

Crozet Community Advisory Council – Minutes
Thursday, August 16, 2012 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
(As approved at September 19, 2012 meeting)

CCAC members present: Meg Holden, Meg West, Brenda Plantz, Tom Loach (Planning Commission Liaison), Phil Best, Bill Schrader, George Barlow, Nancy Virginia Bain, Ann Mallek (Board of Supervisors), Leslie Burns, John Savage

CCAC members absent: Mary Gallo, Kelly Strickland, Lucy Goeke, Kim Guenther

Public attendees: Brian Wheeler (Charlottesville Tomorrow), Mike Marshall, Tim F. J. Tolson, Jacob D’Aniello, Vienna Romesburg, Maynard Davis

Called to order at 7:10pm

1. Agenda Review (Meg Holden – CCAC chair): Meg reviewed the agenda and noted that Alan Taylor had been called out of town unexpectedly and would not be able to join the meeting. Lee Catlin would not be joining us this evening. A report from Mike Marshall regarding the Historic District and fundraising efforts was added to the agenda, and Leslie will report on Crozet trails.

2. Approval of Minutes from June 21, 2012 meeting: Three changes were made to the June minutes regarding Lucy Goeke’s donation of the CCAC shirts, the Council’s participation in the Independence Day parade, and to correct a typographical error. Bill Schrader moved to accept the minutes with these changes, seconded by Phil Best, and the minutes as corrected were approved by vote of the Council.

3. Public Comment: Meg Holden greeted our visitors and encouraged public comments or questions now or at any time during the meeting. A concern was raised about access to the new Westlake Hills development particularly at the corner of Park Road and Westhall. What is the status of the Rout 240/Route 250 connector? Ann Mallek reported that she has not yet seen anything specific on either issue.

4. Project Updates/Information:

- Alan Taylor (CEO of Riverside Management) to talk about development in Westlake Hills: Mr. Taylor was called out of town unexpectedly and could not attend the meeting.

- Crozet/Western Albemarle library, discussion on First Floor use (Lee Catlin and Bill Schrader): Bill reported to us that the County wants to assemble a committee of CCAC members, County staff, business people and residents to talk about potential uses for the first floor space in the new library. Ann Mallek noted that the original library study said that such space should not compete with existing businesses or uses in Crozet. In addition, fast food was not to be sold from the building. Ideally, the space should be used for a community partnership purpose. Suggestions included use as a visitors’ center or police substation. The area includes a 1,700 square foot space and a 1,000 square foot space. Another idea is to work with the Artisan

Center of Virginia, which would include display of work by crafters from all over the Commonwealth. The meeting is expected to be publicized in September; please let Ann know who should be invited. Meg Holden recommended that the space be used for purposes that create more growth and interest here, fostering community identity. There will be synergies with the community room upstairs too. Perhaps there can be short term parking on Library Avenue for people who come to the commercial space. This committee will also need to discuss the use of the old library, such as a continuing education space or for some County offices. CCAC members were encouraged to get ideas from their constituencies.

- Update on Downtown streetscape Projects: Everyone had noticed the new paving project in Crozet. Ann said questions had been raised why the paving work preceded some of the utility work for the library. Ann has been trying to get a list of pending projects from VDOT and will follow up with them about this and other issues. This has been difficult because of VDOT staff limitations. Ann has asked about road striping on Route 250 at Harris Teeter and speed bumps in Western Ridge, but has not received a response. All the easements for the utility project are nearly ready. The Centurylink and Dominion plans and costs are coming in, and they are expected to mobilize shortly. Moving the utilities should not be as disruptive as the recent road work. The stormwater piping starts on the 27th, and this will be connected to the new wetland. One lane of traffic will be kept open the whole time. The Council reviewed the packet of materials provided by Trevor Henry, attached hereto. No rock was found during the excavation of the library foundation, which was a relief. Ann also noted that other changes are planned, such as neighborhood policing. Greg Jenkins will be the police commander for this area, and he and Pam Greenwood will do outreach and public awareness. They have held one program for the Crozet Park neighborhood, which was very well attended. They provided bike helmets for those who needed them and the Fire Department was represented too. Ann said that the new chief of police has brought an uptick in morale and citizen approval.

- Any news on development of Barnes Lumber Company property: Ann said that she has not heard any news. Apparently the two top bidders have not been able to close the purchase. We should know more next month.

- Update on Crozet Library fundraising (Bill Schrader): Bill showed us the attractive pins that Leslie designed and are being sold at Parkway Pharmacy for \$5 each. The fundraising campaign has three parts: 1. Get word out to the community; Brenda is working on public service announcements for the radio. 2. Tell people how to donate online or by check. Mike Marshall is helping, and Leslie is designing and doing ambassador ads, the first of which features Ann Mallek. The August spot will feature Doug Forrester, Senior Pastor at Crozet United Methodist Church. Ads will also be run in the Daily Progress. 3. Make use of everyone who has asked to help over the last five years. The recent Reading Roundup was another platform to get the word out. Bill said that lack of space at the current library was going to prevent holding this program but a private citizen volunteered to run the program, which culminated in a huge crowd at Crozet Elementary (and 12,455 books read). The library supporters were able to talk to all the parents. Phil Best also invited the library supporters to the Lions Club meeting to do a presentation, and because the Lions support people with vision problems, they will be helping with the large print section. Perhaps the library fundraisers can approach the local PTOs next, and work to get families involved. They are also sending applications to foundations. Three

presentations have been made, each of which is followed up with printed materials. They are working with one local foundation on a large grant and talking to local authors and businesses for gifts. Larger national foundations that support help libraries are being considered, including the Walmart and Barbara Bush foundations. There is approximately \$242,000 in the account as of the end of July. A lull is expected for the next sixty days or so, and then they should start hearing from foundations. The Friends of the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library is providing its 501(c)(3) number for the gifts and because some foundations want a budget, they are using Jefferson-Madison Regional Library for that. All donors receive a letter back. There is also a giving tree in the library. Leslie is also working on a mailer and other materials, including an explanation of the giving levels for rooms, bookcases, etc. The 2010 census says there are 29,400 people in the area served by the library (which extends well beyond Crozet); if every family could give \$240, the library would be complete. There will be a fundraiser at King Family Vineyards later, after the upcoming culinary competition.

- Developments at the I-64 Interchange: The Planning Commission met to discuss targeted industries last week and the Crozet interchange was left out of the discussion. Staff did not include it on agenda and so presumably intended to leave it out. Ann said that the focus should be on the interchanges that are closer to the workforce. There had been talk about another joint Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission meeting, this has not yet been planned. The Comprehensive Plan process has not been changed. Hopefully people will see how many business opportunities there already are in Crozet.

- Our September 20 meeting date conflicts with Crozet Fundraising event at The Lodge; can we change the date of our meeting? The Lodge hosts a program every third Thursday. While the program is at 5:30 p.m., it is difficult to make both meetings. On September 20, The Lodge will host a culinary competition had has four chefs lined up for the event, which will cost \$20 per person. The proceeds will be divided between the Crozet P.A.R.C. and the new Crozet Library. Wine and beer are being donated for the event by local wineries and breweries, and there will be hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. Special rooms will be set aside for library and park fundraisers. The competition will be in the cafeteria, and the event will be capped at between 300 and 400 people. It is hoped that this will be an annual event, featuring different chefs and benefiting different charities each year. Local artists, including Meg West, will be there. So, should CCAC change its meeting so as not to conflict? We have a number of important agenda items coming up, but we can change the date and advertise and post it (in advance as required by statute). If we change to Wednesday the 19th there should be adequate time to invite speakers. Phil Best made a motion to move the meeting to Wednesday, September 19, seconded by Nancy Bain. The motion carried, contingent upon confirming that this space is available. Ann said that she would e-mail the County to see if the Meadows space is available.

- Mike Marshall on the Historic District and fundraising for it: Fundraising for the project has been difficult: Mike said that the square dance had only broken even, and a letter to all property owners in the District generated few donations. Mike felt that fundraising has been difficult because many people are suspicious that the District would impose another layer of architectural review, which it does not do. In all, \$1,600 has come in from owners, which will be sent to Arcadia Preservation, LLC. The application cost \$4,500 with the \$500 retainer having been paid by downtown merchants. The application has been submitted to, and received

favorably by, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR), which expects to approve it at their meeting on September 20. Ideally, the application will be approved before additional changes are made to downtown Crozet. Six Thousand Four Hundred Dollars had been received for the fireworks display (canceled due to storm damage), and so some of these funds will be used to pay back the Downtown Crozet Association (DCA), which fronted the deposit on the fireworks, and to reimburse those who had paid expenses out of pocket. Mike hopes that there may be \$2,400 left for the Historic District project and that the DCA will make another gift for the District. He would then solicit donations for any amount left owing. Checks can go to DCA or the Crozet Community Association. Mike reported that DHR staff did a good job explaining the application at the public hearing held earlier this week. He had also written to all fireworks donors and explained that some of their gifts may instead be applied to the cost of the District application, and that he had received no negative reactions. With respect to the Independence Day celebration, we need about \$15,000 to put on the event, and ideally each year will pay for the next.

- Crozet trails report (Leslie): The Trails Crew met last night. A new bridge has been completed and will be named in honor of runner Joseph Taylor. Some of the developers have paved sections of trail, in particular at Foothills Crossing. Ultimately, there will be trails and bridges to allow one to walk from Western Ridge to Harris Teeter. Leslie circulated a map of the trail network around Crozet. The third annual Crozet Trails Day will be held on October 21, including a race on the trails in Old Trail. Last year they held a pedestrian challenge to get people to walk places rather than drive, to see how much easier it can be to walk. This year they will do a tree planting. Planting along Jarman's Gap Road will not work because too much of the space is already taken up by easements, and VDOT is planting what's left. So the tree planting will be at Crozet Park at the trailhead. Local businesses pay \$50 to be on the T-shirt for the event and \$100 to plant a tree. Last year Crozet Trails Day started at Old Trail and lots of people set up booths. It is hoped that there will be a table at Crozet Trails Day to fundraise for the Historic District. It is as yet undecided whether the booths will be in the Park or at Trailside Coffee, where race starts. There will be a trail work day on August 25, including tree removal. October 17 will be a big trail cleanup in Old Trail for the race. Perhaps it may be possible to obtain future development proffers for trail costs. Ann Mallek agreed that Trails Day is a great event and everyone should come out.

5. Old Business:

Neighborhood policing: Ann said that neighborhood policing will be implemented in Crozet, and that the same officers will routinely work our area. This familiarity with the officers is good for neighborhoods. There have been a number of burglaries in Crozet near Myrtle Street and two persons have been apprehended and some property retrieved. This illegal activity tends to pick up in the fall, so let your neighborhood know.

Spraying in Sugar Hollow: Ann received calls from Sugar Hollow and Browns Gap residents reporting that there were large spray trucks spraying along the road by the river. Ann talked to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and learned that the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) handles pesticide licensure and control. Ann will talk to them; she will be in Richmond tomorrow. One resident (Bob Gilges) had caught up with

the truck and noted the name (NaturChem and Working Solutions) and license plates. He learned that they had been hired by VDOT. Call Tom Burke if you see this (at VDACS 540-222-1022), and also email or text Ann.

- Brief discussion of plans for reconnecting with school PTOs: Meg H. will send e-mail to CCAC's PTO leads and suggest that they reach out to schools. It may also be productive to have the Crozet Library leaders come to PTO meetings.

6. Items not listed on the Agenda: Bill Schrader had heard from Richmond on a change in ownership of the Acme site to Beam Incorporated (it was formerly Fortune Brands). Wilson Jones had been owned by Beam for a long time. Now it is Wilson Jones owned by Beam Enterprises. This is a result of the restructuring of Fortune Brands and Beam. Sarah Huddle is the contact.

7. Announcements

On September 22, the Shenandoah National Park will host the Shenandoah Scramble, comprised of 16 hikes in the Park. Supporters make per-mile pledges to benefit the Shenandoah Park Trust.

Tim asked if members received notices via Google Notify, because only a certain number can be sent in a batch. One is CCAC Group and other is CCAC Notify, which is a larger list. CrozetCAC@googlegroups.com and CCAC-notify@googlegroups.com. The latter group is moderated; Tim and Cricket will be gatekeepers. We will send the agenda to CCAC first, and if it is approved, then it goes out to the broader list on CCAC Notify.

8. Future Agenda Items:

- Meet with New Old Trail Management: Who is the appropriate contact? Bill thinks he will have more information on this tomorrow.
- If the meeting date is changed the agenda for the September meeting will have to be posted Friday rather than Monday to comply with FOIA.
- Westlake Hills will be on the agenda next time, and we will need to reach out to Alan Taylor.

Adjourned at 8:36 p.m. on a motion by Shrader seconded by Savage.

George Barlow
Secretary