

# **Places-29 North Community Advisory Committee/Community Town Hall and Open House Meeting**

## **Meeting Notes**

**March 14, 2024 6:20 pm to 8:30 pm**

**North Fork, Building 4**

**944 Research Park Blvd, Charlottesville 22911**

CAC Members Present: Bill McLaughlin, Tony Pagnucco, Sue Friedman, and Janet Moran.

CAC Members Absent: Jimmy Dean, Deborah van Eersel, David Mitchell, and Irene Weir

Albemarle County Staff Present: Jessica Hersh-Ballering , Jeremy Delange, Emily Kilroy, Jim Barbour, Tim Padalino, Michael Barnes, Bob Crickenberger, Ann Wall, Tonya Swartzendruber, Kevin McDermott, Randy Jamerson, Ryan Davidson, Serena Gruia, Allison Wrabel, Michael Culp, Bart Svoboda, and Jacob Sumner.

## **Open House/Project Showcase**

CAC members and community members viewed poster boards and met with County staff about projects.

## **Call to Order**

Chair Bill McLaughlin called the meeting to order. There was not a quorum. Members chatted about the growth area, affordable housing, and water.

## **Town Hall**

Supervisor Bea LaPisto-Kirtley welcomed the committee members and community members to the meeting and introduced Albemarle County Staff Present.

County Executive Jeff Richardson presented on the Fiscal Year 25 Budget.

Randy Jamerson presented on traffic and safety.

Deputy Director of Planning Kevin McDermott presented on transportation projects in the area.

## **Question and Answer Session**

Supervisor LaPisto-Kirtley took questions from the audience.

There was a question about if roundabouts are as pedestrian friendly as we need them to be.

Kevin McDermott said studies and data show that roundabouts are a much safer alternative for pedestrians because vehicles have to slow down, but they have to be designed correctly.

A question was asked if the transient occupancy tax also applies to long-term rentals. TOT applies to hotels/motels/homestay stays, not leases on apartments.

A question was asked about real estate tax relief and how many people qualify for it. Ryan Davidson with the Department of Finance and Budget said 800 people received relief, which totaled about \$1.8 million dollars.

There was a question if students have been injured in crosswalks in the last year, and Randy Jamerson said no.

A community member encouraged the county to develop more parks or ask developers for more parks.

There was a question if MicroCAT was going to have a fee associated with it in the future. Supervisor LaPisto-Kirtley said it is free now as it's a pilot, but eventually there would be a small charge of a few dollars.

There was a comment about no water projects or management being in the budget.

Supervisor LaPisto-Kirtley said that water is handled by the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority.

Questions were asked about the three new schools in the budget – where they are located, what will enrollment look like.

Supervisor LaPisto-Kirtley said there will be another high school center built near Albemarle High School. She said a northern feeder pattern elementary school will be built, likely in the North Pointe development, but that will be decided by the school board.

It was asked if all the STEM academies will be moved to the high school center. Supervisor LaPisto-Kirtley said she didn't know, but the school board members would be the people to ask.

A community member asked about holding developers to their promises, such as for commercial uses in Brookhill.

Kevin McDermott said Brookhill has an area that's designated for commercial that they are bound to build by the current site plan, but there is no required timeline for it to be built. If the developer wanted to change away from commercial, they would need to go back to the Board of Supervisors.

The community member asked about the land across U.S. 29 from Brookhill and what was going on.

Kevin McDermott said that was a property that the developer would dedicate to the county upon request, they are allowed to do tree clearing there now.

The community member said they were concerned about an old Special Use Permit on Polo Grounds Road.

Supervisor LaPisto-Kirtley said the Dillon Rule requires the county to ask the state for permission to do things, and special use permits go with the land.

A community member said the Board needed to be harder on the development interests.

Supervisor LaPisto-Kirtley said she believed in utilizing the development area for projects so development doesn't go out into the rural areas.