

Crozet Community Advisory Council - Minutes – Draft

Thursday, June 21, 2012 7:00 to 9:00 PM

CCAC members present: Meg Holden, Meg West, Brenda Plantz, Tom Loach (Planning Commission Liaison), Kim Guenther, Phil Best, Bill Schrader, Kelly Strickland, Lucy Goeke, Mary Gallo, George Barlow, Nancy Virginia Bain.

CCAC members absent: Leslie Burns, John Savage, Ann Mallek (Board of Supervisors Liaison).

Public attendees: Jenny M. Martin, Stephen Brighton (University of Maryland), Rhonda Roebuck (Clann Mhor), Mike Marshall.

1. Agenda Review: Meg Holden, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and asked if there were any changes or items to add to the agenda. No changes were made nor items added.

2. Approval of the minutes: The May 17, 2012 meeting minutes were moved for approval by Bill and seconded by Meg H. Kelly noted that the minutes should reflect the proper spelling of Crozet P.A.R.C. Pool. Subject to this change, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented contingent on any additional typographical or spelling changes being submitted to Meg West by June 29. If after further review you have any substantive changes to offer, the minutes will come back to the CCAC at its July meeting for re-review and approval. *No changes were subsequently submitted, so the meeting minutes of May 17, 2012 are approved as presented.*

3. Public Comment: There were no public comments offered. Meg H. let those present know that they are welcome to ask questions and express opinions on any agenda item as we discuss them. They are welcome to speak to the council about any matter not listed on the agenda.

4. Project Updates/Information:

- Council vote on George “Cricket” Barlow as secretary to help Meg West: Meg H. reported that Barlow had agreed to take on the secretary position, with Meg W. and Kelly helping as needed. On motion made by Phil and seconded by Lucy, Barlow was elected. It was noted that Tim Tolson’s shoes would indeed be hard to fill.

- Dr. Brighton: Meg H. introduced Steve Brighton, a professor of anthropology at the University of Maryland. Dr. Brighton is an historical archaeologist and an expert on the Irish Diaspora, when millions of Irish emigrated all over the world. He investigates how the Irish have negotiated their status in the places to which they traveled, and how they maintained their identity as Irish. After work in New York City, Patterson, New Jersey and in Ireland, he is working on an excavation at Pollack Vineyards here in Albemarle County. Dr. Brighton was invited here by Clann Mhor, who had been researching Irish workers on the railroad tunnels engineered by Claudius Crozet. Because it took eight years to complete the tunnels, Irish workers were on site for a much longer time than on other railroad construction projects. Six University of Maryland students are with him, and he showed us photographs of some of the

artifacts that he and his students had unearthed. Thank you to Dr. Brighton for such an interesting presentation. He departed at 7:55 p.m.

- Crozet/Western Albemarle library construction (Bill Schrader): Bill told us that MB Contractors from Roanoke was the successful bidder for construction of the library. This is the same firm that built The Lodge at Old Trail, and had received a favorable review from David Hilliard at The Lodge. They will not be moving equipment in until after the groundbreaking, and should start around the first week of July. The work will impact Crozet Avenue a bit when they put the storm water system under the road. Bill said that the library is expected to be open in late July 2013.
- Update on Downtown streetscape Projects: No updates at the moment. Bill thought that the work may start in September with the underground utility work.
- Update on Crozet Library fundraising (Bill Schrader): Bill said that the fundraising team is comprised of ten members and they meet monthly. Several fundraising events are being planned, and they have proposals out to two local foundations, five businesses and four individual potential donors. A significant announcement will be made at the groundbreaking on the 26th, which will kick off the fundraising effort. The fundraising goal is \$1.6 million, and they have \$134,000 on hand now. There will be many giving opportunities for parts of the library interior, such as chairs, rooms and spaces. Talk to Bill if you want to be involved, and if you have suggestions for fundraising events or projects. They hope to have half of the funds in hand by the end of 2012 because some of the furnishings and equipment must be ordered in advance. Leslie Burns is doing the graphic design work for the effort's printed materials. Churches are helping with the effort, as are school librarians. Perhaps the PTOs could be involved in some way too. Bill said that his goal is to be sure that everyone in western Albemarle knows where they can make a donation. If you have ideas, see Bill, Jane or Brenda.
- Update on Crozet Historic district application (Mike Marshall): Mike said that the application was submitted by the June 15 deadline to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) and is on the docket for the September meeting. The fee to Arcadia Preservation (Jennifer Hallock) is \$4,500 and has not been paid yet, as \$3,000 has yet to be raised. We hope to raise the balance with the Independence Day Celebration. After the application is approved by DHR, it will be sent to federal officials for their approval (a sixteen week approval period), and if obtained, inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Inclusion on the Register means that landowners are eligible for tax credits for funds they expend in keeping their buildings in their historic condition.
- Crozet's Independence Day Celebration on June 30th: The Celebration will cost \$12,000 to \$15,000 to put on, and of that, the fireworks display costs \$7,000. The rest is for tents, a sound system, portable restrooms, dumpsters and other necessary items. Letters have gone out to people who have contributed in the past, and the Downtown Association put up the deposit for the fireworks. Twenty percent of vendor receipts will be collected, but this is still expected to be short of the budget. Last year, \$3,000 was taken in at the door. A raffle is planned, and will be designed to raise more than the \$100 it raised last year. Many civic organizations are helping, including the Ruritans and Lions. Ideally, some funds could be held to help offset costs next

year. Thank you to Mike, Tim Tolson and Sandy Wilcox for all their work. CCAC typically staffs the gate and a table, but not the parade. We need to get better donations at the gate. Mike said that they would have fifteen minutes at the microphone to thank supporters and to conduct the raffle. Lucy brought in and handed out the CCAC shirts to wear at the Celebration. The shirts look great and we thanked Lucy for providing them.

- Update on landscaping on Jarman's Gap: Tom had seen e-mails from Jessica and this does not look good. She is looking for another project. Meg W. and Leslie Burns met with Jessica and learned that the utilities will take a lot of the space that she had hoped to landscape. In addition, many landowners are doing work on their own. The Lions will be planting trees in the park. This should be looked at by the Parks and Trails ombudsman.
- Developments at the I-64 Interchange: Nothing new to report here. The Planning Commission wants another meeting with the Board of Supervisors to talk about interchanges in the County. They have had a work session already and tabled it. It is not on the agenda for July. Meg H. will call Susan Stimart to get on the distribution list for information.
- Others comments:
 - (a) Kelly noted that the Barnes Lumber site auction was to occur on the 27th and that there is substantial interest in the property. The advertisements indicated a debt of \$1.9 million against the property. With some developers interested, he thought that it would be a competitive sale.
 - (b) The site plan has been approved for the new skybar restaurant being built by Katurah Roell of Piedmont Development Group. It likely will include roof seating, but is now intended to be enclosed with French doors all around.
 - (c) Tom said that there was nothing to report on the Planning Commission vacancy.
 - (d) The Restor N Station has received ARB approval, but still has some drainage issues and has not come back to the Planning Commission yet. Apparently the issue is in getting storm water off of the site.

5. Old Business

- PTO leaders involvement/school involvement: We need to reach out at the start of the school year to connect with the PTOs and schools, to invite them to talk about things relating to growth and schools. There is economic development potential with the interchange and we can discuss how that might impact the schools. After some discussion it was thought best to extend an invitation after the school year has started (rather than the August CCAC meeting), after things have settled down a bit. There may be issues to discuss by September. Lucy and Mary can contacts the PTOs. Oftentimes the school groups are not aware of the issues, and so it would be helpful to attend their meetings and invite them. Elementary schools tend to be the most receptive.

- Any word from VDOT on road ways in downtown and on the Blue Ridge shopping driving/turning lanes and speed signs: Kelly talked to the local VDOT representative who will contact the Culpeper office to see if they have any studies relating to this. Kelly said he would follow up to see what can be done.

6. Items not listed on the Agenda: None.

7. Announcements:

- Phil asked us to come out to support the Lions Club at their Pancake Dinner on Saturday. All the proceeds benefit Crozet.
- The Library Groundbreaking will be on the 26th.
- Get ready for the Independence Day Celebration and Parade.

8. Future Agenda Items.

- Foothills crossing discussion: Nothing new to report. It was suggested that we invite Allan Taylor to a meeting. Bill said he could do that when the plan is ready.
- Meet with new Old Trail Management: Manchester Capital Management of Denver is the new manager of Old Trail and it was thought that they would be hiring someone to be the local manager. We should invite that person and the Jessups, who own the golf course. Nelson Byrd Woltz has been hired to work on the landscape plan. They had done the Asian Walk at the National Zoo and the work for the Crozet master plan.

Adjourned at 8:46 p.m. on a motion by Nancy Virginia Bain seconded by Bill Schrader.