

**Minutes**  
**CAAR Public Affairs Group**  
**Wednesday, October 11, 9:00 am**  
**Hillsdale Conference Center**

Roll Call:

**Present:** Pat Crabtree (Chair), Rachel Burns, Jim Dickerson, Anita Dunbar, Matt Hodges, Hal Johnson, Sharon Merrick, Sally Neill, Sue Plaskon,

**Staff Present:** Neil Williamson

**Not Present, Excused:**, Janice O’Hara (Vice Chair), Quinton Beckham, Tony Girard, Errin Searcy

**Not Present Unexcused:**

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

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

**Board Report** – Sharon Merrick provided a quick update on the Board of Directors meeting. Sharon shared her perceptions regarding MLS Commission checkbox change.

**Issue Mobilization Grant 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 the City Council public hearing date has been set for the Charlottesville Zoning Ordinance. It is anticipated this will be in December 2023.

**Issue and Reports**

**RPAC:** Anita Dunbar and Hal Johnson shared the current RPAC fundraising \$52,760 collected with 34% Participation, 23 Major Investors and 361 donors.

**The Boozy Bingo Event** went very well with about 60 attending.

**Locality Reports:**

- **Charlottesville** – Neil mentioned the Planning Commission Public Hearing met last night without making a decision on the Zoning ordinance. They will meet again on 10/18. City Council has a zoning ordinance work session scheduled or tonight.
- **Albemarle** – Neil reported that the Comprehensive Plan is still moving slowly forward and he is working on getting the Board of Supervisors to discuss allowing residential in Commercial and Office zoning. Politically it still looks like the two incumbents will hold their seats.

- **Greene** – The Stanardsville representative on the Board of Supervisors resigned on Friday effective immediately. She has taken a job that will not allow her to continue. Last night the remaining supervisors decided to interview candidates for the appointed seat and to petition for a special election next November for the final year of her term. In other action, the BOS voted 3-1 to support the geographic expansion of the “Glamping Project”

**Day on the Hill** – Neil reminded the PAG that the date for 2024 Day on the Hill has been set for February 1, 2024.

### **Strategic Discussion – Pancakes and Politics December 11<sup>th</sup>**

Considering challenges in previous years, this year’s legislative breakfast has a slightly different agenda. After a healthy discussion the following programming was agreed.

- ✓ Doors open at 7:15
- ✓ Breakfast at 7:30
- ✓ Program begins at 8:00
- ✓ Legislator opening statements.
- ✓ VR Legislative Agenda Presented and discussed with Legislators.
- ✓ Other PAG Driven questions of Legislators
- ✓ If time permits questions from audience (via notecards)
- ✓ Conclusion at 9:00 am

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

**Next Meeting** – Next meeting will be November 15th.

There being no more business to come before the PAG, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 AM