

Places29-Hydraulic Community Advisory Committee Minutes

Monday, April 17, 2021 | 6:30-8:00pm

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 the Covid-19 Disaster.

ATTENDEES: Michaela Accardi, Kate Acuff, Julian Bivins, James Clemenko, Jane Fogleman, Victoria Fort, John Lewis, Bill Mawyer, Diantha McKeel, Rosemary Miller, Cynthia Neff, Tim Padalino, Jaquelin Salazar, Carolyn Shaffer, Lindsay Snoddy, Yolanda Speed, Kim Swanson, Jennifer Whitaker

Cynthia started the meeting.

Minutes from previous meeting approved after Yolanda Speed moved to approve meeting and Bill Love seconded the motion.

AGENDA:

South Rivanna Reservoir Project

Bill Mawyer, Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority

- Reservoir serves all of Charlottesville, Crozet, Scottsville, urbanized parts of Albemarle, etc. The plan: the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority will run a new pipe to keep reservoir full so we never run out of water. Our reservoir will be filled by water piped from Ragged Mountain Reservoir.
- Details:
 - 9-mile pipe, 36" diameter to transport untreated water.
 - No initial timeline – project will take place 2027-2033
 - Path of new pipeline includes Rio Road, along Lambs Road, behind Greer and Jack Jouett, traveling from South Rivanna Reservoir to Ragged Mountain Reservoir and connecting to Water Treatment Plant at Observatory Hill (UVA)
- Funding is coming from water fees, service authority (not publicly funded). Estimated cost: \$80 million.

Victoria Fort, Rivanna Water Sewer Authority

- Right now, finalizing negotiations for easement with individual property owners
- They have already created the Birdwood section (taking advantage of construction already happening at Birdwood)
- Easements = 40' right of way to bury 36" pipe and they will return it to its previous condition after pipe is installed. Owner can't plant large trees or buildings over pipeline.
- Board of Directors has the right to go through a court process (condemnation) if the homeowner doesn't agree with the price being offered for property.
- Much of pipeline is in the VDOT right of way

- John Lewis asked about a non-vehicle option for the public, and taking advantage of the area cleared to make the pipeline to make recreational space. Bill Mawyer: No – they have not negotiated any easement with expectation for public use. Victoria Fort: It's possible there will be trails created after the pipeline goes in on the portions owned by Charlottesville.
- Kim Swanson asked about other projects. Bill Mawyer: South Treatment Plant & Observatory Plant will be completed in 2023, which is essential to process the large amounts of water that will be piped in when the pipeline project is completed.

- Bill Love asked about trees and natural areas being taken down by the pipeline project. Bill Mawyer: we attempt to leave trees whenever possible, following tree lines, edges of pastures, etc.
- Diantha mentioned that she hopes the pipeline project behind the schools can contribute to connecting/improving the pedestrian/cycling trails.
- The pipeline is going behind the schools, and taking into consideration the future use for schools. Rivanna offered cash compensation and will improve cross country trail system following construction of pipeline.
- Pipeline will be almost entirely in the wooded areas, mostly following the schools' property line.
- John Lewis asked about how the terrain will be as it crosses creeks. Victoria Fort: we are not sure of that level of detail yet.
- Jennifer Whitaker: Lots of UVA trails are on top of similar pipes. Some pipelines make better trails than others. They haven't developed these details yet.
- Bill Mawyer: three years ago, a community meeting discussed the pipeline when they were discussing putting the pipeline along Georgetown Road. That plan did not work, which is why it is now going on school property. Bill also reminded the group that the final design won't be confirmed for six years and is not yet set in stone. VDOT has not promised the exact location. Bill and his colleagues are glad to hear the group's ideas now as planning is taking place. Regarding a possible pedestrian/cycling path, Bill commented that recreation is not the mission of the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority, but maybe they can partner to take advantage of the project.
- Julian Bivins reminded the group that Dominion has been burying lines along Lambs Road without issue.
- Victoria shared with the group about the Wastewater Basins that have been successfully removed from Albemarle High School campus. They were demolished in summer 2020 and negotiations are currently taking place to return the land to schools.

Overview of Albemarle County Development Process

Michaela Accardi, Albemarle County

- Michaela is providing Development Process overview for committee members to have a better understanding of the big picture.
- Different projects require different process and have varying requirements for public engagement.
- When people want to change a zoning district or have a "special use" permit for a building project, it goes to legislative review, which might include a CAC meeting for neighborhood input.
- When CAC members get emails from the County, they are mostly for awareness purposes, to be aware of conversations happening around these projects. "Administrative Review" means they are reviewed by staff and appropriate agencies (VDOT, etc.)
- Cynthia Neff added that when she receives those emails, she scans briefly to see if any of the projects are in our area. It's good to be aware of all happening in our area!
- Kim Swanson asked how the County limits/moderates different types of businesses? Example: multiple new WaWa's opening. Julian answered that many WaWa's are taking over existing gas stations. Michaela noted that Albemarle County Development doesn't make decisions based on who the property owner is, but works with the Albemarle County Economic Development Office (EDO), which helps business owners in finding potential locations in the County.

Community Updates

Diantha McKeel, Albemarle County Board of Supervisors

- The County budget has passed! New budget starts July 1. New Albemarle County Community Report for 2020 (view [HERE](#)). The report breaks down how tax money is being spent.

Julian Bivins, Albemarle County Planning Commission

- The planning commission is looking at the Crozet Master Plan, and has made the first update to the Comprehensive Plan re: housing policy.
- Looking at the St. John's Road property – one of the Rosenwald Schools, part of an initiative to narrow racial schooling gaps in the South by constructing better, more-accessible schools for African Americans. This Rosenwald school was build in the 1930's and Julian is hoping it will be restored with funding from the National Parks Foundation to become a community center.

Kate Acuff, Albemarle County School Board

- School Board project: reimagining Lams Lane Campus, which has 22% of the division's students. Looking for new ideas – a consultant will advise on short term and long term plans, possibly moving the current transportation center to Berkmar to make space for more green space or other facilities for Greer Elementary, Jack Jouett Middle, and Albemarle High Schools. Removing water basins was step #1 in beautifying the space and making it more welcoming!
- Schools will be open five days/week in the fall, and schools are overfull! New "learning modules" with five classrooms will be added behind AHS and many other County schools.
- Julian gave credit to Michaela for making the slideshow to show "before" photos of campus to demonstrate the need for changes.

Kim Swanson asked about the "dumping site" at Rio Mills and asked what can be done about it. Diantha reported that people are aware of it and it is an ongoing issue.

Cynthia closed the meeting by stating the July meeting will be canceled as many people will be traveling. We will reconvene in September, with possible gathering of all the CACs.

NEXT MEETING August 16