

Comprehensive Plan Community Meeting – Grassfield
Focus Area Notes + Exceptional Future Meaning
September 18, 2023

Growth Management and Rural Areas

- Need to maintain a balance – need to support farmers
- Need to provide more funds for land conservation
- Balance economic growth with infrastructure support (roads, schools, etc.)
- Keep green areas within development
- Stop school rezoning. Keep them stable so families are not uprooted b/c of population redistribution – fake solutions
- Incentivize farmers and keep them from selling off fertile soil
- Maintain natural connectivity between Dismal Swamp and Northwest River
- Remember the people that grew up here – set aside areas for hunting and shooting
- Need more transparency in decision making (+1)
- Say no to developers (+1)
- Incentivize our farmers
- Provide rural activities to teach next generations to appreciate rural life
- Requirements to subdivide
- No lots less than 3 acres for septic and wells to survive
- Do not put major developments/commercial next to rural/conservation
- Rural roads are too narrow for heavy traffic
- High density in rural areas needs to be more thoughtful, not allowing development because there is land available, need to consider schools and environmental impacts
- Larger developments need to have more stormwater requirements – past state regs. Need to look at whole watershed issues. Many new developments have caused flooding where it wasn't before.
- Quick buying (the City) that they don't need – use the fund for real stuff
- What happened to the 3 acre rule? Our roads and schools can't handle the growth!
- Set aside areas near the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge that will never be developed
- “Leave us pure water and forests uncut... think of tomorrow, leave something for” – Tom T. Hall, “One Hundred Children”
- Slow development or change the name from Chesapeake to Virginia Beach West

Quality of Life

- Strong school system to set up the future for success
- Eliminate food deserts with attention to fresh produce and healthy selections
- Quality mental health services – times are tough!
- Healthcare (both brick and mortar and mobile) that is accessible to all – evaluate healthcare built into underserved communities (urgent care)
- Affordable daycare in all sections of the city

- Plenty of schools that are properly resourced
- We need more schools! Portables should not be an option for the overcrowding
- Better free preschool options in the public schools
- We need more schools, or plans to expand them. Overcrowded.
- Healthcare – the hospital here is terrible and I would not go to it for care
- Keep the trees, plant more trees
- Spend too much time in traffic
- More roads
- Spread out resources so restaurants (for example) are not all in one place
- Varied entertainment for all
- Lower taxes
- Objective based elected officials
- More/high quality rec centers
- People move to Chesapeake for its schools. Make supporting Chesapeake school system a priority
- Keep green spaces and improve walkability
- More YMCAs, rec centers, friendly parks
- Spaces to ride horses
- Invest in improvements to our rec centers

Housing and Equity

- High quality mixed income communities
- Support to clean up some of the housing in the underserved areas
- Street lights that are fixed routinely – this is especially needed in high risk neighborhoods
- Affordable senior living
- A homeless resource center – social work, etc. support
- Recreation center, libraries, connected to neighborhoods
- Sidewalks connecting various areas
- Small municipal offices scattered throughout the City
- Large senior rec center with social areas, game areas, lunch areas, craft, etc.
- We ensure more affordable housing by lowering taxes to make housing more affordable
- Better public transportation
- Yes – better public transit in rural – southern part of the city.
 - Micro-transit (on demand – not fixed route)
- Need more single family homes and street lights on Moses Grandy
- Dense housing only in areas already heavily developed. Public transit is needed to connect areas. Need more quality housing (+2)
- Real estate taxes are rendering my home “unaffordable”
- Too many high density housing options
- Affordable retirement/senior communities
- Less housing developments – more thoughtful growth
- More infill development – concentrate density
- Change the subdivision policy – add restrictions for developers

- More farms

Placemaking and Design

- “Complete streets” concept – biking/walking/etc
- We need a good hotel with meeting spaces in Western Branch
- Walkable communities
- More trees
- Chesapeake needs an identity, who do we want to be?
- Parks with lakes in Southern Chesapeake with walkways
- Water conservation, drainage, preserve wetlands and natural drainage
- City of trees
- More mom and pop stores/restaurants, less chains
- Large projects to be designed with whole watershed/drainage basins in mind
- Transit to local parks
- Our identity should be family – community, not fast growth or VB, Jr.
- Less development -> pause development
- More investment in our rec centers
- Old Nike site (off Number 10) could become a community/rec center, park, YMCA, new schools

Environment and Resilience

- Maintain wetlands
- Protect historic South Norfolk
- Require apartment and townhome complexes to recycle
- Oversight of stormwater management for post construction best management practices for your MS4 permit. Loss of credit will result for CB TMDL. Multiple SW ponds are overgrown. Property owners/developments need to be held accountable!
- Bring back recycling (+1) – Free!
- More green spaces (+1)
- More trees
- Bring back recycling
- Bring back recycling!
- Frank Williams Farm should have NEVER been zoned industrial
- Ches should create a huge page connecting Cav. Wildlife and GDS + establish ecotourism in Dom Blvd Corridor (+1)
- FTW/CV needs a lot of buffer. If develop that, don’t develop Sunray. Every blade of grass does not need to be developed!
- Give rec centers w/ pools, like what VB has
- Have disabled friendly rec areas
- F Williams Farm is the worst place for industry in Chesapeake
- Inspection program for existing stormwater BMPs
- Stop power plants, battery storage in residential areas!
- Southern Chesapeake flood control plan
- Develop wildlife corridors in Southern Chesapeake next to the Great Dismal Swamp

- Develop a new headquarters with the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge by working in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Economic Prosperity

- For all – not just those who can afford cars and expensive homes
- More jobs near public transportation or better transportation like micro-transit
- Jobs in recycling so our trash does not go into landfill (+1)
- Better support the Chesapeake Center for Student Success to help non-traditional students find success after school
- Tougher academic requirements in schools
- Stop taxing so much – people won't spend and they don't have
- Greenbrier mall – going downhill
 - Norfolk mall – same
 - Only good mall left is Lynnhaven Mall
 - How do we get a good mall (indoor and outdoor) back – with Macys, Pennys, and other stores
- Public transportation to places south of Cedar Road
- More jobs in the south. No way for many people to get to the jobs
- Trader Joe's
- Support/work with small local businesses already established in Chesapeake
- Support local farmers/all year farmers market
- Public transportation
- A nice venue
- More rodeos, permanent venue for other outdoor events
- Resources/support for small businesses, rather than attracting franchises, etc.
- Teach farming

Infrastructure and Connectivity

- Improve roads, ditches, drainage in rural Chesapeake. Preserve wetlands
- Flooding infrastructure on rural roads -> clearing of drainage ditches
- Chesapeake feels like a less connected community -> each borough is different and not equally represented on City Council -> so it feels like decisions are not being planned as effectively at the micro-level
- More east/west connectivity in Southern Chesapeake
- Fix streetlights all throughout Grassfield area
- More sidewalk connectivity throughout the City
- Ditches in S. Chesapeake need to be further from the road
 - Ex: Benefit – the curves are extremely sharp and also when 16 wheelers and large trucks go down it + other streets they are being pushed into the ditches. Roads are narrow in S. Chesapeake
- More regional connectivity to address planning and regional issues (gun violence, homelessness, transportation, pick any social determinant of health)
- Sidewalks on Shillelagh from Cardinal Meadows

- Need re-paving in rural areas (Number 10 w/
- Need to maintain the ditches on Shillelagh Road
- Connect Chesapeake to Norfolk via the Tide railway
- Bringing light rail to Chesapeake
- Look for opportunities for local only roads for walking and bike trails
- Widen roads with no shoulder (Ballahack Road), roads cracking and falling into ditch, #10 Lane not wide enough for two vehicles
- Areas that currently have city water need city sewer as well
- Need more trail/path connectivity throughout the city
- Need more horse trails throughout the city too
- Too much traffic – won't expand roads
- No water meter updates – residential
- Maintain not new – adding more the City refuses to upkeep
- Improve walkability in residential areas
- We lost our drainage with the widening of Route 17
- Southern Chesapeake road fix is a sign "high water", raise the roads in Southern Chesapeake
- Chesapeake residents a discount to cross the Veteran's Bridge
- Extend sidewalks from GFHS to neighborhoods along Old Cedar Road (Sawyer's Mill, Marsh Creek, Deer Crossing, etc.)

What Does Creating an Exceptional Future Mean to You?

- Integrating healthcare and public health resources into the planning process
- Complete streets concepts
- As a relative newcomer there seems to be a need to highlight/grow the boroughs of the city
- Safe neighborhoods (we have excellent police)
- Green spaces
- Exceptional school system
- Strong system of non-profits
- Affordable day care
- Strong mental health services
- Attention to food deserts; more quality grocery stores.
- Attention to affordable housing.
- Job opportunities
- Preserve rural areas.
- Preserve green space.
- Support schools
- If the city's vision is to be environmentally responsible – where are the requirements for apartment complexes to recycle?
- Where's education in your vision?
- Responsible economic development coupled with environmental responsibility.
- Continued improvement in schools
- More greenspaces and community events
- Less multifamily homes! Preserve the land!
- Adding to the community while still keeping Chesapeake's parks wildlife, etc.
- More job creations
- More sidewalks for pedestrians
- More restaurants
- High density development in existing rural areas needs to stop. Several developments not listed in the 2035 plan were rezoned – why have a plan if that's the case?
- Development thoughtfully
- Green space to breathe in
- Farm land to buy from
- Neighbors not on top of you
- Infrastructure
- Elected officials that listen.
- Bring back the recycling program. Tired of throwing away glass.
- Environmentally friendly. Solar, wind power. More recycling options.
- Preserve open space for future generations.
- Open spaces – trails, bike paths, connectivity as we grow
- A place where all can prosper. Even those who cannot afford expensive homes and luxury apartments.
- Trail/path connectivity.
- Preserve farm land/conservation areas.
- Public transportation.
- Put infrastructure in place **before** you approve and begin development. Deep Creek Central Elementary and Grassfield Elementary are way over capacity.
- Unique = farm land, horses
- Keeping the rural atmosphere at the heart of new decisions.
- Investing in projects that preserve the land and provide jobs.
- Diversify development projects to have a balance between commercial and residential to reduce strain on schools.
- Chesapeake has severely dropped the ball when it comes to schools. The amount of portables is awful. Kids are not safe!
- Stop lights on 17 South. More accidents (deaths) and speeding/racing.
- Schools over-crowded – need additional school at elementary, middle and high school
- Connected walking and green space. Water events/sorts. Cycling/biking lanes. Sidewalks in residential areas.
- More jobs.
- No high density housing in rural areas.

- Redevelop inner city with nice apartments and high density.
 - Clean up blight
 - Schools and roads are overwhelmed. Stop exceeding the LOS.
 - Develop habitat corridors so wildlife can travel freely from the Dismal Swamp to other areas like the Northwest River or Pungo.
- Conserve land around the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. DO NOT let the refuge become a “green island”.
 - More thoughtful growth.
 - Flood plan.
 - Informing the public better.
 - Smart growth to allow for schools and city services to be exceptional as well.