

SPECIAL TOPIC WORKSHOP #1 SUMMARY

COMMUNITY FACILITIES



PlanQAC's first Special Topic Workshop was held virtually on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 1:30pm via WebEx and telephone call-in. Its purpose was to solicit community input on topics related to the Comprehensive Plan, more specifically Community Facilities. Below is a summary of the Workshop's discussions and participant questions.



Discussion Topic: What are QAC's greatest community facilities and services asset? What are QAC's greatest community facilities and service needs?

Assets: Terrific library system; amount of public space; bike trails; water and open space; great schools; very strong parks; access to water and nature via parks and trails is excellent; facilities at the Fire Companies throughout the County;

Needs: Sidewalks/trail along 50 from Grasonville to KI and further and parking at the end of the bike trail extension and possibly a new park on the open space at the end; more of an emphasis on career and technology education; community center; expand public transportation options for county residents for medical appointments and basic needs for seniors and those without transportation; need CTE/VoTech programs for our schools; entertainment venue; inclusive and multi-age park facilities; address a more senior adult need – low impact outdoor exercise gym

Discussion Topic: Community Facilities & Services Vision

Not sure that "quality of life" is a function as much as it is the result of these functions holistically; "Adequate public facilities" remains vague and needs to be defined; would be good to emphasize and verify that new development is compensating the County for the infrastructure impact they have; maybe to maintain and/or improve present functions? County should look to improve instead of maintaining present functions when necessary and possible; is new development financially responsible for impacts to the county?

Discussion Topic: What projects/goals should be focused on over the next 10 years for Law Enforcement, Fire Departments, Emergency Medical Services, etc.?

- Transportation goals need to be addressed to better serve the population re: safety, emergency services especially during peak seasonal times;
- Satellite offices for police and EMS can be established to better access local emergencies during the summer weekends
- EMS services, Fire Departments, Law Enforcement – should be more vocal about what they're providing to the community; coordinated communications
- The need and expectation of communication has changed and increased in recent years; thought to expand the communications department would be something to think about
- More attention to tracking the numbers of visitors and when and how they travel and reporting that information out to emergency services will help to better predict staffing and service levels and areas where and when a temporary concentration of services is needed.

Discussion Topic: What projects/goals should be focused on over the next 10 years for Schools, Higher Education, Libraries, etc.?

- Increasing need for vocational training facilities;
- more places to sit and work in both libraries;
- move forward with the coordination with Chesapeake College and the school system;
- more adult programming at the library;

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- schools and libraries are among strongest assets and should receive strong community support;
 - board of education is requesting a new administrative office;

Discussion Topic: What projects/goals should be focused on over the next 10 years for Parks, Open Spaces, Trails, Public Landings and Marinas, etc.?

- Dedicated recreation facility;
- funding to provide county wide connectivity, both recreation and multi-modal to link parks, town centers, schools, etc.;
- dedicated community center;
- rehab the current Ed building;
- build an inclusive playground and park facility;
- add a water park;
- staffing for the parks/open space should increase too so that they are not spread thin;
- ensure that maintenance and staffing budgets are adequate to support the Parks, Rec and Public Landings units;

Participant Question: What can the County do to raise awareness on litter control?

Participant Question: Are there any requirements for County buildings to be sustainable (LEED Certified)?

Participant Question: Are the current impact fees up to date, and are they real/being implemented?

All comments and questions will be considered during the development of PlanQAC. Additional comments or questions can be submitted through the project website: <https://www.qacplan2021.com/>