

Charlottesville Business Exchange
Minutes
February 25, 2016

Dennis Kidd called the meeting to order. In attendance were: Dennis Kidd, Maggie Morris, Terry Campbell, Angelo Jennings, Stuart McClintic, Dan Elash, Greg Allen, Larry Miller, Paul McArtor, Blanton Bryant, Mike Kruse, Walt Simpson subbing for Todd Jenkins, Stacey Norris, Libby Edwards-Allbaugh

Guests: Susan Stimart (Guest Speaker)

Officer Reports

President: Dennis read the thank you note from Linda Rudd for the flowers.

VP Education: Paul went over the upcoming schedule:

Mar 3: Terry Campbell Member focus

Mar 10: Group Exercise

Mar 17: Dennis Kidd Member focus

Mar 24: Guest Speaker Keith Reynolds from Synapse an open networking opportunity

Mar 31: Group Exercise

VP Membership: Angelo reported that the membership committee has met with Jenn McArtor and recommends her for membership. Email requesting group approval has just gone out.

Treasurer: Maggie has not received the reports from Bill yet so could not report on updated results. She did however list a number of Chamber networking opportunities: The “Open for Business” opportunities in cooperation with Albemarle County and VDOT starting with Costco before hours event on Mar 2nd 8AM to 9:30 AM; and, Colonial Nissan on March 15th from 5:30PM to 7:30PM (hosted by United Bank)

Educational Moment: Dr Dan issued a challenge in honor of Sadie Hawkins day for each lady member to schedule an RB with one of the gentlemen members. His educational moment centered around the emotional and psychological benefits of philanthropic activities. There are a number of studies that document the effects of being gracious, kind and positive about life and the boost that is provided by the attitude of giving. For links to the research email Dr. Dan. He also suggested greatergood.com as a place to find ways to help others. Some suggestions: pay for the order of the next person in a drive thru; anonymously pay for the meal of public servants in a restaurant; smile at others; complement others; testimonials about others in the group are such an activity.

Guest Speaker: Susan Stimart is the Albemarle County Economic Development Facilitator. She has been with the county economic development department for 11 years and opened the floor for questions about what the county is doing for economic development but particularly about the US 29 improvements.

There is \$300,000 in general marketing money to assist businesses in the affected areas of the ongoing projects. It is directed primarily towards the in the Rio Rd – US 29 intersection area. The marketing will launch on March 15th. There are also grants available to business in the “tier 2” areas to assist them with their marketing.

Rio Road will close for construction at the US 29 intersection at the end of the UVA spring term (approximately May 22). Construction at that intersection will then be 24 hours a day. Traffic will be detoured on to Berkmar and Hillsdale (Rt 1427) until the construction is complete.

There are six projects involved in this improvement project with the last being scheduled for 2017:

1. Expansion of the number of lanes north of the river to Hollymead Town Center
2. Rt 29-Rio Rd intersection
3. Best Buy ramp expansion
4. Berkmar road extension to Hollymead Town Center (bridge over river)
5. Connect Hillsdale with 1427 to create a parallel road on east side of 29
6. Synchronize the lights on 29

There is a seventh project that will impact eventually, Hydraulic Road planning.

With there being no further business the meeting closed.