

PANTOPS CAC MEETING MINUTES

January 24, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Richard Hiss at 6:18 PM. The call to order was read per the approved script, for a ZOOM meeting under Covid-19 protocols and a quorum was confirmed.

CAC members present were:

Richard Hiss – Ron Brownfield - Stephanie Lowenhaupt – Brian Mason – Ida Lee Wootten – Richard Ruffin – Louis Felzer – Anne Oliver,

County personnel present were:

Bea LaPisto-Kirtley, BOS, Rachel Falkenstein, Planning Manager, Corey Clayborne, Senior Planner

Guests included Suzanne Berry and Bob Morris from Westminster Canterbury

The Minutes of the meeting of November were approved as previously distributed.

Stephanie Lowenhaupt noted that the minutes of the October meeting had not reached her and said that she did not think they have yet been approved. Dick Hiss said that he had written the minutes and thought that they had been submitted to County staff shortly after the meeting. He will try to follow up.

Update on Bike/Ped Bridge over the Rivanna River

Dick Ruffin, the PCAC's representative on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee, reported that since our last PCAC meeting, there have been three meetings of the committee and one site visit on the Charlottesville side. He made the following observations:

1. The project is a win for both Charlottesville and Albemarle County, and represents a big step towards greater connectivity between the two entities and towards recognizing the Rivanna as perhaps the greatest natural resource of the region.
2. Members of the Stakeholders Committee represent a wide cross section of the community, as well as VDOT, county and city planners and non-profits concerned with the river. These include individuals who have been involved with the project from the beginning.

3. There are now only two viable and feasible alignments for a bridge. More than a dozen factors relating to the benefits and potential risks of each alignment have been evaluated and prioritized by the committee. The committee has also engaged directly with residents on the Charlottesville side.
4. The role of the committee is to act as liaison on behalf of the organizations they represent, to consider pros and cons of alternative bridge alignments, to offer guidance on priority considerations, to assist with public outreach and to provide a recommendation to the Policy Board of the Metropolitan Planning Organization that can be used to develop the Smart Scale application.
5. The timeline is tight. A pre-application is due to VDOT by end of March and the final application by August 1.
6. There is competition for funds through VDOT's Smart Scale process. VDOT evaluates each project according to six criteria: Safety, Congestion mitigation, Accessibility, Economic Development, Environmental Quality and Land Use. Our application will highlight ways in which the bridge project meets these criteria.
7. The next important step is public outreach. We need to engage as many people in the community as possible. The committee is designing a survey which will be available next week. It will be distributed in a variety of ways, including to each of you. Please do all you can to elicit responses to this survey from people with whom you have contact.

Project Updates

Rachel Falkenstein reported on three issues.

1. The county investigated concerns expressed by some citizens about potentially unauthorized activities near the intersection of Hanson Mountain Rd. and Rt 250. The owner, it turns out, was merely destroying overgrown vegetation on his property and no ordinances had been violated.
2. The county has received a site plan for a development at the intersection of Town and Country Rd. and Olympia Drive. A 119 room, five story hotel is being planned. Dick Hiss had read that it would be suites and would be operated by Marriott under the name Marriott Townplace Suites. Stephanie asked why there was a need for yet another hotel. Bea explained that the county does not evaluate that need and leaves the risk to the developers.
3. The Planning Commission held a final public hearing on the Overlook Hotel to be built on land below the shopping center where Giant is located. The developer had been unsuccessful in getting permission from businesses to open a pedestrian access to Abbey Road. Some landscaping changes have been agreed that would soften the

appearance of the 4 story building from Rt. 250. The Planning Commission has approved the project as presented. The plan will be presented in March for Board of Supervisor' approval.

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Liaison Updates

Bea Kirtley reported:

1. Pantops has been chosen as one of two districts in the county where a new micro-transit pilot program will be inaugurated. This is a major development, she said, and should be up and running by December. It would be an on-demand service secured by the use of an app. One vehicle would be in circulation from 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, ready to respond to calls for service. The per trip cost will probably be \$2-3, much lower than Uber. Passengers would be taken to destinations in Pantops, including to locations where they could connect with CAT going to Charlottesville. Rachel undertook to send out a map showing the outer boundary of the service.
2. There is progress in advancing legislation that would allow speed cameras to be installed on certain roads in the County. The legislation has not been finalized. Once there is a bill on the floor, Bea hopes we will each contact legislators on both sides of the aisle to encourage them to support this important safety measure.
3. There is a possibility of installing a red light camera at the intersection of Rts. 250 and 20N.
4. Improvements to Rt. 250 between I64 and Rt. 20 have been pushed back for a year or two.

Other Business

The County is about to launch a proposed Comprehensive Plan for the next 20 years. This will shape the future of the area and is therefore of utmost importance. A small committee is being launched to advise on this plan. Applications will be available next week. Rachel and Bea encouraged us to seek out good candidates to serve on this committee. The candidates to serve on this committee will be expected to work 10 hours/month beginning in March of 2022.

The February meeting will be held on Monday, February 28 at 6:15.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM by Chairman Hiss.

Minutes taken and transcribed by Richard Ruffin, Acting Secretary