

# Crozet Community Advisory Committee\*

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

## Meeting Minutes

**\*Note: This meeting was held pursuant to and in compliance with Ordinance No. 20-A (6); An Ordinance to Ensure the Continuity of Government During the Covid-19 Disaster.**

- Members present
  - Allie Pesch, Chair
  - Shawn Bird, Vice Chair
  - Kostas Alibertis
  - Joshua Rector
  - Mike Kunkel
  - Doug Bates
  - Shawn Bird, Vice Chair
  - Joe Fore, Secretary
  - Brian Day
  - Tom Loach
  - Jennie More, Planning Commission Liaison
  - Ann Mallek, Board of Supervisors Liaison
  - Sandy Hausman
- Albemarle/Government Staff present
  - Carolyn Shaffer, Clerk
  - Tim Padalino
  - Charles Rapp
  - Rachel Falkenstein
  - Tori Kanellopoulos
- **The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm**
- The Chair introduced the participants.
- A motion was made to approve the minutes from the January 27 minutes. The motion was **approved** by unanimous voice vote.
- **Land Use Recommendations Update**

- Rachel Falkenstein shared the next steps for the Land Use section of the Master Plan. Staff will be adjusting their recommendations for the Middle Density category and the Downtown Neighborhood Overlay in light of the feedback they received from the Planning Commission and the CCAC, and they will share that at the March 10 CCAC meeting.
- **Crozet Master Plan Trails, Bike Lanes, Sidewalks**
  - Tori Kanellopoulos provided a summary of the feedback collected on the Public Input website regarding the trails, sidewalks and bike/pedestrian recommendations for the Master Plan
    - High priorities for east-west connections include trails connecting Crozet Avenue, the Meadows, Brownsville/Henley, and Old Trail
    - High priorities for north-south connections include: Crozet Avenue share-use path and bike lane, Eastern Avenue
    - Bike/pedestrian connectivity along 240 and 250 were also high priorities
    - For sidewalks, the top priorities were Park Road, Crozet Avenue, and connectivity along Three Notch'd Road – especially to provide walkability to Starr Hill/Music Today
    - Brian Day emphasized the need for connecting downtown and the Park
    - Ann Mallek noted that the sidewalks along Hilltop are cracked and could present a safety risk, especially for older citizens
- **Crozet Master Plan – Conservation/Parks**
  - Rachel Falkenstein led a discussion of the conservation section of the Master Plan
    - **Conservation Goals**
      - Continue to develop community parks and support opportunities for outdoor recreation
      - Build and maintain interconnected network of trails and greenways
      - Leverage proximity to Blue Ridge/Shenandoah by expanding access to rural/regional amenities
      - Conserve and enhance Crozet's natural resources through the use of sustainable and restorative site design practices.
    - **Summary of previous themes in feedback sessions:**
      - Complete Western Park
      - Trails; upgrading the Crozet Connector Trail
      - Reducing obstacles to trail access
  - Tim Padalino provided a recap of the 2010 Master Plan parks projects and where they stood.
    - A number of the projects from the 2010 Master Plan have been completed, including expanding greenway connections, completing the Crozet Connector trail

- Some projects remain uncompleted, including:
      - Eastern Park
      - Trailhead access to greenways
- Tim Padalino led a discussion of different park typologies, including public spaces (like the Plaza), natural areas (like Lickinghole Basic), and recreation areas (like Crozet Park)
  - With respect to the Crozet Connector, there are opportunities to improve signage, which will help people locate trailheads and navigate the trails
  - Western Park
    - The County knows that Western Park is a long-held expectation with
    - Phase 1-A will focus on vehicular access, restrooms, and stormwater
    - But before that, there's even an initial phase called Phase 1-ASAP, which will provide some basic amenities immediately. The location will be close to the Old Trail pool.
      - Project scope includes:
        - New playground equipment
        - Landscaping, site furnishings
        - Possibly small shelters
      - Plaza/The Square
        - There is an initial design plan for the Plaza, but there will be opportunities for additional public input in spring 2021.
- **Draft Park Recommendations**
  - Construct Western Park
  - Preserve Lickinghole Creek Reservoir as a natural area
  - Explore opportunities for new trailheads
- **Draft Trail recommendations**
  - Upgrade Crozet Connector to accessible connector from Downtown Crozet to Westhall
  - Improve signage along Crozet Connector near Crozet Park
  - Construct sidewalk along east side of Crozet Ave.
- **Draft rural/regional amenities recommendations**
  - Install signage along Mint Springs Road and Jarmans Gap
- CCAC feedback
  - Shawn Bird suggested finding pedestrian/trail options from Crozet to Beaver Creek Reservoir and Mint Springs, where people could walk from Downtown to those parks, without having to follow the roads
    - Tim Padalino shared that Stanley Martin will likely be granting an easement at Pleasant Green that could be used to expand the trails.

- Ann Mallek shared some concern that too many visitors to the Lickinghole Basin could negatively impact bald eagles and other nesting birds in that area.
  - Joe Fore voiced support for the “Phase 1-ASAP” approach to Western Park development and support for increasing trailhead access to the Crozet Connector trail. He also suggested including conservation of viewsheds as part of the guiding principles for the master plan section.
  - One community member suggested a re-routing of Bike Route 76 to provide a safer route and bringing cyclists into the business district.
  - Another community member expressed concern for tying park development to commercial or residential development. There was also a concern about additional trash associated with increased use of the trails. There was also a suggestion to increase investment in pocket parks in existing neighborhoods, especially St. George area.
  - One community member expressed a suggestion that the County should require future developments to connect to the existing trails
  - **Environmental Features and Natural Resources**
    - Tori Kanellopoulos led a discussion of Crozet’s environmental features, including streams
      - Lickinghole Creek and Parrot Branch are both listed as “impaired”
        - Draft recommendations
          - Preserving tree canopy
          - Protecting areas with biodiversity—especially Lickinghole Basin
          - Reduce mowing in public parks and county-owned property to help restore natural meadows
          - Improve or install wayfinding and educational signage.
    - **CCAC/Community Feedback**
      - One community member suggested renaming the tributary the runs behind the Crozet Market and flows into Parrot Branch “Crozet Creek”
      - Ann Mallek suggested using this same creek as a possible trail connection all the way to Beaver Creek Reservoir.
  - **Committee Business**
    - Allie Pesch reminded the committee that several members had terms that were expiring but that some of those members were eligible to seek another term
    - She also reminded everyone that the committee would be electing new officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary) at the next meeting
- **The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.**