

Hydraulic Community Advisory Committee Minutes Monday, August 15, 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:

Julian Bivins, Vito Cetta, James Clemenko, Jane Foy John Lewis, Bill Love, Diantha McKeel, Rosemary Miller (joined late), Cynthia Neff, Carolyn Shaffer (Albemarle County), Amy Smith (Parks and Rec), Yolanda Speed, Kim Swanson

Yolanda Speed, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed the group. Yolanda asked for previous meeting's minutes to be approved. Chris Rembold moved to approve the minutes. Cynthia Neff seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

AGENDA:

AC Parks and Green Systems

Amy Smith, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, Albemarle County

- Amy Smith presented Albemarle County Parks and Rec priorities and upcoming projects.
- Projects in Development Phase: Biscuit Run (phase 1 trail network), Simpson Park in Esmont (fitness trail), Western Park (playground area), and Darden Towe Park (dog park expansion and native trees)
- Projects in Planning Phase: Biscuit Run Park (Rt. 20 Entrance, maintenance facilities, connector greenway), Brook Hill River Park in Earlysville, Rivanna Greenway + Blueway projects, Crozet Trails, 5th Street Station (VDOT project), Rivanna Village Park, Crozet Plaza, and Three Notch'd Trail
- Projects in Places 29-Hydraulic region:
 - Ivy Creek Natural Area: Historic preservation of River View Farm and ADA accessible paved pathways.
 - Lambs Lane Campus Steering Committee: Participated in master planning process, advocated for increased "community use" after school hours – public trails, outdoor gathering spaces

Charlotte Yancey Humphris Park Brief History & Update

Kim Swanson

- Kim shared maps and history of Charlotte Humphris Park, the County's only pocket park of 23 acres, which is natural area surrounded by neighborhoods.
- The park benefited from the Neighborhood Improvement Funding Initiative (NIFI) funded by Albemarle County surplus funding in 2017 to invest in improvement of Charlotte Humphris Park.
- The CAC advocated for other improvements including a boundary survey and improvement plan.
- Kim noted that at one point, Charlotte Humphris Park was owned by Charlottesville Training School. As history, Diantha informed the group that it was the segregated training school, which burned down (1951?). There is a historic marker on Rio Road for the Charlottesville Training School. You can find more information about this online.

Discussion regarding possible request for sidewalk connection

Kim Swanson

- Kim shared images of an area at the entrance to Charlotte Humprhis Park closest to Commonwealth Avenue. There is a 75' section that is missing sidewalk. To improve access to the park (and the area), Kim expressed the need for this section of sidewalk to be installed.
- Kim reminded the group of the purpose of the CAC and the Places29 MasterPlan – to improve community and includes safe walking alternatives.
- Jane Foy echoed Kim's emphasis on accessibility and safety issues around the missing sidewalk section. "Like someone forgot to finish" this area. As someone who uses the area frequently, she agreed that the area should be completed to make it safer and more accessible.
- As a point of clarification, Diantha noted that the best course of action would be to get
- Peter Krebs (community member) spoke up to say that this is a crucial project. We need to prioritize getting kids safely to school, keeping people safe, and connecting neighborhoods.
- Next steps: Kim Swanson and Rosemary Miller will draft a letter on behalf of the CAC to the Board of Supervisors to recommend this project either as part of the Commonwealth Avenue sidewalks project *or* as an individual one-off project.

Community Updates

Diantha McKeel

- If you drive near the Lambs Lane school campus, you'll see lots of activity!
- 2,000 feet of sidewalk from Albemarle High School to Journey Middle School. They are installing it along with stormwater management project, which should be completed by mid-September. Diantha thanked the group for designating NIFI grants to the project and advocating for the project.
- The master plan for the Campus project is now complete and available online (DIANTHA INSERT LINK). The master plan includes a loop road and more connectivity between the schools. Diantha noted that the plan is not yet funded, but it is a plan and is currently staged out to be done more affordably. Julian noted that he hopes the group can see the plan and have an opportunity to discuss. It would be a tremendous change to the campus and will help make the land more useful and bring prestige to the county and the schools.
 - Diantha hopes this group will have a presentation of the Campus Plan at an upcoming meeting.
 - John Lewis noted that he hopes they will maintain the very special green space as part of the school campus. As the urban ring continues to grow and get more dense, green space is more and more precious and hopefully will be maintained.

Julian Bivins

- If you're curious to get more engaged, sign up to receive updates and emails regarding the Comp Plan on the County website. The goal is to have as many different voices as possible involved in the Comp Plan, so get involved!
- There was going to be a planned presentation on Old Ivy Road, but that was deferred at the request of the developer.

Diantha thanked Carolyn Shaffer for her work in facilitating our meetings throughout covid. Starting next month, meetings will be in-person. Carolyn thanked the group and let everyone know that she will be going back to her pre-covid duties!

Yolanda closed the meeting and thanked Carolyn again.

NEXT MEETING will be IN PERSON! As of right now, meetings will go back to being at the Greer Media Center (eventually – hopefully – will be at the Boys and Girls Club).

September 19: Diantha will develop agenda based on previously proposed subjects

October 17: CAC area bus tour