

Crozet Community Advisory Committee (CAC) August 2025 Minutes
Wednesday, August 13, 2025
Crozet Library
7:00 p.m.

Liaisons Present: Serena Gruia, Lonnie Muray, Ann Mallek

Liaisons Absent: Allison Wrabel

Members Present: Michael S Monaco, Kostas J Alibertis, Andrew William Joyner, Grace Spalding, Nathan M Alderman, Shawn N Brydge

Members Absent: Sarah Spears, Erin C Houlihan, Wallace D Barrett-Johnson, Andrew D Bowers

Other Attendees: members of the Albemarle County Parks and Recreation office and members of the Crozet Trails Crew

Agenda

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

Michael Monaco, Chair

2. Approve Meeting Minutes (2 minutes)

Michael Monaco, Chair

Meeting minutes: approved.

3. Presentation: Albemarle County Parks and Recreation (30 minutes)

Tim Padalino, Albemarle County Chief of Parks Planning

• Freebridge Promenade

- Pilot project "Grand Closing" on 11/1/2024
- Currently still in a 12-month pilot phase
- BOS voted on 8/6/25 to initiate discontinuance process with VDOT (to discontinue vehicular ROW indefinitely)
- Resume the former roadway as a waterfront promenade

• Biscuit Run Park

- Stream restoration project
- Hickory entrance and bridge
- Trail system expansion
 - Include new trail, rerouting some existing trails, and construction of new boardwalk features.
- Partnership Projects: (CAMBC; UVA-SARC Design Build Studio)
 - Biscuits & Gravity, downhill bike area. Designed to be a progressive park for all rider levels. Currently, pause until Fall.

• Urban Parks

- FY24-28 Strategic plan goals #4.4, #4.45)
- Design phase kicked off 7/30/2025

- (New) Hillsdale Basin Pocket Park and Humphris Park Enhancements
- **Crozet Greenway Trails**
 - Fall 2024: Tropical storm remnants caused significant flooding and damage to greenway trails networks
 - Crozet Trails Crew contributed a total of 223 hours of repairing/replacing footbridges and maintaining trails.
- **Western Park**
 - Community garden improvements include a new yard hydrant
 - Funding donation from Old Trail Community Association
 - NEW trail construction along Lickinghole Creek
 - Volunteer project by Crozet Trails Crew
 - 3 new bridges added to the trail
 - 0.4 miles of new trail with small footbridges
- **Mint Springs Valley Park**
 - 2 trail re-routes on Big Survey Trail.
 - NEW Trails: Sunrise Trail and Ridge Trail
 - Efforts primarily led by CAMBC with Parks & Rec partnership.
 - Working to update the Mint Springs Map.
 - A new greenway trails map is also in progress.
 - Error: Richmond Road is Rockfish Gap.
 - The error was noted by Butch Butch (Parks Planner) in the room.
- **Volunteer Action + Impact**
 - Total hours from all volunteers Countywide is FY25 = 2631
 - Total value of all volunteer hours = \$91,532
 - The Crozet Trails Crew contributed the most, 515 hours donated ($\frac{1}{5}$ of the total hours donated) for the ACPR in FY25.
 - **New Volunteer Opportunity:** ACPR Parks Ambassadors program
 - Dan Butch (Parks Planner): dbutch@albemarle.org
- **Recreations Snapshot**
 - Summer Swim @ Mint Springs: 8,893 total park patrons
 - Greenwood Community Center Fall programs: Yoga, Karate, Tai Chi, and Beekeeping, plus open skate every Friday
 - Middle School Fall Sports
 - Burley, Henley, Journey, Lakeside, and Walton: boys and girls basketball, tennis, and Cross country.
- **What's Next?**
 - Crozet greenway trails volunteer.
 - Trails at Lickinghole Basin, ACPR is actively coordinating with RWSA about potential recreation management.
- **Stats:** 1.3 M visitors, 10 miles of new trail, while maintaining 95 miles of trail, 171 volunteer events, 2631 volunteer hours, 96 acres under active management from invasive species, 9,358 participants in programs.
- \$100,000 grant to support invasive species in our parks.

- **Q:** What is the status of the management of Lickinghole park? **A.** ACPR is in active discussion and shares the concern about the rare birds and will provide updates.
- The group discussed the possibility of ACPR management for
- **Q:** The community desires a spray park or splash pad in Crozet. **A.** It is on ACPR radar. ACPR currently has nothing in the budget. There is no location presently being evaluated.
- **Q:** Concern, we are not building parks integrated into our communities and neighborhoods. **A.** ACPR thanked the community for the feedback and acknowledged that thinking was also behind the development of urban parks, including evaluation for:
 - Focus on county-owned land (reduction in cost and time).
 - Increasing residential access by foot or by bike.

4. Presentation: Crozet Trails Crew (25 minutes)

Terri Miyamoto, Crozet Trails Crew President

- All people who live in Crozet and care about our trails and how they benefit our lives in Crozet.
- **Who are we?** Cooperative efforts of Country Parks & Rec and Crozet residents.
 - We are always guided by the Crozet Master Plan.
 - Work with ACPR to determine new crozet trails.
- **Why are trails important?**
 - The community consistently asks for them.
 - Connections among our neighborhoods
 - Encourage physical activity and the benefits of nature
 - Good trail networks reduce automobile traffic and parking needs
- **What do we do?**
 - Build trails
 - The county does a great job mowing, but sometimes trails need to be trimmed or maintained.
 - We build things for the trails: benches, signs, etc.
 - Try to help people get out and enjoy the trails. For example, new to Corzet trail walks and a 7-mile loop day in Crozet on New Year's Day.
- **What have we done this year?**
 - Flooding bridge repair. Bog walk, across part of westly park—250 feet. Lickinghole Creek cleared the trail and built 3-4 bridges. It's a beautiful trail.
- **Planning?**
 - A few bridges that are 10+ years old that need replacement or repair. They'll be wide enough to get mowers across them.
 - The Powell Creek trail will be built this winter.
 - We are installing new benches and anchoring them to the ground.
- **Challenges:**
 - A multitude of trail owners, volunteers for organizing and publicity, and ticks and poison ivy.

- Need more work from people organizing paperwork, organizing, and social media.
- **Help build a new pedestrian bridge!**
 - Lickinghole Creek Bridge is a unique project. It's a regulated waterway that serves a major watershed.
 - Requires environmental approvals from the Army Corps and Albemarle County.
 - ACOE is only involved if we build below the normal water level. There is an endangered mollusk in Lickinghole Creek!
 - Need a building permit from Albemarle County.
 - Tried to put all the trails on Google Earth.
 - Easement for New Bridge and Trail for the Cory Farms property.
 - What can we build? A high-crossing bridge (floodplain is 8ft high) to clear that it's 10ft in the air + 100ft ramps. Very expensive!
 - Low crossing bridge with no railing. Above the normal water level, and impact the flood plain as little as possible. The bridge will be submerged during floods.
 - Also exploring additional locations.
 - We've made progress. We have civil engineers and surveyors.
- **Q:** Is the low crossing bridge made of steel? **A:** Right now, the plan is steel but depends on the estimated cost.
- **Q:** We have some interest among volunteers in invasive species. **A:** Doing some invasive management, it's in the works. We have one natural resource specialist for 4,500 acres! We're trying to figure out how to coordinate between the Trail Crew and ACPR.
- **Q:** People are excited about the Three Notch Trail coming through. **A:** The Crozet Trail Crew is a part of the discussions, providing input on design and possibilities through Crozet. There is an online engagement and mapping tool—encouraging people to view and share. They are seeking public feedback.

5. Board of Supervisors/Planning Commission Liaison Updates (15 minutes) – this is time reserved for liaisons to share community announcements and project/policy updates

Supervisor Ann Mallek and Planning Commissioner Lonnie Murray

Supervisor Ann Mallek

- Zoning modification. There has been a tremendous effort on the part of all members/departments to get this wrapped up.
- Read the mission and the vision of the county.
- More is coming in early winter.
- Coming in a work session (August 20th), [Riparian Buffer Requirements](#), latest version.
- **Q:** Why did you vote to approve the exchange for development off of 250/64 interchange? Ann has not voted to approve that and has argued against it in the discussion. It has not been approved.

Planning Commissioner Lonnie Murray

- There are not many updates because the Planning Commission has not met as often as normal this summer.
- Encourage community review and feedback on the Riparian [Buffer Requirements](#).
 - Concerns about Montclair.

6. Other Committee Business (7 minutes)

- AC44 Community Check-In: Unveiling Our Draft Comprehensive Plan will take place next [Thursday, August 21, from 6-8 pm at Lane Auditorium](#) (with a virtual option as well). Anyone is welcome to attend.
- **Q:** There is typically an all-CAC in October. Is that in the plans? They are considering it. Stay tuned.
- No additional committee business.

7. Updates from Allison Wrabel, Community Connector

Allison is not in attendance, so no updates were provided.

8. Community Concerns (5 minutes)

RESOLUTION PROVIDED. (INCLUDE DETAILS)

Typed submission, in full, presented to the CCAC by a community member:

Whereas, since 2004, the Crozet community has maintained a tradition of self-determination through it's advisory bodies, beginning with the Crozet Community Association and continuing with the Crozet Community Advisory Committee (CCAC);

Whereas, the CCAC has historically collaborated with county staff to develop meeting agendas that reflect the priorities and concerns of Crozet residents;

Whereas, recent changes to the CCAC's structure and agenda-setting process—specifically the allocation of only five minutes for community matters—are inadequate, dismissive of public input, and undermine the committee's ability to represent the community effectively;

Whereas, the autonomy of the CCAC is essential to its role as a meaningful conduit between Crozet residents and county government;

Therefore, be it resolved that the members of the Crozet Community Advisory Committee formally request the restoration of the committee's autonomy, including the authority to determine its own meeting agendas in collaboration with county staff.

Be it further resolved, that the CCAC calls upon Albemarle County to reaffirm its commitment to genuine community engagement by respecting the advisory role and independence of the CCAC;

Be it finally resolved, that the CCAC urges the county to revise its current agenda structure to

allow for substantive community input and discussion, thereby ensuring that the committee continues to serve the residents of Crozet with integrity and purpose.

Community Member provided additional insights into the resolution distributed at the meeting (above):

- a. The committee should be independent in decision-making.
 - b. Five minutes for community concerns is insufficient and viewed as dismissive.
 - c. The current agenda process lacks meaningful community input.
 - d. Suggest opening agenda planning to community feedback and advance submissions.
 - e. Requests for stronger coordination with the Crozet Community Association.
9. The [CCA](#) July 10th, 2025, unanimously passed the full resolutions. In between the first and second votes, information was published. On July 10th, the meeting passed for the re-review of the Montclair rezoning. This review should include enforcement of compliance. For details about this meeting and its resolutions, visit: <https://cca.avenue.org/meeting-minutes/>
- a. **The next CCA meeting is scheduled on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 7:30 PM at the Crozet Park Community Building.** Everyone is welcome to attend. Your voice is important in shaping Crozet's future.
10. CCAC member Kostas Alibertis provided the following reflection on the role of the CCAC: "It has evolved from what it was to what it is. It's not an advisory committee now. It has evolved into something different. It's an informational environment. The role of the committee has evolved. What the board wants to do with us is up to them."

11. Adjourned at 8:30 pm

Voting Guidance:

For each voice vote, record the result of the vote, e.g., passed or failed.

For each roll call vote, record the name of each member voting and how the member voted on the motion.