Places 29 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2014

In Attendance: Heather Stokes, George Larie, Elly Tucker, L.F. Wood, Cynthia Neff, Jane Williamson, Kimberly Swanson, Tim Kaczmarek, Peter Skoro and Henry Weinschenk. Also attending: County Supervisors Ken Boyd and Brad Sheffield; Planning Commissioners Mac Lafferty and Bruce Dotson.

--Welcome and sign-in.

-Discussion about four (4) advisory council members whose terms are due to expire this month. These members have decided not serve a new term leaving 4 vacancies to be filled on the council in February.

--Speakers:

-Brad Sheffield, new Rio District supervisor, introduced himself to the council. Supervisor Sheffield noted his interest in pedestrian and transit improvements along Rt. 29 together with an emphasis in Urban Growth issues.

-New Rio District Planning Commissioner, Bruce Dotson, also introduced himself to the council. As a commissioner and former Chair of the UVA Urban Planning Department, he looks forward to working with the council on urban planning matters.

Jack Jouett District Planning Commissioner, Mac Lafferty, is also a non-voting member of the MPO Policy Board, and he is very interested in transportation issues. He noted that the MPO is still involved in the Rt. 29 Bypass process and that VDOT has primary responsibility over the funding of the bypass.

Rivanna District Supervisor Ken Boyd also spoke about the status of the Rt. 29 Bypass, and noted the importance of other issues in the County including solid waste disposal, storm water, and the on-going Comprehensive Plan Review. He noted that the County would be requesting public input in February for the comp plan review process.
-Following the above comments, the floor opened up for a wide-ranging discussion of several issues of interest to council members including the following:

1. The current status of the Rt. 29 Bypass and Hillsdale Drive projects.
2. Supervisor Boyd commented that he thought the council could give its input to the pending issue of the Light Industrial Zoning category including appropriate locations, along the Rt. 29 Corridor, to be rezoned to the LI district. He noted also that there could be opportunities for the council to consider “pre-zoning” of other undeveloped land in the Corridor.
3. The issue arose whether the council could generally play a larger role in zoning and land use matters in the County and proposed transportation improvement projects along Rt. 29. The group recognized that the cost of these improvements is high and that the availability of funding remains an important constraint on advancing these projects.
4. Commissioner Dotson suggested that the council might want to consider developing a “Wish List” of transportation improvement projects along the Rt. 29 Corridor as well as providing “Feed Back” on pending planning and land use issues in the Corridor.
5. The council will explore making arrangements for members to attend an upcoming meeting of the Crozet Community Advisory Council to observe its approach for providing feedback to the County relating to the comprehensive planning process as well as transportation improvements.
6. Supervisor Sheffield suggested that the council perhaps should receive advance information on site-plan approval applications in the Corridor, as a way to increase its role in the planning review process.

--The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m. and the next meeting date was set for February 27, 2014, at 5:00 p.m., Room 235, County Office Building.