

Crozet Community Advisory Committee Minutes - 3/12/2025 7pm-8:30pm
Crozet Community Library

Committee Members Present: Michael Monaco (Chair), Nathan Alderman (Vice Chair), Andrew Bowers (Secretary), Wallace D. Barrett-Johnson, Christen Bird, Shawn Brydge, Erin C. Houlihan, Sarah Spears

Committee Members Absent: Kostas Alibertis, Bruce Butala

Liaisons Present: Ann Mallek, Lonnie Murray, Allison Wrabel
Liaisons Absent:

Other Attendees: Emily Kilroy, Director, Albemarle County Economic Development Office

7 members of the public in audience

Agenda

1. Call to Order, Agenda Review, Introductions (5 minutes)
Michael Monaco, Chair

2. Approve Meeting Minutes (2 minutes)
Michael Monaco, Chair motion to approve
Christen Bird seconded
Approved

3. Economic Development Office Presentation and Q&A (60 minutes)
Emily Kilroy, Director, Albemarle County Economic Development Office

- Materials:
 - o Economic Development Strategic Plan Update Engage Page
 - o EDO Webpage
 - o Project ENABLE 1.0 Final Outcome Summary
 - o AC44 Draft Chapter: Thriving Economy

Director Kilroy presented an overview of the Economic Development Office's mission, goals, and strategies including job creation, redevelopment, and future opportunities. Project ENABLE outcomes were covered including, \$2.34M in state grants leveraged, 10 company expansion announcements, \$270M in private capital investment, and 691 new jobs created.

Albemarle has strong economic growth but is lagging behind peers. 3.3% unemployment rate average 2019-2023. 11% job growth 2018-2023.

Albemarle has strong economic growth but workforce participation lags behind peers. Albemarle has a highly educated workforce and one of the fastest growing STEM occupations areas.

Property taxes make up most of the county's income. Growth in residential tax income has outpaced commercial. County looking to shift balance back towards commercial.

Fashion Square Mall property value collapsed during the pandemic and is the only property in Albemarle that has not recovered. Home Depot redevelopment aims to reverse declining property value.

ACME site mentioned as possible redevelopment location. Site continues to be reclaimed and trend line is going down on testing.

Data shows that there are fewer prime working age individuals. Graduates often do not stay here but many boomerang back at retirement age. 25-44 yr olds make up lower than Virginia and U.S. averages in Albemarle.

4. Board of Supervisors/Planning Commission Liaison Updates (10 minutes) – this is time reserved for liaisons to share community announcements and project/policy updates
Supervisor Ann Mallek and Planning Commissioner Lonnie Murray

Mallek: Upcoming budget town halls - Western Albemarle 4/9. Focus on frontline workers in emergency services where we are short on numbers. There has been a massive increase in calls in 2024 to fire/police. Need participation and ideas from the community.

Murray: Crozet fireworks approved on 3/11/25 . Living Earth School approved unanimously for a special use permit.

5. Other Committee Business (5 minutes)

Upcoming budget town halls - Western Albemarle 4/9. No CACC meeting in April.

6. Community Concerns (5 minutes)

Resident volunteer firefighter says the Crozet Fire Department needs a 4th firefighter badly. Says what we have is dangerous. Equipment is not the problem, it's personnel. Age of existing fire fighters is high and rising and having trouble bringing in new people.

7. Adjourn (1 minutes)