

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

Roll Call:

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

Staff Present: Neil Williamson

Not Present, Excused: Quinton Beckham

Not Present Unexcused: Peter McFarren

Call to Order Chair Pat Crabtree called the meeting to order at 9:00 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.

Board Report – Sharon announced that the Issue Mobilization Grant application has been approved by the CAAR board.

Issue Mobilization Grant Application Update – Neil picked up where Sharon stopped and explained the grant application will help fund a \$125,000 ad campaign, with the required matching funds coming from RPAC Issue Mobilization funds. Next awaiting signatures at the local and state level. This is the largest campaign budget to date. Will be built on previous campaign which will streamline production costs allowing more money to pay for air time . Ads to be launched once a public hearing date has been set for the Charlottesville Zoning Ordinance. .

Property Rights Luncheon – Zoning, Affordable Housing, Tax rates, Zoning impact on affordability, Utility Scale Solar were among the suggested topics. After several minutes of discussion, it was agreed to think about it more and make a decision on a topic at the next meeting.

Issue and Reports

RPAC: RPAC Co-Chair Hal Johnson shared that Tiffany Vann is now working remotely for CAAR and will continue to work with RPAC. Both he and Anita expressed their appreciation for the continuity that will provide, as she has worked closely with RPAC under the previous chair. Their first zoom meeting is pending.

Locality Reports:

- **Charlottesville** – Neil explained Zoning Module 1 has been released. Charlottesville also released their FY24 Budget that is increasing.
- **Albemarle** – Neil detailed the county’s desire to streamline the 312 building fees currently required. In addition, they are undertaking an effort the modernize zoning code.
- **Greene** – Assessments increased about 25% for most residents. The FY24 budget equalized tax rate would be \$.66, the Interim County Administrators budget calls for a effective tax increase of .10 equates to new tax rate of \$.76 (current rate is \$.82)

Strategic Discussion – Albemarle County Comprehensive Plan (AC’44) Focus Group

Neil passed out the Focus Group form and allowed a few minutes to complete. Went around the table sharing and discussing the results. Lots of good feedback. Neil collected the forms after everyone answered the questions on the back of the form.

New Business for Future Meetings - Chair Crabtree asked for any new business to be added to a future agenda. Neil reminded everyone to continue to think about topics for the August Luncheon, and to share any new ideas so the topic can be finalized at the next meeting.

Next Meeting – The April PAG meeting is set April 12th.

There being no more business to come before the PAG, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 AM