

Minutes
CAAR Public Affairs Group
Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 9:00 am
Hillsdale Conference Center

Roll Call:

Present: Pat Crabtree (Chair), Janice O’Hara (Vice Chair) Quinton Beckham, Rachel Burns, Jim Dickerson, Anita Dunbar, Matt Hodges, Hal Johnson, Peter McFarren, Sharon Merrick, Sally Neill, Sue Plaskon, Errin Searcy

Staff Present: Neil Williamson

Not Present, Excused: Tony Girard

Not Present Unexcused: None

Call to Order Chair Pat Crabtree called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

Anti-Trust reminder – In addition to a printed copy of CAAR’s full antitrust document, Chair Crabtree provided a short synopsis of the policy.

Volunteer Service Agreement – In addition to providing the Volunteer Service agreement to members prior to the meeting, Neil highlighted the attendance and decorum notes in the document.

Strategic Plan Alignment – Neil provided all attendees a copy of CAAR’s Strategic Plan and explained how the Public Affairs Master Group supports the Vision, Strategies, and goals.

Roles & Responsibilities – Neil outlined the specific roles of the Chair/Vice Chair, Board Liaison, and Members of the Public Affairs Group.

Board Liaison Report – Errin and Sharon provided the highlights of the December CAAR Board of Directors meeting.

Consumer Advocacy Grant Results – Neil explained the Consumer advocacy grant effort and shared the latest results from the consultant. The digitally delivered ad is performing well. The broadcast television ads run next week on NBC 29.

Issues Mobilization Grant Application Authorization – Neil explained that he has been meeting with the consultant team and has developed a working budget of \$125,000 for a campaign to be launched once a public hearing date has been set for the Charlottesville Zoning Ordinance. Staff is seeking authorization to pursue a \$100,000 grant from NAR to be matched by \$25,000 from CAAR (drawn from RPAC or VAR Issue Mobilization funds). **After good discussion there was a MOTION and SECOND to authorize staff to move forward with the application. MOTION PASSED.**

Day on the HILL 2023 Post Mortem – Three members of the 2023 PAG attended DOH2023. They were generally disappointed that we did not meet with as many legislators as years prior. They felt the presence was important. All seemed to enjoy the lunch discussion back at VR highlighting the details not only of legislation but also impact of passed legislation (Association Health Care Plans)

August Property Rights Luncheon – The PAG decided by consensus to hold this event again in 2023. Next month they will discuss possible topics.

2023 Legislative Breakfast – The PAG decided by consensus to hold this event again and consider starting earlier (7:30) to attempt to keep legislators in attendance. The concept of Pancakes and Politics was approved with the potential of RPAC Co-Chair Hal Johnson flipping pancakes on the RPAC Terrace.

RPAC: RPAC Co-Chair Anita Dunbar shared VR's goals for CAAR

VR Legislative Agenda – Neil reported the majority of VR's Legislative Agenda passed without incident. Short Term Rental legislation was sent back to the Housing Commission for additional study.

Locality Reports:

- **Charlottesville** – Neil discussed concerns with NDS and the Zoning Ordinance that is moving forward.
- **Albemarle** – Neil highlighted the Comprehensive Plan that is moving forward.

Strategic Discussion – CAAR PAG Project Teams – Neil indicated that he knew of two project teams will be needed in 2023 (more may be added). He asked for folks to be thinking about if they wish to serve on the Candidate Funding Committee or be added to the Charlottesville Zoning Advocacy Project Team.

New Business for Future Meetings - Chair Crabtree asked for any new business to be added to a future agenda – there was none

Next Meeting – The March PAG meeting is set for March 8th.

There being no more business to come before the PAG, the meeting was adjourned at 10:01 AM