

## **PANTOPS CAC MEETING DRAFT MINUTES**

**May 23, 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.

**CAC members present were:**

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

**County personnel present were:**

**Bea LaPisto-Kirtley, BOS, Tori Kanellopoulos, Planning Manager, Gabe Dayley, Climate Protection Program Manager, Corey Clayborne, Planning Commission, and Carolyn Shaffer.**

**A quorum was confirmed to be present.**

**The Minutes of March 28, 2022, were unanimously approved as previously distributed.**

### **Climate Action Planning**

**Gabe Dayley, the county's Climate Protection Program Manager, said that the overwhelming challenges of climate change were leading localities across the country to develop climate action plans. Albemarle County's Climate Action Plan (CAP) was adopted in 2020 and focuses on four areas: health, economy, environment and equity. The aim is to reduce emissions by 45% from 2008 levels by 2030 and to achieve zero net emissions by 2050. This is a tall order. Current rates of reduction will have to be accelerated. To this end, an inventory of Green House Gases (GHG) was done in 2018 and will be undertaken every two years. Not surprisingly, 52% of emissions come from transport and another 39% from energy used in buildings. The balance comes from waste and agriculture.**

**The CAP has developed 135 actions to help mitigate emissions in the four areas of focus. These are now being prioritized through a cost-benefit analysis.**

**A next step is to integrate the CAP with the Comprehensive Plan now being revised. For example, in the transportation area there are recommendations relating to denser mixed use development, affordable housing and more robust transit, bike and pedestrian infrastructure. With respect to buildings, focus is on electrification, solar energy and adaptive use of existing buildings. Conservation and sequestration are priorities also, with increasing focus on adding tree canopy.**

To enable citizens of Albemarle to get involved in mitigation efforts, the county launched an Environmental Stewardship Hub on April 22, 2022 (Earth Day). It can be found on the Albemarle County website. It has numerous tips for how to reduce the carbon footprint at home, on your land and in the community. Gabe suggested we each take time to explore this hub, and discover its wide range of resources, including information about going solar, reducing home electricity use, planting trees, etc. Making the resources of this hub more widely known could be one goal of the PCAC.

Finally, Gabe reported that in addition to the CAP, the county is in the process of drafting a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan. A draft will soon be available so that the community can engage in finalizing this document.

### Questions and Answers

In response to a question from Ron Brownfield, Gabe said that it was a high priority for the county to promote the program through the schools.

Dick Hiss asked about public engagement, to which Supervisor LaPisto-Kirtley emphasized that incentives were needed. Gabe said the keys were to educate, promote and encourage, and to set goals that were SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound).

Stephanie Lowenhaupt suggested that the county work through neighborhood and community based organizations. She also called for greater use of car pools and ride sharing.

Corey Clayborne made three points: 1. Engage the right people at the right time. 2. Play the long game. 3. Make sure goals are complementary with those of Charlottesville and of the University.

Discussion also touched on issues as specific as UVA's stadium lights and as broad as jurisdictional issues between States.

### Liaison Updates

Supervisor Bea LaPisto-Kirtley reported that due to health considerations she had not attended the last BOS meeting. She did confirm, however, that a push to turn the Darden Towe fields into a sports complex with synthetic turf had been turned back by a 3-3 vote of the Supervisors. She was pleased with this outcome, though cautioned that the issue could come up again later.

In response to questions she said 1) that the Double-Diamond traffic pattern at the intersection of I64 and Rt. 250 would be completed early in 2023, and 2) that the Pantops Micro-Transport plan of which she had spoken previously was awaiting funding before it could be implemented.

## **Other Business**

**Chairman Hiss reported that with some members, including himself, retiring this summer, it was important for members to recruit others to serve on the Committee. Applications can be found online and decisions are made by the BOS on the first Wednesday of each month.**

**He also said there was a need to elect new officers, namely a Chair, a Vice-Chair and a Secretary. He said that Dick Ruffin was willing to serve as Chair if asked to do so. Ann Oliver said she would be willing to be Secretary. No one volunteered to serve as Vice-Chair, though later Stephanie Lowenhaupt offered to do that. Elections will be at the June or July meeting.**

**Bea Lapisto-Kirtley noted that the County plans to require in person meetings as of September. Chairman Hiss said that before Covid, the PCAC met in a room at Martha Jefferson Hospital.**

**The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 27, 2022 at 6:15 pm.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM by Chairman Hiss.**

**Minutes taken and transcribed by Richard Ruffin, Acting Secretary**