

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

Roll Call:

Present: Pat Crabtree (Chair), Anita Dunbar, Hal Johnson, Sharon Merrick, Sally Neill, Sue Plaskon,

Staff Present: Neil Williamson

Not Present, Excused: Rachel Burns, Jim Dickerson, Quinton Beckham, Matt Hodges, Errin Searcy

Not Present Unexcused: Janice O'Hara (Vice Chair), Tony Girard

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 that a plethora of organizational documents were approved most changes made were driven by changes from NAR. CAAR's Code of Public Policy was also formally approved.

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 and the campaign launched today with the website going live. All advertisements are targeted to impact the Charlottesville City Council Public Hearing on December 5th.

Issue and Reports

RPAC: Anita Dunbar and Hal Johnson shared the current RPAC fundraising \$64,604 collected and an additional \$1,262 in pledges with 527 donors (49.57% participation). After a slow start, CAAR has again earned the RPAC Triple Crown from VR in 2023. The PAG shared thanks to the RPAC Cochairs for a job well done.

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

Candidate Funding/Election Report – As anticipated, the two Albemarle incumbents (LaPisto-Kirtley, Mallek) held their Supervisor seats. Neil reported CAAR's RPAC funded candidates went 2 for 3 – with both Fluvanna Candidates (Tim Hodge, Mike Goad) winning and the one Greene candidate (Todd Sansom) losing.

Locality Reports:

- **Charlottesville** – Neil mentioned the Planning Commission has endorsed the zoning ordinance and City Council is holding a number of work sessions prior to their December 4th Public Hearing.
- **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.

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

Pancakes and Politics - Neil reminded the PAG 2024 Legislative Breakfast will be held at 7:30 am on December 11th.

Strategic Discussion Ranked Choice Voting – Neil attempted to explain how ranked choice voting works and asked if CAAR should have a position for, against or monitor. After a voting exercise, it was determined that CAAR should continue to monitor the discussions and Neil could bring additional resources forward to the PAG to gain better understanding of the concepts involved.

New Business for Future Meetings - Chair Crabtree asked for any new business items to be added to a future agenda.

Hal Johnson indicated he was horrified by the national debt and curious what CAAR's position would be on the issue. Neil explained that national issues are handled by NAR but if the PAG wanted to forward a concern to NAR it could be a topic for Strategic Discussion at the next PAG meeting.

Next Meeting – A MOTION was made properly seconded and approved to cancel the December PAG meeting.

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