

Opening Statement for Electronic Meetings

In light of the 2020 COVID-19 virus and current guidance regarding physical distancing to reduce the potential for spread, meetings of the Richmond Regional Planning District Commissions have transitioned to a virtual format. Regional Public Bodies were granted authority to conduct meetings electronically, pursuant to the provisions of Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.2 and related legislation approved by the General Assembly of Virginia during the period of the Governor's State of Emergency Declaration for COVID-19.

While we do not know the exact duration of the current practice of electronic meetings, we will continue to function in this manner until such time as it is deemed appropriate to return to in-person meetings.

Staff provided notice of this meeting and the means by which we are virtually gathered to members of the public on August 17th, 2020 through electronic posting on the PlanRVA website and email distribution of notice to members, alternates, and known interested parties, including the media.

This meeting will be recorded. Audio and visual recordings of the meeting and materials will be posted on the PlanRVA website within 48 hours of this meeting.

Any member of the public participating as an observer during the meeting today may submit comments or questions at any time during the meeting via email at rrtpoinput@PlanRVA.org or by using the online chat functions of the meeting platform. Those individuals who are observing by phone may be called upon to share questions or comments. This meeting agenda includes an opportunity for members of the public to address this body. All comments and questions submitted during the meeting will be reviewed following the meeting and to the extent practical, responses will be provided or posted on the PlanRVA website.

We ask that everyone identify themselves first when speaking so we can more accurately record the activities of the meeting. All lines should be muted to minimize additional noise and feedback. You may unmute your line at any time to request acknowledgement from the Chair. Staff will be monitoring the chat functions throughout the meeting to assure we do not overlook anyone wishing to participate, as appropriate, in the discussion.

Does anyone have any questions regarding the process for assuring effective facilitation of this meeting or for how members of the public may participate?

I will now ask our clerk to certify we have followed the approved procedures for appropriate notice of this meeting and the means by which we are convening.

<Pause for Clerk's Response>

Please indicate your presence by saying "AYE" when your name is called during a roll call. Anyone who wishes to identify themselves following the roll call of members will be invited to do so.

<Pause for Roll Call>