

## Hydraulic Community Advisory Committee Minutes Monday, March 21, 2022 | 5:30pm-7:00pm

### VIRTUAL MEETING

*This meeting was held pursuant to and in compliance with Ordinance No. 20-A (8); An Ordinance to Ensure the Continuity of Government During Covid-19.*

#### ATTENDEES:

*Committee:* Kate Acuff, Julian Bivins, James Clemenko, Jane Fogleman, Jane Foy, Bill Love, Diantha McKeel, Rosemary Miller, Cynthia Neff, John Lewis, Yolanda Speed, Kim Swanson

*Community Members:* Kevin McDermott (Albemarle County), Jay Thomas (Albemarle Secondary Education), Rachel Falkenstein (Albemarle County)

Yolanda Speed called the meeting to order, welcomed the group, and requested the previous meeting's minutes be approved. Minutes were approved.

#### AGENDA:

**Transportation Planning Overview & Places29 Project Updates**  
Jessica Hersh-Ballering, Principal Planner, Transportation

***NOTE: Rosemary (secretary) joined the meeting late and could missed this part of the meeting.***

#### Albemarle High School Redesign

Jay Thomas, Albemarle County Director of Secondary Education

- Visit the Albemarle Website to find out more about high school redesign.
- Started this process looking at student success, career learning communities – hospitality & tourism, multimedia & arts, transportation/robotics/analytics, performing arts, entrepreneurship,
- This will go into effect this coming year, impacting current 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Currently already doing some of this work with the Academies model
- John Lewis asked about CATEC and other current programs. Mr. Thomas clarified that we already have CATEC, Community Lab School, Math Engineering & Science School, Environmental Studies School, Information & Communication Technology, and Health & Medical Sciences. This new model will be *in addition* to the programs already offered.
- Jane Foy mentioned that we need to be mindful of the role of PVCC and it's relationship with CATEC. Mr. Thomas agreed, saying PVCC is a great resource and partner. It's a great option for lots of high school students.
- Bill Love asked about special efforts to work with kids who are on the autism spectrum. Mr. Thomas stated that Albemarle County already does this. When he was the principal at Albemarle High School, there were many students who participated in special programs and the County eliminated hurdles to have students be able to participate in programs they are interested in. This new program won't add new opportunities specifically for this group of students, but it is already included in the programs they're already doing.
- Kim Swanson has a son who is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader (will be impacted by this new program). She wonders how the County plans to support students, especially for students who have been

virtual for their entire middle school experience. Mr. Thomas told the group about new positions that have been added – the intention is to get to know the kids and their needs. They want to ensure that every kid has someone they feel comfortable coming to, keeping social/emotional learning at the center of the experience.

### **Rachel Falkenstein – Introduction**

- Rachel Falkenstein is a Planning Manager at Albemarle County
- There is a new approach to CAC scheduling in order to involve CAC members with the Comprehensive Plan process and be able to plan ahead and align with Comp Plan process.
- Tentative Schedule includes recess in July and some months with the CAC having topics of their choosing. April, June, August, October, and December are reserved for Development Review Community meeting if needed.
- Diantha recognized the need for strategic staffing (possibly not having a Planning staff member at every meeting) and acknowledged that this CAC often talks about issues relevant to our area. Diantha proposed that the April meeting be spent discussing upcoming topics that people feel are important to this group. Ms. Speed agreed with the idea of discussing the interest topics at the April meeting.

### **Community Updates**

- Diantha introduced new member Jane Foy. Jane introduced herself – a local radio voice, an author (topic: caring for people with dementia). She also houses travel nurses. Lives in the Minor Hill neighborhood off Commonwealth.
- If anyone wants to follow the Hillsdale apartment complex project, visit the City of Charlottesville website for updates.
- County Budget process is ongoing!
- School Board and Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission will begin in-person meetings. CAC meetings will remain virtual until the late summer or fall.
- Julian Bivins passed his time to Kate Acuff, as Ms. Falkenstein had covered his update.
- Kate Acuff, School Board. Lifting of the mask mandate has been relatively calm. Currently one outbreak at one elementary school. Overall covid rates are going down. Teachers and administrators are still wearing masks, but there may be changes after spring break.
- There have been 300 newcomers this year in the school district. Many of these students are disproportionately low-income and many are refugee families being welcomed through The IRC (local nonprofit).
- Albemarle County Public Schools is also working with a consultant (from Dallas) to reduce the achievement gap and also working on environmental sustainability in schools. Environmental sustainability is focused on buildings, transportation, and students. Getting two new electric buses, which cost \$300k (compared to \$100K for a diesel bus). The county replaces 3-5 buses each year.
- Albemarle County currently has fewer students than before the pandemic, but inching back up to 14,000. Currently about 100 classrooms in trailers. A six-classroom addition is being built at Mountain View Elementary, the eight trailer classrooms will remain.

- Bill Love asked about the orders from The Governor. Kate Acuff responded that the divisive comments and actions have been “pretty much a non-event” and superintendents across the state came together to dismiss the actions.
- Kim Swanson thanked Ms. Acuff and the School Board for installing the raised beds at Greer Elementary.

Yolanda Speed closed the meeting at 7:11pm.

**NEXT MEETING: April 18, 2022**