PlACES 29 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 4, 2014
Room 235-Albemarle County Office Building


-WELCOME

-Emily Kilroy, the newly appointed Albemarle County Community Engagement Specialist, was introduced to the Council. Questions may be address to her at eklrioy@albmarle.org.

-Resignation: It was announced that member Elly Tucker had submitted her resignation from the Council.

-Minutes: The Council approved by voice vote the minutes of its September 22nd regular meeting, its September 25th special work session, and its regular meeting of October 16, 2014. In connection with the September 25th special work session, regarding the Rt. 29 Solutions Project, a written statement of member Elly Tucker was read into the record, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A and hereby made a part of these minutes.

-Update Water Resources Funding Advisory Committee: Kim Swanson was recently appointed as the “Community Advisory Council Representative” to the Albemarle County Water Resources Funding Advisory Committee. (Webpage)

Kim reported that the committee has held its first few organizational meetings. She also explained how the committee will assist the County in developing a permanent, dedicated source of funding, perhaps outside the County’s General Fund, in order to meet the County’s legal responsibilities to manage and preserve local water resources.
**Zoning To Achieve The Master Plan:** County Director of Planning, Wayne Cilimberg, made a presentation to the Council about the history of zoning and comprehensive land use planning in Albemarle County, including the County’s first zoning ordinance adopted in 1969 and its first comprehensive plan adopted in the early 1970’s. He reviewed the major components of the Comprehensive Plan, including the CIP and Transportation Planning components, and how zoning is used as a means for accomplishing the purposes and goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

A discussion followed about the County’s Planned Development Districts ordinance, and how the ordinance provides a better vehicle, than conventional zoning districts, for promoting and accomplishing the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan. An example of this approach is the “Downtown Crozet District” ordinance adopted by the County in 2008 to encourage “flexibility and variety of development” in the community of Crozet.

The Council also discussed generally ways for promoting and encouraging the use of the County’s Planned Development Districts ordinance within the Places 29 development areas, with initial emphasis on vacant, undeveloped land along Berkmar Drive. County staff will provide additional information about these areas to the Council at its next regular meeting in January.

**-Rio Road Interchange:** Chuck Lebo asked the council to consider at an upcoming meeting the issue of VDOT’s plans to construct a grade-separated interchange at Rio Road and Rt. 29. The council agreed to do so.

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- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

The council will next meet in regular session on Thursday, January 22, 2015, at 5:00 p.m., Room 235, County Office Building. Next date February 26, 2015 @ 5p.m. Room 235
The following written statement of council member Elly Tucker was read into the record:

“I would like to go on record saying that I am in favor of the solutions that Philip Shucet has set forth. I support the proposed extension of Berkmar Drive, as well the other projects in the Route 29 Solutions Package, to provide drivers with alternative routes to reach destinations and improve overall traffic flow in the Route 29 corridor. Berkmar Drive Extended would provide a number of transportation benefits and advantages, including:

- Providing local drivers with a parallel route that will connect multiple destinations along the western side of Route 29;
- Freeing up capacity on Route 29 for drivers making longer distance trips;
- Providing a sidewalk, a multi-use trail, and dedicated bike lanes to create useful new connections for walkers and bicyclists; and
- Avoiding the watershed of the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir, a major drinking water supply.

I urge VDOT to carefully select a route for Berkmar Drive Extended that will avoid or minimize impacts to streams, wetlands, and historic and archaeological sites in the project area, and to continue to take steps to protect these resources as the project moves forward.

All of the Rt. 29 Solutions projects are going to be built and open to traffic by October 2017. This includes the parallel roads and Rio Rd. Rio Rd. is the lynch pin that holds the parallel roads together, so by completing Rio first, the parallel roads work efficiently and effectively. Rio opens in September 2016 and the parallel roads open in October 2017. It is important to remember that the Rio Rd. project is slated to be completed as quickly as possible. Without Rio Rd's completion, the other roads would not be able to maintain the Levels of Service that are necessary. Although no one enjoys major highway building projects when they are stuck in traffic or rerouted, the end result is usually worth it. I look forward to seeing this project through to its fruition.”