

**Pantops Community Advisory Council (PCAC)
Albemarle County Government**

Meeting Minutes

*Wednesday, October 15, 2008, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Kessler Conference Room, Martha Jefferson Hospital Outpatient Center
595 Peter Jefferson Parkway*

Members Present:

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| Barbara Elias | Dick Jennings | Chuck Harris |
| Rita Krenz | Andrew Dracopoli | |
| Glenna Kennett | Tony McHale | |
| Bob Bossi | Ken Boyd, Albemarle County Board of Supervisors | |
| John Crosby | Cal Morris, Albemarle County Planning Commissioner | |

Members Absent:

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| Nancy Hackman | Lynwood Bell | Peggy Echols |
| Ron Hoffman | Dan Goodall | |

County Staff Present:

Rebecca Ragsdale, Senior Planner
Britton Miller, Community Engagement Specialist
David Benish, Chief of Planning
Dan Mahon, Greenways Planner
Jack Kelsey, Transportation Engineer

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 19, 2008, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Kessler Conference Room, Martha Jefferson Outpatient Care Center, 595 Peter Jefferson Parkway

I. Welcome and Introductions

Britton Miller welcomed the group. Committee and County staff members introduced themselves, followed by review of the meeting agenda. Committee members were asked to indicate their residence and/or business location on the Pantops development area map.

II. Overview of Pedestrian Connections in the Pantops Master Plan

Rebecca Ragsdale, Senior Planner for Albemarle County Community Development, introduced the theme for the evening "Pedestrian Connections," and described how the evening's discussions fit in with the goals for master plan implementation in the Pantops Master Plan.

III. Planned Pedestrian and Bikeway Projects

David Benish, Chief of Planning for Albemarle County Community Development described the process for planning and funding capital projects in the County, referred to as the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). David also reviewed the specific sidewalk and other pedestrian projects planned for the Pantops area in the coming year and those proposed for future years, based on Pantops Master Plan Implementation priorities and available funding.

IV. Current Sidewalk Projects for Pantops

Jack Kelsey, Transportation Engineer for Albemarle County Facilities Development, reviewed the two major sidewalk projects underway in the Pantops area: 1) completion of the sidewalk system along S .Pantops/State Farm Blvd, and 2) completion of the sidewalk to connect Westminster-Canterbury to Rolkin Road. Design for these projects is in progress and construction is expected to begin in 2009. Both of these projects were identified as implementation priorities in the Pantops Master Plan. Jack was also asked if the Peter Jefferson Place trail system could be connected to the Giant supermarket by a sidewalk to create a safer, more direct route between Peter Jefferson Place and the Giant. Concerns about safe pedestrian crossings over/across 250 were raised by the group as a priority issue. County staff noted that a study to determine the best possible approach to providing safe 250 pedestrian crossings is being proposed as a Master Plan implementation strategy for the 2009/2010 fiscal year.

V. Greenways and Trails Plan for Pantops

Dan Mahon, Greenways Planner for Albemarle County Parks and Recreation, presented the greenways plan for the Pantops area, as outlined in the Pantops Master Plan. After reviewing the current and planned trails, Dan talked with the group about the different ways they could contribute to successful completion of the greenways and trails system: 1) Help set up a greenways committee to work with neighborhood associations to develop internal trail connections 2) Generate volunteer support to create/maintain trails 3) Consider a river festival and other events to help transform the Pantops riverfront into a waterfront destination. During a question and answer period, the group asked if sewer line corridors could become part of the trails system. Dan responded that the sewer line corridors were the jurisdiction of the RWSA and would be worth looking into as a possibility. The group will consider greenway needs when developing their action plan.

VI. Prioritization of PCAC Member Interest Areas

In preparation for developing the PCAC Action Plan, the group prioritized the list of interest areas defined by individual members during the first orientation meeting of the PCAC. To select the top 3 priorities from the list, each member was given 3 dots to place on their priority interest areas. While reviewing the list, the group decided to add pedestrian connections/sidewalks. The group unanimously selected Traffic, Sidewalks and Pedestrian Connections as their top priorities for focusing the PCAC's work.

VII. Other Business

Barbara Elias asked the group if they would be interested in a presentation from Bruce Dembling, who is working with planners from Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville to look at ways to improve amenities for Pantops cyclists, with a focus on encouraging bicycle commuting. Bruce had contacted Martha Jefferson to reach out to Pantops employers, and Barbara thought that a presentation to the Council would have a broader reach and fit with the Council's interest areas. The Council liked the idea and Barbara offered to set up the presentation.

Rita Krenz had read the September article in The Hook about Randy Salzman's ideas for addressing Pantops traffic, and suggested that Randy might provide a different perspective for the group as a possible speaker. The Council was interested in reading the article and learning more about Randy's proposals for future discussion or presentation. Britton offered to send the article's web link to the group.

To help the group better align the Pantops Master Plan with the development of the Council's Action Plan, Barbara Elias compiled and distributed a summary of the essential elements from the Pantops Master Plan including: the Council Roles & Responsibilities, Neighborhood Model Principles, Pantops Master Plan Vision and Guiding Principles, and the Master Plan Implementation Chart. The Council decided they would like to focus the November meeting on discussing this Master Plan summary information and further refining the Council's direction/action plan before going into too many additional technical topics.

John Crosby distributed an article about Transportation Planning that he thought would be of interest to the group.

VIII. Future Steps

The topic for the November 19 meeting will be a discussion of the Master Plan essential elements and how to translate the Master Plan's goals and implementation plan into the work of the Council/Council action plan. A brief presentation about bicycle commuting may be included, along with discussion of The Hook article about Randy Salzman. Other business will include a discussion of Council meeting sites and a possible alternate meeting day for meetings during the first 6 months of 2009.

The group decided to delay election of officers for the time being, and continue to have Britton Miller and Rebecca Ragsdale facilitate the meetings. When the Council's Action Plan is completed, the group will revisit the discussion of officers. The group thanked Britton and Rebecca for their work organizing the Council and also thanked Barbara Elias for hosting the October and November meetings at the Martha Jefferson Outpatient Center.

Action Items

Britton will email the link to The Hook article about Randy Salzman's proposals. Britton/Rebecca will follow up with Jack Kelsey about a possible sidewalk link between the Peter Jefferson Parkway Trail and the Giant supermarket.

Suggested Future Meeting Topics:

Traffic/Road Network

Planned infrastructure projects/priorities – Traffic/Roads

Presentations from Pantops businesses about expansion plans or other projects

Presentations from Pantops neighborhood representatives about neighborhoods

How do proffers work?