

Crozet Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes from April 14, 2020

***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
Joe Fore – Vice Chair
Valerie Long – Secretary
Michael Monaco
Kostas Alibertis
Matthew Slaats
Joshua Rector
Shawn Bird
Doug Bates
Brian Day
Sandra Hausman
Jennie More – Planning Commission
Ann Mallek – Board of Supervisors

County Staff

Michaela Accardi – Master Plan Liaison
Rachal Falkenstein – Master Plan Liaison
Tim Padalino – Parks and Recreation Planner
Kevin McDermott – Transportation Planner
Carolyn Shaffer - Clerk

Chair Allie Pesch called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

The Committee welcomed two new members: Marc McKenney and Michael Monaco

The minutes from the March meeting were approved by unanimous vote following a motion to approve by Doug Bates and a second by Matt Slaats

Master Plan Discussion: Conservation and Transportation Chapters

Draft Conservation Chapter:

Michaela Accardi presented the draft Conservation Chapter

Summary of community engagement efforts and feedback
Conservation Chapter Overview, including guiding principles
Copy of the draft map and an explanation
Examples of types of parks
Explanation of types of pedestrian areas – trails and shared use paths

Map of critical slopes and stream buffers
Conservation Goals

Example Goals they've received particular interest in:

- Western Park
- Management of Lickinghole Creek
- Crozet Connector Trail
- Tree Canopy

Comments were provided about:

- dark skies and the stormwater management facility on Crozet Avenue
- the need for information about limited access to recreation areas and smaller community playgrounds and similar green space areas.
- The need for accountability in the draft plan; to monitor progress on projects and commitments in the plan, such as the lack of improvements at Western Park.
- The need to show a trail connection at Cory Farm and Liberty Hall on the trail map, since an easement is in place and there is a lot of interest in this connection.
- Suggestion to focus attention on bike Route 76 and routes and directional signage between Crozet and the Blue Ridge tunnel.
- the Lickinghole Bridge and its importance for bike/ped as well as vehicles.
- Concern about trails that might be at risk of being lost to development.

Draft Transportation Chapter:

Rachel Falkenstein provided an overview of the draft Transportation Chapter:

Summary of Community Engagement and Themes Received from the public

- Lots of focus on bike/pedestrian infrastructure and safety
- Feedback on transportation improvement options at Crozet Ave/downtown area

Chapter Overview

Guiding Principles

Bike and Pedestrian Network Map

Future Bike Lanes and Rural Shared Roads – explanation of the difference and recommended locations for each

Future Streets and Connections Map

Examples of Street Types

Transportation Goals

Highlight of Goals that received particular public interest:

- Downtown intersection options to improve the network
- Route 250 Roundabouts
- Three Notch'd Road Shared Use Path

Comments were provided about:

- The conceptual roundabout downtown and those proposed along Rt 250
- Bike lanes along Park Ridge, need for sidewalk along Three Notch'd road where there are gaps, and comments about the downtown parking study
- Priorities about guiding principles and need for action items from the parking study, and suggestions about priorities for sidewalk improvements in specific locations.
- Questions about the status of the autonomous vehicle.
- The need to include the Lickinghole Bridge in the list of projects.
- Question about impact of COVID on parking and traffic data accuracy.

- Staff explanation about the data (most pre-COVID, or other methods used to gather data)
- Need to prioritize intersections that are already shown to be failing, and general community feedback on sidewalks
- Eastern Avenue now being used as a temporary recreation area that needs to be replaced when vehicular connection is completed, status of Crozet Avenue, realistic cost estimates for proposed road improvements, and opportunities for public art within the roundabouts.
- Question: will the implementation schedule/priorities chart from the 2010 plan be included in this draft?
 - Rachel confirmed that is the plan; staff will look at this holistically, look at cost estimates, realistic timelines, etc. and come back for feedback on priority focus areas.
- Question about how community engagement comments are collected online and access to data
 - Michaela: the “engagement hub” of the website provides access to the data: <https://publicinput.com/hub/1139>
- Question about how the CCAC member comments are documented and weighed relative to other comments from the public.
 - Rachel noted how they track comments from the CCAC meetings and combine them with comments from the public; place value on both written and spoken comments, and CCAC members are also welcome to provide additional written comments.
- Question about whether public comments are archived for future reference?
 - (answer unclear, but staff will consider)
- Need to manage expectations regarding projects in the plan; have them listed on the CIP, coordinate on funding and priorities.
 - Kevin McDermott provided a general explanation: focus on CIP, cycles for grants, work with Board of Supervisors, finance department, etc. and move through the budget process/smart scale process for each. CIP funding can go more quickly, Smart Scale funding takes longer
- Need for coordination of sidewalks with buildout of Western Park and improvements to Crozet Park to ensure safe and convenient pedestrian access to parks.
 - Kevin provided a general explanation of how certain aspects of projects are considered and weighed in terms of setting priorities.
- Need for County investment in open space land and potential need for tax increase to fund projects and land acquisition
- Comments about Crozet Park and the proposed improvements to it not true park space
- Comments about the importance of recreational facilities in parks as well as open space/green space elements
- County land acquisition funds and grant opportunities, and responsibility of the County to provide park land and improvements in park land it already owns and has committed to improve.
 - Tim Padalino noted that the County’s focus is on improvements to park land it already owns vs. acquiring new land (other than expanding trail network)
- importance about role of the County in acquiring additional land for park land/open space other than only from developers as part of proffers
- need for creative thinking about how to finance park acquisitions and improvements
- discussion about opportunities for old Crozet School property for recreation and community gathering space/event space

Summary of Next Steps

The public can access the draft chapters and provide comments in the document.

Go to: www.publicinput.com/imaginecrozet

Or send comments directly to Rachel: rfalkenstein@albemarle.org

Comments are open until April 28th

May 11th: Planning Commission work session on these 2 chapters

May date TBD – open community meeting on implementation priorities.

June and July: tentative Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors work sessions

Committee Business:

The Committee discussed the Board of Supervisors' April 7th Work Session on the draft Land Use chapter of the Master Plan, and comments made by the Board about the CCAC and its role in the Master Plan process.

Several members expressed frustration about the Board members' comments generally, and the discussion included comments about the Committee's role in the Master Plan update, comments about increased density, voting by the Committee, the distinctions between the various development areas, and the unique perspective that Crozet residents bring to the process as distinguished from those who do not reside in Crozet.

Announcements:

Committee members should let Allie know if they cannot attend a meeting.

Allie provided a reminder about the meeting attendance policy.

One open position remains on the Committee and applications are being accepted.

Allie read the closing statement, reminding all that the 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

Next meeting: tentatively scheduled for May 12th at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held virtually, and details will be posted on the County calendar on the website.

Allie adjourned the meeting at 9:02 pm