

PANTOPS COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Martha Jefferson Hospital Outpatient Center
Kessler Conference Room
595 Martha Jefferson Drive, Charlottesville
September 23, 2024

The Meeting was called to order by Chair Dick Ruffin at 6:15 PM

CAC Members present:

Michael Fraser, Kate Kaminski, Henry Light, Stephanie Lowenhaupt, Megan Nedostup, Richard Ruffin, Michael Spatz, and Ida Lee Wootten

CAC Member absent: Anne Oliver, David Norford, Louis Falzer, Judith Joyce

A quorum was determined to be present.

County personnel present:

Allison Wrabel, County community connector for Pantops
Michael Pruitt – BOS, Scottsville District

Minutes from prior meeting - approved

Election of Officers: Judith Joyce elected Secretary by unanimous vote

Guest:

Matt Wertman – Albemarle County Public Schools Director of Building Services

Mr. Wertman provided an update on Central Projects underway in the Albemarle County Public Schools, including a High School Center II to be constructed on the grounds of Albemarle County High School and a 500 student South Feeder Pattern Elementary School in the Mountain View area. The new Center II will focus on STEM, hospitality and business innovation studies. The new elementary school will house grades 3 through 5, while pre-K through 2nd grade will stay at the present Mountain View Elementary School. Both are expected to open in August, 2026.

He also discussed future plans for a possible Northern Feeder Pattern school to open in the 2029-2030 time frame; a possible middle school to address aging infrastructure and imbalances in numbers in the current configuration; and a possible high school in the Northern part of the county.

Mr. Wertman responded to questions from the members, and described some of the frustrations caused by Dominion Power's efforts to make it more expensive to add solar power generation to education facilities.

Member Michael Spatz – SMJH Director of Construction and Construction-Corporate Member Spatz provided an update on the Martha Jefferson Early Learning Center under construction in the MJ complex. He indicated that it would have a capacity of 140 children and would be operated by the YMCA, and its purpose would be to supply day care and early education services for Sentara System workers. To the extent that there is excess capacity, it would first be offered to the families of first responders in Pantops. Hours of operation will be 6:30AM to 7 PM, 5 days per week. Projections indicate that all of the spots will be utilized by Sentara System workers.

Board of Supervisors Update:

Supervisor Pruitt updated the group on issues related to: (1) the placement of tree top cell towers and the redefinition of avoidance areas for the placement of new towers; (2) the use of septic to sewer funds; (3) projects to sustain affordable housing as efforts are underway by developers to convert older units to luxury housing; (4) Other projects such as speed cameras and the removal of caps on terror hoax recoupment. Supervisor Pruitt indicated that a JLARC study on the loss of affordable housing to developer efforts to convert it.

Next meeting – October 30 - Combined CACs meeting.
November meeting currently set for November 25.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.