

Minutes
CAAR Public Affairs Group
Wednesday, June 14, 9:00 am
Hillsdale Conference Center

Roll Call:

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

Staff Present: Neil Williamson

Not Present, Excused:, Quinton Beckham,

Not Present Unexcused: Tony Girard

Call to Order Chair Pat Crabtree called the meeting to order at 9:0 am.

Anti-Trust reminder –Chair Crabtree provided a short synopsis of the policy.

Board Report – Sharon Merrick provided a quick update on the May Board of Directors meeting. The Board discussed the lock box agreement. One issue was identified regarding the ownership of the lockboxes, the CAAR attorney revised the agreement, and the issue was resolved.

Issue Mobilization Grant Application Update – This is the largest campaign budget to date. \$100 thousand grant and \$25 thousand RPAC funds. All ads have formally been approved but the campaign is ON HOLD until a public hearing date has been set for the Charlottesville Zoning Ordinance. It was agreed by consensus that the ads should be focused prior to the City Council public hearing rather than the Planning Commission. It is anticipated this will be in the fourth Quarter of 2023.

Issue and Reports

RPAC: Anita Dunbar and Hal Johnson shared the current RPAC fundraising \$27,220.92. The participation rate is low but often prior to dues billing, current participation rate is 3.45%. There are currently 17 major investors and 3 President’s Circle investors. The PAG discussed several new fundraising ideas.

Locality Reports:

- **Charlottesville** – Neil mentioned the Zoning Module 3 open house to be held tonight (6/14) at CitySpace.
- **Albemarle** – Neil detailed the county’s Planning Commission philosophical shift leaning toward allowing taller cellular towers to improve coverage. In addition,

the Planning Commission is less than thrilled with the consultant interaction regarding AC'44 Comprehensive Planning

- **Greene** – is now in control of their own water and sewer infrastructure.

Candidate Funding Project Team Volunteers – With local elections approaching, it is time to seat the local Candidate Funding Project team. The Candidate funding guidelines require:

“The makeup of the Project Team will include 6 members of the Public Affairs Group (to be appointed by the PAG), 1 member of the Project Team will be selected from the CAAR Board of Directors (appointed by BOD), with the balance of the Project Team coming from the general membership (4 members selected randomly from those that apply). This Project Team should represent a broad range of members and be representative of the association’s diversity (including, but not limited to: age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, physical conditions, cultural background, country of origin, work experience, level of political activity, and political party)”

At the meeting Sue Plaskon, Anita Dunbar, and Matt Hodges volunteered to serve on the group. Neil will work with volunteer leadership to identify three other PAG members to serve.

Strategic Discussion I – 2024 Budget needs CAAR 2023 Treasurer Josh White ask all master groups to discuss three questions regarding the 2024 CAAR Budget preparation.

- a. Are there any projects, events, or tools that CAAR should consider funding that would apply to this Group and its efforts in 2024?*

Based on the positive outcomes from 2022 GAD Institute (\$125K Grant funding) The group asked that the Board consider funding \$4,000 for Neil’s attendance (Hotel, Airfare, Registration) at the 2024 National Association of REALTORS® GAD Institute in Spokane Washington.

- b. What projects, events, tools that CAAR already provides are absolutely critical to your involvement and/or to this Group's efforts?*

The three annual PAG events (Day on the Hill, Property Rights Luncheon, and Legislative Breakfast) are funded through RPAC donations. The group wishes for these events to continue in 2024 and RPAC to continue funding.

In previous years, the PAG has been successful in obtaining Issues Virginia REALTOR® Mobilization grants when REALTOR® issues requiring action come up in the community.

c. Are there any areas where CAAR spends resources that you feel could be better used elsewhere?

No

Strategic Discussion II – Property Rights Luncheon Zoning – tightening the scope.

Neil presented a concept memo (attached) outlining the scope and potential speakers for the event. It was agreed that if Neil could secure James Freas from the City that would be fantastic. The dream team would include one property owner, two planners and one appraiser.

It was suggested that CAAR open attendance at the luncheon to Blue Ridge Home Builder Association members, staff agreed to bring this concept forward for approval.

New Business for Future Meetings - Chair Crabtree asked for any new business to be added to a future agenda. There were none.

Next Meeting – The PAG determined not to hold meetings in July and August (other than the property rights luncheon August 22). Next meeting will be September 13th.

There being no more business to come before the PAG, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 AM