

Data Center Ordinance Advisory Group Meeting Notes

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Meeting Location: Development Services Building, Room 107

1. Team Check-in

- a. Dale – The noise from Amazon is still audible inside the homes. They are working on some changes to the louvers, which should be completed in July.**

2. Introductions

3. JLARC Briefing

- a. JLARC stands for Joint Legislative Audit Review Commission**
- b. Staff are non-partisan, work independently, and they are state employees (not consultants).**
- c. Research process**
 - i. Mix of qualitative and quantitative research methods**
 - ii. Their work concludes with a presentation to the commission in Richmond, which is open to the public. A report of the findings will be posted to their website.**
 - iii. Their conclusions usually include recommendations for changes.**
 - iv. The data center study is following all of the same processes as their other studies.**
- d. Timeline**
 - i. They began planning in December 2023 and are currently deep into the research phase. Once completed, they will shift into internal review and writing. The study will conclude at the beginning of December of this year, with a date TBD.**
- e. Study will cover:**
 - i. How the data center industry is evolving and expected to grow**
 - ii. How data centers affect communities and other resources**
 - iii. How data centers affect energy**
 - iv. The economic impact of data centers**
 - v. Virginia's competitiveness with building data centers**
- f. Research methods**
 - i. Conducting interviews with residents, local advocacy groups, environmental groups, utility companies, national experts, and data centers**
 - ii. Site visits to areas in and around data centers. Planning outreach to the data center companies in July**

- iii. The focus of their research will be looking at data centers in Virginia. They are looking at some localities outside the state of Virginia, but only as it pertains to policies.
- g. JLARC will send their presentation on this data center study and it will be sent out to the group.

4. JMT Update

- a. Timeline update
 - i. JMT has completed Task 1, wrapping up Task 2 and 3, and is working on Task 4. They will present more detailed updates to the group in June.
- b. Map updates
 - i. Looking at examples from North Dakota, Arizona, and Ohio to provide recommendations.
 - ii. Found some noise ordinances in other jurisdictions that have been updated to address incoming data centers.
- c. International references
 - i. Explored data centers in the Netherlands
- d. Next steps
 - i. Still need contact information for the different case studies to ensure validity.
 - 1. Kathy will provide that information
 - ii. JMT's next meeting with DCOAG will be June 5, which will include a presentation from Dr. Lyver.

5. Discuss future meeting schedule

- a. June 5 will be a regular meeting with a presentation from Dr. Lyver to JMT
- b. The group agreed to make the following changes to our meeting schedule:
 - Add a meeting on June 26
 - Cancel the meeting on July 3
 - Add a meeting on July 10 for community meeting planning
- c. We will continue with our regular meeting schedule on July 17 with a presentation from Moseley and planning for the community meeting.

6. Team Check-out

- a. Dr. Lyver provided a brief presentation of potential scenarios for enforcement.

7. Meeting adjourned