

PANTOPS COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN-PERSON MEETING - MINUTES APRIL 24, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER & AGENDA REVIEW:

- A. The meeting was called to order by Chair Richard Ruffin at 6:15 PM. The meeting agenda was reviewed.
- B. CAC Members present were: Richard Ruffin - Chair, Stephanie Lowenhaupt - ViceChair, Michael Fraser, Judith Joyce, Kate Kaminsky, Henry Light, Michael Spatz, Ida Lee Wootten, Ron Brownfield.
- C. County personnel present were: Donna Price - Board of Supervisors Chair, Bea LaPisto-Kirtley - Board of Supervisors, Allison Wrabel - Community Connector-Communication and Public Engagement.
- D. A quorum was confirmed to be present.

2. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES: The minutes of the March 27, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved as previously distributed.

3. COMMUNITY CONCERNS - OPEN MIC FOR CITIZENS:

- A. Free Bridge Lane - The Promenade option for this road was unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors. The 2-way bike lane was questioned. This has not been funded yet and may be funded in the next fiscal year. Public comments can be sent to the County.
- B. An off-leash dog trail was requested in the area.

4. PROJECT UPDATES:

- A. Riverside shops - The Developer's request to convert commercial space to residential units was denied by the County. A Thai restaurant is planning to occupy a currently empty space during the summer.
- B. Rivanna River Pedestrian Bridge - The proposed bridge was submitted to the VDOT Smart Scale process, but was not accepted. The cost assigned was \$42 million and included contingency allowances. Location in reference to the 100 year flood plain was noted. The proposed option - Woolen Mills - was chosen over the Riverside Park location. The County is considering an application for Federal funding that would help reduce the cost of the project. Fund raising was mentioned as a possible option.

- C. Fire Rescue Station 16 - This station is fully functional except for staffing. Volunteers are needed - training is one year. The station is getting a "jaws of life".
- D. Overlook Hotel - Approved - awaiting action by developer.
- E. Multi-Family behind Giant - One public hearing has taken place. Issues including a future park and sloping land stability were brought up. Not scheduled yet for the Planning Commission. A County Development final report is apparently not available on-line.
- F. Hotel behind Guadalajara - Land is being cleared on this site. No concrete proposal has been received by the county.
- G. Hotel on State Farm Road and Car Wash at Pantops Shopping Center - Status unknown.
- H. Roads: 250 - Median and 250/20 intersection work scheduled for 2027.
- I. Roads: Vehicle Bridge At River - This congestion is only going to get worse with Pantops being a designated growth area in the County. Adding an additional lane was rejected in the past. A committee with all interested parties was suggested.
- J. Roads: Charging Stations - The County has no requirement for these in new developments.
- K. Roads: Divergent Diamond Interchange - Preliminary data shows an overall improving traffic flow. However, east-bound traffic from Hansens Mountain Road has to make a u-turn at Peter Jefferson Parkway - there have been many near miss accidents involving right turning traffic from Peter Jefferson Parkway.
- L. Trails - The Pantops Trail Crew, composed of volunteers, will help maintain trails. A trail from Darden Towe to North Milton is desired.
- M. Master Plan: River - Development has ignored the river, turning its back on the river as the Master Plan notes. The Pantops Shopping Center may be a good location to reverse this trend.

5. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UPDATES:

- A. Micro Transit is coming to Pantops by the end of the year.
- B. The County can assist with concerns regarding Airbnb and similar businesses.
- C. A solar farm was approved in the County.

D. A street sweeper is in operation.

E. Vehicles over 7500 pounds cannot be registered as "Farm Use".

F. A public meeting regarding the County budget is planned.

6. PCAC MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS: Members briefly introduced themselves.

7. OTHER BUSINESS: None.

8. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT: The next meeting will be May 22, 2023.
The meeting was adjourned at about 7:50 PM.

Minutes taken and transcribed by Ron Brownfield (substitute secretary).