

Crozet Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes from February 8, 2023

Members Present:

Joe Fore - Chair
Michael Monaco - Secretary
Marc McKenney
Mallory DeCoster
Kostas Alibertis
Allie Pesch
Sandra Hausman
Mike Kunkel
Shawn Bird
Valerie Long
Lonnie Murray, Planning Commission
Ann Mallek, Board of Supervisors

County Staff:

Allison Wrabel, Community Connector
Emily Kilroy, Assistant to the County Executive

Community Attendees: (spelling reflects best efforts on the part of the Secretary)

Terri Miyamoto
Tom Loach
Matt Helt
Tim Tolson
Eric Schmitz
Relda M.
Jake H.
Dale M.
Charlotte M.
Debbie M.
C. Carter
Helen M.
Ms. Weatherford
Keith Rosenfeld
Lee S.
Dick M.
Jessie M.

Chair Joe Fore called the meeting to order at 7:03

Call to Order, Agenda Review, Introductions

Valerie moves to approve the January minutes, Marc seconds, unanimously approved.

Announcements and Updates

Allison Wrabel: There was a concern at the previous meeting from an Old Trail neighborhood about dangerous street crossings and onstreet parking in Old Trail during school letout times. The main avenue to

address these is at albemarle.org/government/police/services/traffic-enforcement-request. Important to leave contact info to find out about resolutions. Also, Traffic Town Hall coming up on 2/16 7-8:30 4907 Plank Road - good place for VDOT/traffic feedback.

Joe: One other announcement - wanted to return to getting community groups to come out & answer questions. Next month will be Western Alb Rescue Squad.

Community Concerns

Matt Helt: Low-volume commercial entrance at Crozet elementary needs to be enforced by the county. The new entrance is intended to be a bus-only entrance, limiting vehicles. However, people are using that avenue to get to the fields behind the school.

Matt Helt: Prior to the current Dairy Queen, the old gas station used to hose the parking lot down into the creek. The engineering report recently completed indicated that there could be pollution entering the creek for at least the past 1-5 years. The county needs to rectify this and make sure the regulations are being enforced.

Jessie M: The speeding is crazy on Hillsborough road, and the speeds of people traveling to King Family are shockingly high. What's the right avenue to get a speed bump/rumble strip? The answer, from Allison & the county - the traffic meeting next week is a good venue. Ann Mallek agrees to follow up on that request.

Scheduled Presentations - Presentation: AC44, the update

Allison Wrabel: The CP is a 20-year guide for the vision of the county's future. Comp plan guides 5-year strategic plans, which guide 1-year financial plans. This is a vision that will go into place in late 2024 to last through 2044. We are in Phase 2 of a 4-Phase planning process. We are in step one of phase 2, discovering challenges and opportunities. The questionnaire, open through March 10, is available on engage.albemarle.org/AC44 ; there will be roundtable dates and pop-dates, as well as opportunities to host your own community discussions.

Eric Schmitz: Two process questions. 20 year master plan for the county, 5 year strategic plan, what about master plans?

Allison & Emily: The master plans are off-schedule from our goals, but they are intended to be 5-year intervals part and parcel with the comp plan.

Eric S: The big data points are population estimates and housing estimates - when do we discuss those?

Allison: During phase 2.

Eric S: Would like a community meeting specifically about those numbers, since they guide so much.

Joe Fore: To extrapolate - you are saying that this number is important and we need to know when and how those numbers are set.

Emily Kilroy: The [land use buildout](#) does contain several of those estimates, but it's not a population goal, just a prediction.

Eric S: It just seems that this critical number is a big point that should be publicly known.

Jessie M: Isn't this population growth very much related to how much land is developed?

Emily Kilroy: It's a good question - Weldon Cooper, whose numbers we trust, has developed a reputation for accurate long-term analyses, but we can share the practices.

Jessie M: But the decisions that we make will affect the population?

Emily Kilroy: To a certain extent, yes

Jessie M: The growth management options - do we get an opportunity to vote on those, or just voice the feedback?

Allison: Those are ultimately decided by the board of supervisors, but the specifics of that feedback process hasn't been decided yet.

Emily Kilroy: Yes, the BOS will ultimately have the final say, but will be shaped by community feedback.

Matt H: What Spanish-language options are available to Crozet specifically/Albemarle, and will you commit to showing up to places where residents already are for the pop-ups (IGA, baseball field, farmer's market).

Emily Kilroy: Those are good suggestions.

Allison: I wasn't involved in the master planning process. Off the top of my head, I know there have been pop-ups in Southwood, and some of the documentation is definitely translated.

Matt H: Another concern: the GIS is not useful to residents, and there are better models out there - Roanoke, for instance.

Tom Loach: I put out a little webpage called aboutcrozet.com, I got 150 responses on my poll in the past week. Option 1 was not supported by 92%. Option 2 was supported by 86%, Option 3 non-support by 90%, Option 4 not supported 76%, Option 5 was not supported by 76%, Option 6 was mixed; (Tom's impression is that it was confusing). Paraphrased: Felt that the Master Plan addition of the new land use category was done completely without public input. Talks about population math, suggests that we will be ~90% as dense as the city of Charlottesville by his math.

Lonnie Murray: There's been a lot of confusion particularly around phase 1, even as a planning manager I felt confused. The document produced felt like a mishmash. One conflict was around providing services to the rural area. Process-wise, the PC also provides feedback on a lot of documents, but there's not a clear red-line process to confirm that the PC feedback was heard.

Ann Mallek: Can confirm that the document that went to BOS was the same the PC saw.

Lonnie M: I found it confused that it was categorized as planning for growth, but I didn't see this in the document.

Joe Fore: I was confused to get a list of options - it felt like a pick-one menu. A clearer sense is needed of what will happen in each phase.

Emily Kilroy: There are no decisions right now, definitely.

Joe Fore: That's a good to hear communicated clearly.

Kostas A: How do we get a message to the board as a whole, beyond just Ann's lone voice?

Ann Mallek: It's very important to get before the BOS. We are in the library today because a small group of people stayed dedicated to showing up at board meetings. This plan is very philosophically important to me, because it's important to learn how we got to where we are today. Each piece of the comp plan does sometimes end up having conflicting goals, something we do usually try to avoid. The numbers issue is important, because it's up to the community to decide what kind of community we want to be. If we welcome all comers will we just become Fairfax? Because it didn't take long to get from farms to Fairfax. I need your arguments to help strengthen my voices.

Jessie: Tom's questionnaire seems like the right place to start for this feedback.

Tom L: We need a common meeting of the CAC leads to share common concerns county-wide. There's been no other community as vocal as us in the last 30 years. We had the first master plan. Feels that the consultants' estimate in 2000 for population was low, but should have been the correct number.

community member: Who is responsible for preparing the material for the board?

Ann Mallek: It's a staff duty.

community member: They aren't getting it right, then, because we aren't heard.

Matt H: Speaks in support of the above point.

Community Chat Kit section begins

Allison: This is a toolkit to host your own meetings with your own organizations to discuss the AC44 plan objectives, etc. We'll do an example of this with the question "how do you want to get around the county in 2044?"

Ann provides feedback: That file is a little big for folks on rural broadband to download.

Allison poses example question from the chat kit: How do you want to get around the county in 2044?

Community member: asks about report-outs on these feedbacks.

Allison: Still working on the process design.

Community member: Transportation is a real problem around Crozet even now, I am having trouble imagining the 20-year future. Primarily, the problem is the number of cars in our small community. Eastern Avenue is a dream, but it's been a dream for many many years. The only real new road I'm aware of is Old Trail Drive connecting Jarmans Gap to 250. Public transportation is great and I think it's working, but people still like their cars. How can people still have their cars to drive to their jobs in Charlottesville etc when there's so many cars on the road?

Kostas A: That same community concern from earlier is relevant here - too many cars around kids and schooltimes etc. Folks worry about their children with traffic safety on 250.

Joe Fore: Plugs going to the engage.albemarle.org/ac44 to provide this feedback.

Emily Kilroy: You can go back and look at phase 1 on the ac44, to read all the comments, see what people said.

Ann Mallek: Are there paper reference files at the library?

Emily Kilroy: I don't believe so but that's very doable.

Eric S: My suggestion and question - what about all this in-person feedback, how are you capturing everything that was talked about tonight in a comprehensive set of minutes?

Joe Fore: This is something I brought up with Rachel Falkenstein before. For the master plan, we would have a whole meeting on each chapter. Could we do that here?

Emily Kilroy: It's a real challenge to do that county-wide for each chapter of the comp plan, so that's why we're developing the pop-ups, questionnaires, chat kits - tools for people to have these conversations and prepare their feedback.

Tom Loach: These issues are bigger than the six people on the BOS, and I don't have confidence in them to make the right decisions for Crozet. I would prefer a ballot referendum on the issues in the comprehensive plan.

Committee Business

Joe Fore: Mallory had volunteered to look into website issues - Mallory?

Mallory: The search engine optimization is not strong - the best way to reach the county's website for crozet is by going to the CCA website, then clicking through - shoutout to Tim Tolson. Also, found three links that were broken, which I sent to Allison.

Joe Fore: Michael was working on our development tracker/updater. Allison will be giving us some instruction on CountyView so we're all able to keep this updated.

Allie Pesch: Apply to the committee! The CCAC will have vacancies.

Tim Tolson: The CCA meeting will have a repeat of this presentation next month. Also, if you can't remember anything else, the CCA website is cca.avenue.org.

Closing Material

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for March 8 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>

Joe Fore adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.