strongly opposes any legislation that would reduce local government authorities for planning, zoning, subdivision, resource protection, neighborhood preservation and local redevelopment.

Further Budget Reductions to Planning

The Chapter opposes further budget reductions that impact the ability of the Commonwealth and its local governments to plan and prepare for a future when we return to a more robust economy. Planning for infrastructure and community development must continue so that when funding is again available to implement the plans we can efficiently proceed because plans are up-to-date.



VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION

OUR MISSION:

We promote planning as the foundation for effectively addressing the physical, economic and social changes taking place in Virginia. The Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA Virginia) is committed to increasing awareness about planning's many benefits, and enhancing its practice throughout the Commonwealth.

WHO WE ARE:

APA Virginia is over 1,500 practicing professionals from the public and private sector, as well as academics and students. The American Planning Association (APA) is a nonprofit public interest and research organization committed to urban, suburban, regional, and rural planning. APA and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), advance the art and science of planning to meet the needs of people and society.

MAKING GREAT COMMUNITIES HAPPEN:

APA Virginia will support state-level planning policies that make Virginia and its communities the best place to live, work and play. Sound planning offers a key to making Virginia the best place it can be for all Virginians. Every region requires planning that promotes good jobs in livable communities. Faster growing regions have the added need for planning that recognizes pressures that are unprecedented in Virginia's history. Good planning actively involves the people of a community in the process; it combines their input on what is "valuable" for a good community with the technical facts brought by professionals and scientists. Sound planning includes an understanding of the differences between technical and value judgments and blends both appropriately to recommend a direction that moves a community toward the best place it can be for its citizens.