MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mayor John Tecklenburg
CC: Mark Wilbert, Rick Jerue, Amy Wharton, Keith Benjamin, Jason Bruder, Chief Curia, Daniel Flessas, Matt Fountain, Matt Frohlich, Robert Hauck, Susan Herdina, Mandi Herring, Geona Johnson, Andrea Jones, Stephen Julka, Jason Kronsberg, Jason Krusen, Jacob Lindsay, Katie McKain, Troy Mitchell, Christopher Morgan, Edmund Most, Tom O’Brien, Susan Poteat, Chief Reynolds, Shannon Scaff, Robbie Somerville
FROM: Tracy McKee, Mike Tito
SUBJECT: August FloodStat Meeting Report

August 14, 2020

In attendance: Daniel Flessas, Matt Fountain, Robert Hauck, Mandi Herring, Andrea Jones, Geona Shaw-Johnson, Stephen Julka, Jason Kronsberg, Jason Krusen, Katie McKain, Tracy McKee, Troy Mitchell, Edmund Most, Tom O’Brien, Matt Ojala, Susan Poteat, Robbie Somerville, Dustin Thompson, Mark Wilbert

A FloodStat meeting was held Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 9:00AM online via Zoom Webinar.

The overall objective of the FloodStat program is to increase the City’s Resilience to Flooding, SLR, and Storm Surge. The slide deck will also be provided online.

Staff Reports

Sustainability

Increase the number of storm drains adopted in the City.

Since reporting in January, there has been a 30% increase (up to 205) in storm drains adopted in the City’s Adopt-A-Drain program (up from 153 in March). There is a lot of opportunity to perform outreach and get more drains adopted.

Action items discussed included:

- Define targeted storm drains for adoption by waze reports, road closures from flooding, street level of service and speed limits.
• Develop an agreement with SCDOT to open up their storm drains for adoption
• Regular communications with adopters reminding them to clean and file a field report for their drains.
• Work with PIO on a press release about the Adopt-A-Drain program.
• Work with Stormwater on field inspection reports being submitted and mapped.
• Recognize storm drain adopters.

Reduce carbon emissions 80% by 2050 - citywide.

Citywide Emissions: Captures emissions from buildings, transportation, and waste in City limits. The baseline of 1,584,144 mtCO2e (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent) was established in 2002 and updated to the 5th assessment protocol in 2020. In 2020, a new greenhouse gas inventory was performed for the 2018 calendar year, the data for 2018 shows a 15% decrease in citywide emissions to 1,337,254 mtCO2e relative to the baseline.

Reduce carbon emissions 80% by 2050 - government operations.

Government Emissions: A subset of citywide emissions, this audit specifically captures emissions from City buildings, streetlights, City fleet, and City employee commute.

Our government emissions goal is the same, 80% reduction by 2050. Baseline emissions of 30,006 mt CO2e (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent) was also established in 2002 and updated in 2020 to the 5th assessment protocol. In 2020, a new greenhouse gas inventory was performed for the 2018 calendar year, the data shows a 5% decrease in government emissions to 28,568 mtCO2e relative to the baseline.

Increase the number of businesses and homeowners that participate in voluntary stormwater detention programs.

There is a current Charleston Rainproof pilot project underway to help develop the data collection and reporting structure. Baseline: 0 ppl (about 15ppl are interested, but nothing installed yet)

Action items discussed included:

• Working on funding opportunity to incentivize resident and business participation
• Sustainability and GIS are working on a Rainproof Charleston Showcase that will track the location of projects as well as metrics. That project is expected to be ready in September 2020.

Parks / Capital Projects

No changes reported since the January FloodStat meeting. Edmund Most did report all of current Capital Projects are in compliance and that many of the larger capital projects down the road would include several Fire stations in the Cainhoy area and on Johns Island, but finding land has been a challenge. We continue to work with the FD and Real Estate to assess potential properties as viable options meeting the FD programs and the City’s sustainability goals. Parks suggested Real Estate should be included in the Floodstat meeting/discussions due to the importance of their role.

Planning

The City Architect position is currently vacant. Mandi Herring reported that there have been some additional applications for elevations in the BAR district. She didn’t have the exact number, but would be able to report at the next FloodStat meeting.

The Planning team is also full throttle on the City Comprehensive Plan. A draft document should be ready in early 2021 and that document will help inform identifying high risk flood areas and policies that will minimize flood risk.