

Places29 Hydraulic Community Advisory Committee
Greer Elementary School, Charlottesville, VA
February 25, 2019

Meeting Minutes

CAC Members Present: Cynthia Neff, Vito Cetta, Jane Fogelman, John Lewis, Kim Swanson, Elizabeth Breedon, Steve Ward, John Neal, Yolanda Speed

- Albemarle County Board of Supervisors: Diantha McKeel
- Albemarle County Planning Commission: Julian Bivins
- Albemarle County Neighborhood Planner: Michaela Accardi
- Albemarle County Natural Heritage Committee and Virginia Native Plant Society: Nancy Weiss
- Piedmont Environmental Council: Peter Krebs

Total Attendance: 14

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Cynthia Neff at 17:35.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Julian Bivins, January 28, 2019 Places29-Hydraulic CAC Minutes were approved.

Business:

Charlotte Humphris Park Ideas and Discussion

- CAC Chair Cynthia Neff provided a summary of recent developments on Charlotte Y. Humphris Park. Most notably, several CAC members attended a meeting with County Parks and Recreation staff to discuss next steps on the morning of Monday, February 26, 2019. The group shared ideas for steps that can be taken in the short term and the long term as part of the master planning process.
 - There is a shared desire to make the park more appealing and attractive to visitors. One of the first recommended steps will be to clear out debris and invasive species and “thin” dead trees to make the park more inviting and safe for visitors.
 - Kim Swanson noted there are stormwater issues located on-site. This park master planning process provides an opportunity to address these issues.
 - There is a need to establish a leader to coordinate park clean-up volunteers and starting a “Friends of Charlotte Humphris Park” organization has been proposed. Kim Swanson has agreed to be the main point of contact with Parks and Recreation on this work moving forward.
- Nancy Weiss provided information on the context of the park and a summary of her thoughts as a member of the Albemarle County Natural Heritage Committee and Virginia Native Plant Society.
 - Nancy reiterated the park challenges (cited above) and the need to make the space more inviting, welcoming and comfortable.
 - Additionally, there is standing water which causes a mosquito issue on site. The park clean-up would help to address this issue, along with supporting the frog population in the stream on the northside of the park.

- Nancy highlighted the need for seating and rest areas on site. She recommended moving the kiosk, currently located at the southern exposure of the park, towards the interior of the trail.
- Removing invasive species and understory debris will show to the community and surrounding neighbors that Parks and Recreation is committed to making changes on the site.
- Cynthia Neff facilitated a discussion about additional community education and engagement ideas for the master planning and implementation process.
 - CAC members recommended leveraging various local partners including schools, tree stewards, Wild Rock, local Boy Scout Troops and others to: clean up the park, develop interpretive signage about local and invasive species, create nature play opportunities, and engage a variety of community members in the master planning process.
 - There is an opportunity to work with County staff and VDOT to address stormwater management at Charlotte Humphris. Greg Harper, Chief of Environmental Services, has a team working on mapping existing stormwater infrastructure across the County to determine how to meet requirements of the MS4 permit. Charlotte Humphris could be considered as a priority area for mapping.
 - Kim Swanson highlighted that Charlotte Humphris (22-acre parcel) has been undeveloped since 1919. CD Fishburn was the original owner of the land. It was owned at one point by the City of Charlottesville School Board and transitioned to the County.

Development Dashboards:

Michaela Accardi provided a brief overview of the new Development Dashboards tool (www.albemarle.org/developmentdashboards) and answered questions from CAC members.

Liaison Updates:

- Board of Supervisors
 - There are several opportunities to attend upcoming budget work sessions (see County website: <http://www.albemarle.org/department.asp?department=budget>).
 - Diantha McKeel is scheduling two town hall meetings with Ned Galloway at CATEC and Jack Jouett Middle Schools.
 - The BOS is scheduled to vote on setting the tax rate on April 16th. Staff is recommending a 1.5 cent tax increase to fund infrastructure and CIP.

Next Steps:

- Cynthia Neff will work with Nancy Weiss to identify tree stewards that live in the Hydraulic CAC area and ask them to help identify native and invasive species at Charlotte Humphris and develop recommendations for cleanup/invasive species management.
- Test out using the Trello project management tool for ongoing work at Charlotte Humphris.
- Invite Greg Harper and Joel Denunzio to attend a future CAC meeting to discuss opportunities for synergy between Parks and Recreation, stormwater management and VDOT.
- Invite Parks and Recreation staff to the next meeting to provide clarity on master planning process, budget, and timing.

Adjourned: 19:00