

Crozet Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes from October 12, 2022

Members Present:

Joe Fore - Chair
Michael Monaco - Secretary
Marc McKenney
Ken Thacker
Grace Remer
Allie Pesch
Jim Duncan
Valerie Long
Ann Mallek, Board of Supervisors

County Staff:

Community Attendees:

Sarah Zmick
Tim Tolson

Chair Joe Fore called the meeting to order at 7:02

September minutes approved with amendments to roster; motion by Jim Duncan seconded by Mark McKenney. Motion carries.

Committee Business - CCAC Planning Session

With one year since the adoption of the most recent master plan, plus staff turnover (Rachel Falkenstein left the County, David Benish is temporarily in, staff is on comp plan anyway), this is an opportune time to identify what we should be doing and how well the CCAC is fulfilling our role.

Joe Fore presents CCAC Background and Charge, found on the county website.

Supervisor Mallek presents some history - the rezoning of Old Trail in 2004 and resulting backlash was the impetus for the invention of the CCAC. Group has historically also met independent of county staff. The current BOS tends to prefer CACs advise staff, not advise Board. In recent history, there was confusion at the BOS level about CCAC "taking a vote" as a problematic method of expression.

Joe Fore poses question to Supervisor Mallek do we advise solely through Supervisor Mallek, or can we advise independently? Supervisor Mallek's opinion - it's impactful to duplicate CCAC efforts through communication to/at BOS meetings.

Joe describes the many roles of a CAC - town hall, information presentation, feedback on development proposals, feedback on staff proposals, and asks Allie Pesch for further background.

Allie Pesch expresses feeling that the best CCAC meetings are the ones with the most community input. "We were more self-governed prior to COVID." Tim Tolson concurs, provides further detail: CCAC used to be CCA Council. Starting in 2008 there was a county staff crunch, and the CCAC ran itself, including operational roles.

Tim Tolson provides further background - there had been a recommendation to have a joint body of the CAC chairs in Albemarle at one point. Also points out that Crozet is the only growth area in Albemarle to be in one supervisor's district.

Allie Pesch clarifies that there have intermittently been joint CAC chair meetings, along with the annual full joint CAC meeting.

There is the possibility of hybrid meetings pending state legislature decision

Marc McKenney suggests using the end of the meeting to tee up issues that are coming before PC and BOS re: Crozet. Joe Fore suggests doing that at the beginning of the meeting. This might include a backlog of items to check in on. The role of our Planning Commission rep could fill in here. How does the timing work on this? asks Valerie Long, given that the BOS agenda sometimes has a really tight turnaround. Necessitates followup & keeping things on the agenda mont-to-month

Valerie Long - we could really help staff here to follow up on implementation of master plan projects - make sure that ongoing projects really are being tied into the master plan systems that are in place, including past projects from prior master plan drafts.

In a recent month, when Joe Fore asked Rachel Falkenstein about the possibility of the CCAC assisting on implementation of catalyst projects, Rachel's response was that the BOS had not directed county staff to work on that.

Michael Monaco asks - could we track, perhaps with an annual meeting or ongoing spreadsheet, the catalyst projects in the master plan - this seems like a good role for the CCAC to help steer efforts. Joe suggests monthly/quarterly topical agenda items tied to the catalyst projects.

Marc McKenney - Another role is educating ourselves and, secondhand, the community, on how government works and why it takes so long to accomplish projects.

Grace Remer provides feedback - as a new member, informational sessions/educational sessions are very useful to new Crozet members.

Jim Duncan - people generally speaking don't care about what's not in their backyard. Also, how can the CAC advocate for housing and infrastructure? How can we communicate proactively the effects of development?

Summary Discussion

Anticipating future agenda items

- Marc McKenney: what can we help do to get the fireworks for the 4th going again?
 - Joe Fore: this sounds like a place-making project (re: master plan) - CCA, the Arts community - how can the CCAC plug into removing impediments?
- Joe Fore: each meeting tends to be fairly topically siloed. How can we have ongoing discussions?
 - Sarah Zmick says: (longtime resident, 24 yr) Is there a place in Crozet for supportive affordable housing? Also raises point that CAC meetings are hard for busy people and those who can't show up.
 - Joe Fore ties this into the neighborhood overlay. There was some opposition; neighborhood overlay was abandoned when staff appeared to feel that it didn't meet density goals.
 - Ken adds - the feel/presence of NIMBYism used to be minimized, and that has changed in recent years.

Some question about meeting format & introductions - Allie Pesch provides background on CCAC members including their neighborhood in their introduction to recognize diversity of place in the meeting. Joe Fore agrees to incorporate that explanation into the meeting introduction.

Supervisor Mallek has one parting thing - Albemarle has failed our CACs when it comes to onboarding, and will be working to rectify that to make CAC participants more empowered.

Closing Material

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for November 9 at 7:00 pm, at the Crozet Library. Details will be posted on the County calendar on the website. <https://www.albemarle.org/community/county-calendar>

Marc McKenney moves to adjourn; seconded by Ken Thacker; Joe Fore adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.