

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OBJECTIVE 8.3 - To create a set of environmental performance standards for public and private development and redevelopment projects.**

**Motion adopted at 1-12-19 City Council meeting:**

“Council affirms its prior adoption of Objective 8.3 of the Comprehensive Plan. To that end, staff is to address the following in a report back to Council:

- 1) Recommendations on how to implement Objective 8.3 of the Comprehensive Plan
- 2) The merits of creating an advisory committee
- 3) How best to engage stakeholders in the process.

**Recommendations on how to implement Objective 8.3 of the Comprehensive**

**Plan:** In order to implement Objective 8.3, existing environmental performance standards followed by the City need to be identified and compared to what standards are desired.

- a. What standards are already in place? The city’s adopted Design and Construction Standards Manual (DCSM), DEQ regulations, EPA regulations, Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, Virginia Energy Conservation Codes, etc.
- b. What standards do Council members and/or petitioners feel are missing or desirable? To be determined.
- c. Council and petitioners should be aware that other “model” localities in Virginia (Charlottesville, Roanoke, Fairfax, and Blacksburg) apply their environmental performance standards to public facilities and programs only. Private participation is voluntary (although private development otherwise has to comply with existing state/federal regulations, building codes, etc.) Some localities do provide incentives to encourage private development to meet voluntary, performance standards.

**The merits of creating an advisory committee.**

- a. The advisory committee process worked well in developing and implementing the new stormwater management regulations and program (stormwater advisory committee - SWAC). A similar committee could be created and charged with: 1) compiling an inventory of existing standards followed by the City; 2) via a public input process, compiling a list of Council-desired and citizen-desired additional standards; and 3) presenting the results in the form of a report to Council.
- b. Committee by-laws should also be developed for the group (SWAC model).
- c. The committee should consist of between 7 and 11 members. One City Council representative should serve as an ex-officio member. All committee members

should be appointed by City Council. In this case, groups represented could include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- Residents, civic leagues or homeowners associations
- Business community - including residential, commercial and industrial property owners, malls, and business groups
- Professional engineers, real estate developers, and construction contractors
- Shenandoah Valley Builders Association
- Special interest groups - economic development, environmental concerns, etc.

d. The committee should be staffed by appropriate Public Works, Facilities Management and/or Community Development personnel.

**How best to engage stakeholders in the process.** It is suggested that the Stormwater Management Program implementation process be utilized to engage stakeholders.

END