



2011 Fry's Spring Neighborhood Association City Council Candidates Forum August 10, 2011

On August 10, 2011, the Fry's Spring Neighborhood Association held a candidates forum for the twelve men and women running for three seats on the Charlottesville City Council. Questions at the event were specifically directed to issues of importance to the neighborhood.

The candidates are Scott Bandy (I); Paul Beyer (D); Colette E. Blount (D); Brevy Cannon (D); Brandon Collins (I); Bob Fenwick (I); Kathleen M. Galvin (D); James Halfaday (D); Satyendra Huja (D); Paul Long (I); Dede Smith (D); and Andrew Williams (I). The forum was held at Cherry Avenue Christian Church and the moderator was Hardy Whitten, president of the Fry's Spring Neighborhood Association.

The audio and video for this forum is available online in the Charlottesville Tomorrow News Center:

http://cvilletomorrow.typepad.com/charlottesville_tomorrow_/2011/08/fsna-council-forum.html

TRANSCRIPT

Hardy Whitten:

Welcome everybody, and candidates for City Council. Welcome to the City Council candidate forum sponsored by the Fry's Spring Neighborhood Association. I'm Hardy Whitten, President of the Fry's Spring Neighborhood Association. Tonight it looks like we have a full complement of the candidates, except for one.

We have 11 of the 12 candidates seeking election for a four year term on City Council or seeking the nomination of the Democratic party in an unassembled caucus or firehouse primary on August 20th, so that they can run as Democratic candidates, Democratic party candidates, in the November 8th election. The Democrats will nominate three of the seven candidates seeking its approval, and only three candidates will be elected to City Council on November 8th.

The 12 candidates who have publicly and formally announced their seeking election to city council, and I'm going to read these in alphabetical order: Scott Bandy, Paul Beyer, Colette Blount, Brevy Cannon, Brandon Collins, Bob Fenwick, James Halfaday, Satyendra Huja, Kathy Galvin, Paul Long, Dede Smith, and Andrew Williams.

Each will be given up to a minute and a half to tell you about themselves, their experiences, their views, or whatever they wish. They will be asked to respond to questions we sent to them in advance. Candidates, y'all have up to one and half minutes for your opening statements.

Andrea Wieder, here in the lavender shirt, will be our timer for this evening. She will ring a bell after one and a half minutes, after which you can just complete your sentence in a very few words. I've written down an order for the various questions and things, but for the introductions I'm going to go in alphabetical order. We'll start with Scott Bandy.

Scott Bandy:

Good evening. I'm Scott Bandy. Sean Tubbs, I believe. was the person that told me that back in 1936, when my own mother was only 6 years old, was the last time an independent has served on the City Council. This time, well maybe the charm will return. I'd like to be your representative on the City Council as an independent voice.

There are a lot of issues facing Charlottesville. Transportation. Everyone certainly is up on the water issue. That's one that's certainly gone the rounds. Everyone concerned about education. The School Board. That's an election coming up and some new people coming up in that.

Overall, Charlottesville is a good place to live. People are very civic and environmentally oriented in this town. And I would like to keep the quality that we enjoy in this city...spot on, spot on. We've done a lot of things right. Yes, and we've done some things that weren't quite so right. But somehow the system that we have...somehow it works itself out. And we are represented. Thank you and I hope you will consider me as a choice this November.

Colette Blount:

Good evening. My name is Colette Blount. And I am a candidate for City Council. I've been in Charlottesville since 1994. I've been a school teacher since that time. My undergraduate degree is from Wellesley College, and my masters is from the College of William & Mary. And I am also on the School Board, currently.

The three issues I'm running on for city council are education, the environment, and also community engagement. Education is very broad in its reach, in addition to our children, with engaging the community around apprenticeship and internship opportunities. We also need to look at our adult community and some of the needs that they have in seeking further training.

On the environment, environmental stewardship, how we look at developing our city, making our decisions around city growth. That takes into account the balance between overdevelopment and also acknowledgement of our natural resources here all of those require investive community engagement in getting more people around the table in order to make these decisions that we need full community input so that when we do make our decisions we can say that we did have the full support of our community.

I've been spending a lot of my time doing canvassing, going door-to-door, in the time I have found that the citizens have told me that their concerns are the job market, affordable housing, and also schools. So I also add those to my campaign. Thank you very much.

Paul Beyer:

Hello everyone. Sorry I'm late. My name is Paul Beyer. Double header tonight. We had an earlier debate a little earlier in the afternoon. Paul Beyer. Democratic ticket. A little bit about me. I'm a hometown guy, born and raised here in Charlottesville. Business background and arts background. We have a small family business here. My parents have a forty year history here in the community. I also went to NYU for film, writing, and history.

So really what I'm running on is this sense of jobs, sustainability, and arts. And I think they're all interrelated but I'm going to start with jobs. The sense that we need a council that has a small business perspective that focuses on our local economy, that focuses on job creators, and specifically small businesses. I think that it is tremendously important that there's a voice on council for that kind of...that just supports hometown businesses. It's important.

The arts, I think, are an interesting component to this, because there's not a lot of people talking about it in this election. But I think it relates a theme, a theme of how we think strategically about our city and think strategically about our assets. And the arts community is not just like a warm and fuzzy kind of thing that we can feel good about. It's also a huge part of our local economy. And we need to focus on the jobs benefits that the arts community can bring. We need to think strategically about our arts community. That's the kind of perspective I hope to bring. Thank you.

Brevy Cannon:

Hi. This is a packed house. Thanks to everybody for coming out tonight. This is a great crowd. I'm Brevy Cannon. I moved here in 1997 to attend UVa and I've called Charlottesville home ever since. I fell in love with the area. It's a common story. I work at UVa in the news office, and am involved in a number of community groups around town: Left of Center, Charlottesville Community Scholarship program, the Future Fund, and for the longest of all those, I'm a volunteer firefighter in the city for the last seven years.

And I'm running for city council because I believe our biggest challenge is a lack of middle class jobs in Charlottesville. We need more middle class jobs here to bridge the gap between the two Charlottesville's. We need to give everybody here an opportunity to make it to the middle class. And what that means in today's world, businesses can locate anywhere they want. There's a lot of office parks out there beckoning.

Fortunately, Charlottesville has one huge advantage, and that's our great quality of life. I think we just need to leverage that, to attract and retain businesses here. And businesses face unique challenges in Charlottesville, you know, they're going to be dealing with having to renovate buildings, having to build new space in the confines of our urban core. If they're willing to invest in the city I think we need to reward that with tax breaks. So that's what I think is the

key to us creating 21st century, middle class jobs in green energy, biotechnology, skilled trades, and advanced manufacturing.

Brandon Collins:

Well, thank you for inviting me to be here. I believe that the great majority of people should have more control over their lives and I commend the Fry's Spring Neighborhood Association for being so active and holding this forum. It's a great example of grassroots organizing and grassroots democracy going to work and making us address your interests.

My name is Brandon Collins. I have lived in Charlottesville my entire life, which is, which is 38 years. I have a daughter in Charlottesville public schools who has also lived here her entire life. I've spent most of my working time here working in restaurants like a lot of the residents here in Charlottesville. I'm a musician and music teacher. And I do a lot of activism, particularly through the Charlottesville Center for Peace and Justice.

I'm running for City Council because I believe fully that our world, and our country, and our city are destined to experience great suffering if we don't make fundamental changes soon and now. I'm a candidate specifically for the working class, for unemployed people, for people with disabilities, for poor people. And I would like to represent their interests as I don't think they are represented hardly enough in the city.

In the coming years, we're going to see a lot of cuts from the federal government and state government to services that many of our residents rely on in a big big way. I'm going to stand up to make sure that Charlottesville makes up the difference in funding to those services when necessary. So details on all this can be found on my website.

Bob Fenwick:

Good evening. I'm Bob Fenwick. I've been in Charlottesville long enough that I remember the drive-in theater where the Kroger is on Hydraulic Road. I remember the blue laws. I remember banking when you could bank from 12 to 2 everyday and that was it. So I've been here a while.

I've been married for 44 years to Victoria. And if we have a question about can I compromise and get along with people, I want you to remember that number. 44 years. I've learned to compromise.

I have two boys, Austin and Ross. Both in the United States Army at Fort Knox, Kentucky. They're both serving together. They were educated for a few years home-schooled then in the Charlottesville public schools. And they got an excellent education in the Charlottesville public schools.

My experience was about seven years in the United States Army Corps of Engineers. I served in Vietnam from '69 to '70. I have experience in dredging, damming, designing bridges, building bridges, repairing businesses.

For 37 years, I've had a small business in Charlottesville. And I know the difficulties a small business has negotiating city hall. I used to renovation and got section 8 housing and... I will explain more later.

Kathleen Galvin:

Thank you very much. My name's Kathy Galvin. I'm running as a Democrat for City Council. I come from Brockton, Massachusetts, a working class town. Sort of like *The Fighter*, if you've ever seen that movie. My parents both served in the military during WWII, my dad was disabled. My mom winded up being the breadwinner on a school nurses' salary. Because of that, I understand hardship. But in spite of that, she wrote the grant for Head Start in Brockton, and put my brother and I to work as teachers' aides in Head Start. That call to serve runs strong.

I then became an economics/geography major at Boston University. I decided to become an architect, and came to UVa in the early 80's, and with that degree I have learned how to become an urban designer and an architect.

These lessons have taught me four key things: We need to be greener, smarter, stronger by design. And that is my motto. And that is also fully fleshed out on my website: <http://www.galvinforcouncil.com>.

To be greener means to be really smart about building and planning. To be smarter means to be really consistent in our targeting and our prioritizing and it would get things done that we start. To be stronger means we have a very strong economy with people who have the skill sets they need for the 21st century. And by design means we would be foolish cutting our nose off to spite our face if we did not pay attention to the urban fabric that we have.

We need to keep consistent with the design, the scale, but we also need to grow. And I know how to do that. Thank you.

James Halfaday:

Good evening, folks. My name is James Halfaday, and I'm also running for Charlottesville City Council. I'm going to try to beat that stopwatch over there really quick. I'm 32 years of age. I am a neighbor here in our community here. I live off Sunset Road. I'm 32. I was the youngest elected official in Illinois history. I was elected at the age of 18 for my home town council for four years.

I'm also a small businessman here in the community that I started from the ground up here in the community. And that's Snap Fitness here in the community. And that's a gym that's open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and I cater to low and fixed income family members here in this community.

Three things I'm going to try to work on in City Council. One is going to be education. That's the top priority of my platform is education. We need to close that achievement gap as quick as we can. We need to work with our students as much as we can instead of seeing them drop out here in the community.

Accountability. We need to be accountable for our residents here in our community. If you send the city hall an email, telephone call, or letter you should receive a response back. If you don't, the individuals that don't send you a response back...they should be out that door. Because you're paying those people to be up there and if you're not getting any answers regarding the water supply debate, parkway issues, you need to have answers. So I'm going to hold accountability. Third I'm conservative with my money. I'm actually really, really cheap, guys. I'm not going to go any further.

Satyendra Huja:

Fry's Spring is one of the great neighborhoods. And I would like to see it remain so and get better. And my definition of a good neighborhood and a great neighborhood is I would like to live there myself and bring up my family. That is my measured criteria.

Charlottesville is a great community, and I have spent a good part of my life trying to improve it. I have the creativity, experience, and expertise to create good solutions for our community. I will not go into details on what I have done the past 38 years. You can go to the website, hujaforcouncil.org, starting with the downtown mall.

And of course the last project I supported in Fry's Spring neighborhood is the Old Lynchburg Road and drainage project, which I was supportive of.

I have a bright vision for the future of Charlottesville, and its neighborhoods. I will work to enhance and preserve the quality of our environment. I will work to promote a balanced transportation system, especially interconnected network of bikes and sidewalks. And a better transit service. Right now you have to wait an hour to get a bus. It should be 15 minutes. It should be more frequent, more dependable so you can ride it. I've tried to improve the quality of education, especially for early childhood needs. And promote targeted workforce development so some people may have jobs.

Paul Long:

I'm going to stay seated. My name is Paul Long and I'm running for City Council as an independent. I would like to say that I was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and up in Pennsylvania we registered by party affiliation, and one of the proudest moments of my life was when I could register to register as a Democrat.

In fact, the first Democratic presidential candidate I voted for was George Stanley McGovern. But the Democratic Party of 2011 is not the Democratic Party of George McGovern or Lyndon Johnson, Harry Truman, or Franklin Roosevelt, or even of Huey Long who was governor of my mother's home state of Louisiana. The Democratic Party has gotten off base of its core principles of William Jennings Bryan who ran three times even though he lost.

And the reason I'm mentioning this there's a front page of the Daily Progress "City files to dismiss beggar's suit" and back in August when City Council, which is comprised of 5 Democratic members, passed an ordinance that homeless people couldn't solicit on the

downtown mall was one of the most callous pieces of legislation I've ever heard of. I spoke against it.

I've been in front of city council 4 or 5 times asking them to appropriate \$2 million of a three and a half million dollar surplus. I had no idea if they would appropriate \$2 million dollars. I threw it out as a negotiating figure. But this city has constantly just turned their head towards the responsibility that we as a society have for homeless people. The Democratic Party used to be the party of the working person...and I'll go into more detail later.

Dede Smith:

Hi! I'm Dede Smith and I'm running for City Council because I love Charlottesville. And I want to maintain this high quality of life that we have here for generations to come. What I bring to particularly this audience is that I've been a resident of the Fry's Spring neighborhood for more than 30 years. And I think Fry's Spring exemplifies what is so special about Charlottesville and that is that blend of natural and historic character of our city.

In fact, that is my first under my slogan of CARE. Conservation. I believe in the protection of our natural and historic resources and that stems largely from my 14 years as a director at the Ivy Creek Natural Area. It's in my soul.

Another one of my priorities is education. That stems from 10 years as a parent, advocate, leader, PTO president at Jackson-Via where I became a strong voice for the unique issues that the southside schools have. I carried that onto the School Board from 2000 to 2006, again bringing the voice of the issues the Southside has.

So what I bring again to this race, particularly for your ears, is a representation that we have not had since the 1970s when Charles Barbour was on council and that is a representative on council from the Fry's Spring neighborhood. I hope you'll take a look at my bigger picture of my platform and come on out on August 20th and vote. Thank you.

Andrew Williams:

OK. My name is Andrew Williams. I was born in Detroit, Michigan, raised in Los Angeles, California, as well as Charlotte, North Carolina. And my home is here in Charlottesville. My home is here in Charlottesville by choice because I believe we have the finest people the finest area, sincerely.

I ran back in 2009 as a write-in candidate. Unfortunately I wasn't able to get on the ballot, hopefully change things this go around. But I wanted to at least have the council consider a ward system, or some way to balance the representation needed here in Charlottesville.

Regardless of what's said, the reality is there's been one party or one group or organization managing the city and a different perspective is needed. The only way that you're going to have a different perspective is someone with a different perspective or not coming from the same background. So let's avoid all the red and blue tape.

As far as giving government back to residents, I believe the families here in Charlottesville, the resident, and the small businesses owner is the key and the primary shareholder here in Charlottesville. How do we define those dividends and how do we move forward in providing the biggest dividends to Charlottesville residents to make sure that small business owners are able to hire people and residents are able to take care of their families. I think that just like issues in school, you resolve problems at home. The government will not solve all problems. We can do the best that we can. Thank you.

Hardy Whitten:

Now I'm going to ask each candidate to respond to the questions that we sent them in advance. The order for this question will be from candidate Williams back over to candidate Bandy. It's going to get a lot more complicated after that. (laughter)

Question 1: How would you protect the residential quality of the Fry's Spring neighborhood?

Andrew Williams:

I would like to protect this area the same way that I would like to protect Charlottesville as a whole. We need to focus on city service reinforcement, or looking at it from a business perspective. If you pay for a service, you expect to get good service in a timely manner in a timely fashion. If there's an issue that you need resolved you expect to get a response in a timely fashion. We need to scrutinize not only the budget, but we need to scrutinize the way that our city departments are moving forward in taking care of city business.

We also need to balance the representation across Charlottesville paying attention to every precinct, every neighborhood, as much as we can to make sure that although across the board we need to take care of the city as a whole, we need to address the concern of the few.

And the only way that's going to happen is if we reinforce the service system, encourage better management, and move forward with a different perspective. That's not going to happen with the people coming from the same group all the time because it's the core principles. My core principles is a fairness, a balanced representation, equality and essentially moving forward. And that's what I'd like to do not only for this fine neighborhood but also for Charlottesville in general, and that's sincere.

Dede Smith:

Yes. Well this is why I've lived here for so long, is the residential quality of Fry's Spring. We are a neighborhood in the trees. And it is that quality and that historic quality that I think is threatened very often from the pressures of development coming from the south in the county, from the pressures coming from UVa.

We need to protect ourselves from the cut-through traffic which is very serious, as the south side beyond us is developed. We also need to protect our resources as the pressures of development to in-fill. We have a lot of green spaces. And those green spaces contribute to

what is really special about Fry's Spring. If you wake up like I do to wood thrush in the summer and tree frogs in the evening, you know that the quality of our residential community here is just imperative to why we all love it.

So we need to maintain a strong position with negotiations with UVa as well as with the county and be sure that they are doing their part to handle the development that impacts us.

Paul Long:

Two years ago when I ran as an independent candidate for City Council, I was amazed to learn that Charlottesville's police officers could not afford to live in the city. I believe that we should be giving them a substantial increase in salary. In fact, two years ago there was a foundation giving grants to police officers to afford to move into Charlottesville. That's not right.

I believe in increasing the numbers of the police force and giving them a salary that can measure it to live in the city. I believe in decriminalizing drug use. The 40 year drug war has been a colossal failure. It was initiated by Richard Nixon, supported by many presidents since then. We've lost that war. And I believe that anybody who's abusing drugs and non-violent drug offenders need to be in treatment programs. I don't believe they should be in Albemarle/Charlottesville jail. They shouldn't be in state or federal prisons. They need intensive out-patient therapy. They need to be given opportunities not to get felonies. So they can eventually be in the workforce, paying taxes, and learning how to live a creative life. I believe that we are forcing people into the criminal justice system that shouldn't belong there. And a large part of our crimes are committed by drug addicts in the criminal justice system, who see no way out to live a constructive life. And that needs to change.

I believe in developing a transportation system, a public transportation system that's extensive. And I'll give Councilman Huja credit. He's the only council person I've seen riding a bus. (laughter)

Satyendra Huja:

There are a number of things that can be done to improve the residential quality of this neighborhood. Some of those I got from your own list. (laughter from audience)

I would support down zoning the properties in Fry's Spring south of the railroad tracks to R1-U, which is where you can only have 3 unrelated people living in houses, so that I think will protect the character of the single family area in Fry's Spring.

I would support completion of sidewalks and crosswalks and handicap ramps on Shamrock Road. It is a major artery and it impacts the quality of life in this neighborhood. I would also support enhancement of Fontaine Avenue to make it pedestrian bicycle safety in the area so it will be a good entrance to the neighborhood.

But I will also support the increase of density...the control of density, especially in the single family residence area. But I would encourage higher density in the major corridor, like JPA. So

those are the kinds of things which could improve the area. I also support the improvements of Azalea park, which is an important part of the quality of life in this neighborhood.

James Halfaday:

To protect the quality, the residential quality of this neighborhood...Here I'm going to stand up so you can hear me. To protect the residential quality of the Fry's Spring neighborhood area. One I would actively seek more law enforcement officers in the area here. The Fry's Spring area is a growing population here in this community, especially with Johnson Village that's growing. We don't have enough police officers here in this area as well.

And as candidate Long says about decriminalizing drugs...I don't know...about that. That's not something I would do.

In fact right here in the Fry's Spring area, we have over 30 felony sexual offenders on the state registry list here in this community. That's 30 individuals. That's 30 too many. Our police departments are not able to actively keep an eye on them. So I would advocate for more police officers here in this area and then also to protect our residential way of life...we need to fix that bridge, to get that bridge fixed as soon as we can because the traffic coming on these side roads...It's going to end up in a disaster. So we need to work with the state, we need to pressure the state to fix that bridge as soon as we can. Thank you.

Kathleen Galvin:

Yes. Thank you. I look at this question as both a planning issue as well as a physical design issue. You kind of have the pain of density without any of the gain. Your individual neighborhood isn't that highly dense. It's about 4 dwellings per acre, but you're cheek and jaw with JPA which is over 10 dwellings per acre. But you don't have those amenities that usually come with an urban area. Like connected sidewalks, like frequent pocket parks that are within walking distance. You have a great destination down at Fontaine with the Fry's Spring gas stations and the Wayside Center. Those are wonderful destinations but sometimes you just cannot get to them because of a lack of connectivity with bikes.

So there's a physical design element that I think we can handle with good planning and comprehensive planning. There's also the physical element of the architecture itself. Many places for example Norfolk, Virginia, has gone through the whole process of having a pattern book. For in-fill housing so people know the scale, the positioning of what kinds of buildings fit nicely in the context of an existing established neighborhood.

We chose to bring our children up in Johnson Elementary School. We live on the north side of town because of the excellence of Johnson. We know what you have here is a beautiful place. We felt it when I was the PTO president at Johnson elementary school. So again as an urban designer, as an architect, and as someone with experience in transportation planning, I believe that your list is a really good guideline and we will work on it in council.

Bob Fenwick:

You know I almost think that the...how to preserve this neighborhood and its residential quality is a state of mind. We have a service in town called Neighborhood Development Service, and wouldn't be good if at least the named changed to Neighborhood Protection Service?

This does not have to be a business versus residential struggle. You all pay a lot of real estate taxes, you all pay a lot of taxes period. You deserve the service that comes with that.

Now I ran two years ago, and I suspect, I looked at Peter's list. There's a lot of things on that list, this list, that were on that list two years ago. Sidewalks probably being the biggest thing. So I would also use the list that you drew up to determine the priorities for the residential aspect of Fry's Spring Neighborhood. It is a green oasis. And the city just hired an arborist, and wouldn't it be nice if he would visit the other parts of Fry's Spring so they could compliment that parts that are around JPA. Then we could truly have Fry's Spring being a green neighborhood. And I understand that might attract a few more coyotes but I'm sure we can handle that.

Brandon Collins:

Well I think the first step in protecting our residential quality of all our neighborhoods is making sure that the residents are directly engaged in the planning and decision making concerning their neighborhoods and their communities. And then from there I think it's pretty easy considering you all have a very set list of priorities that you want and I think, you know, that speaks a lot. That should be enough for any City Council to work with.

You know, making sure this stays residential I think basically comes down to limiting commercial development to the Fontaine entrance corridor and making sure it just doesn't spill into the neighborhood. I believe that density is something that should for the most part be reserved for the downtown area and shouldn't really be something that affects our neighborhoods.

Now there are going to be times when we are going to need new homes in this area. And I hope the folks at the neighborhood association will agree that these homes should all be built in a sustainable manner and should be built to be affordable to anyone. You know with the increase of activity at the research park and all along the entrance corridor, it brings a danger of all this cut-through traffic and I think you've already experienced that. You know, traffic calming measures is a big one and I know you all want the Sunset-Fontaine Connector and I think it's not a terrible road and it's something that we can work with. There is a danger of overdevelopment with that road and we have to be mindful of that.

Brevy Cannon:

Well, as others have said I think you guys have put together a great list of things you'd like for the neighborhood, and I don't see anything on there that I would oppose. I would add something important for the list though, and that's one of my hopes for the city as a whole. And that is to really invest in our trail system to make it more like it is at Riverview Park. Where we've got a multi-use surface down and we now have bicycles and kids and dogs and families all using it.

You know it's getting a used a lot more than the other sections of the trail which are right through this neighborhood as well as pretty much every neighborhood in the city and go around the city in a 20 mile road. The city has not invested in that trail system like they should. I really think that's an easy smart investment that the city should have done a while ago and definitely I will be working to make sure they do if I'm elected.

Colette Blount:

Thank you. Well inside of the question residential quality you have residents and I think that is an important statement for Charlottesville. That we maintain our neighborhoods because what makes a neighborhood a neighborhood is community input and that is very clear here tonight. Community history, people who are willing to lay roots in their environment.

So along those lines I applaud the neighborhood association on downsizing the new bridge that is coming through, sending out a clear statement that this is not a throughway through the city. it is an entrance corridor to showcase what is beyond that.

Also I think communication needs to be maintained with the university through the PACC Tech committee. as far as having the university having to maintain its promises as well as its policy that it has proposed to enact. That the university also keep an eye on its outreach into the neighborhood. It has a clear boundary for what is the university what begins the Fry's spring neighborhood. And so I know the neighborhood association has spoken loudly and clearly on that. The traffic calming measures that are in place need to continue to as well. That we're seeing this not only in the Fry's Spring area we're seeing this throughout the city that as Charlottesville is becoming much larger we're seeing very dangerous cut-through traffic and we need to support efforts to minimize that.

Paul Beyer:

Well I've tried to approach this from a philosophical and pragmatic standpoint. I think the philosophical side is that we all know that there is a tension between growth and a tension between preserving neighborhoods and it's about finding a balance for it. You know, I'm a homebuilder. I understand that building houses is a key part of the economic vitality of our community and it's also something that's going to maintain affordable housing. We're not going to maintain affordable housing for artist and service people if we don't build new housing.

Here's the question: Where does it go? That's the question. And as Kathy has pointed out, is it by design? Is growth going in areas that growth should go? And here's a pragmatic example. UVa is...is the conflict between UVa and Fry's Spring. And the question is: are we keeping kids in a walkable distance to UVa? It's a sustainability question more than anything else. Are we putting housing to house UVa's expanding population or are we allowing it to encroach into Fry's Spring and eat up workforce housing that we desperately needs. So this is the pragmatic element.

We up-zoned UVa in the early 2000's. That's the kind of pragmatic reality that council, and you need to demand from council. It's not just to tell you all what you want and then that's it and we'll all be happy. You need a council that is pragmatic and is willing to make those decisions.

Scott Bandy:

Well one direction I can tell you Mr. Beyer that building and growth is not going upward.

And as far as Mr. Fenwick said, I'd have to agree with him, you know, the Neighborhood Development Service that should really be renamed neighborhood protection service.

This city our city hall there is 36, over 36, committees and commissions. Now of all those committees and commissions there is a lot of regulatory and enforcement questions. Some are overbearing with it, some are not as much. Our police department I believe could be a little more in the opposite direction than it is now. We need police enforcement; the crime that we have in this city is only going up from what I see. And the economy as it is, that certainly don't help matters. As far as this neighborhood, we have a good neighborhood. No. JPA is not a cut through. When that bridge is finished. I applaud this neighborhood for standing up and saying that that is not a cut through for county traffic. We need that Sunset-Fontaine Connector. I was at the MPO meeting where Mr. Huja and Ms. Szakos voted to not...well, more information further coming in the future.

Hardy Whitten:

Question 2: How would assure the city manager and city staff properly carry out procedures set by council that affect our neighborhoods?

James Halfaday:

That's a great question. The easy answer to that, you know, is appoint Jeanne Chase.

In all reality, if we would have individuals like Jeanne Chase pressuring the city to keep the city on target and keep the city accountable. If we have our residents keep our city being held accountable, that's the way we should do it. Residence involvement should be taken seriously here in this community. It's the residence that pay the bill in this community first. And so, prime example, I'm telling you Ms. Chase is a shining example here in this community. When she puts her mind to something, she can get it done. WE need more people like her inside city hall working with city government as well. And I'll leave it at that. Thank you. Good job Ms. Chase.

Bob Fenwick:

Well, really. The way the city government is set up. People up here are going to represent everyone in the city. And I guarantee you, when they come in front of the Fry's Spring neighborhood, and they see this. That's the pressure they are going to feel to make sure the city manager and the staff do what they're told to do. I mean, you can go to harsher measures, a letter of reprimand, or whatever. But there's nothing better than an engaged, strong, neighborhood association. And when Peter Hedlund shows up with a list like that at one of the town hall meetings, that gets everyone attention. So keep the pressure on us, whoever you elect, and keep a strong neighborhood association and that's really the best way anybody in the city can get anything done.

Kathleen Galvin:

Yes. It does concern me that the words I'm hearing is "protect" and also "the watchdog" it says to me that there is a breach of trust in your government. And I look at the sort of mechanisms we have or don't have in place and I say "Ah ha". There's some very fundamental things that government should be doing to engender more trust from its citizenry.

I took the liberty to go look up your 2008 design day result. And I looked at all the different things that you put down as priorities and it was the same list that I saw here. Ok? So what that tells me is that there's been a systems break down. And what I've also looked into is the 2006 strategic plan of the city. Which has quite frankly not been updated on a regular basis and I have some concerns about the sort of kind of performance measures that have been put in place for the city to measure. We have a golden opportunity ahead of us. The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission is working with Albemarle County, the city, and the university on a One-Community many plans project. They are developing monitors of performance that will tell us what kind of quality of life we are striving and then we can measure ourselves to see how well we are doing. Right now, I don't see any results from this design day that turn into a vision. A vision that can then be translated into a strategic plan. A strategic plan with performance measures that can be monitored. Thank you.

Brandon Collins:

Well with my observations and experience, it seems to me that city staff has been really responsive to the needs of residents when they speak up and try to get something done. And I would hope such a strong neighborhood association can stand up and make sure these things are getting done. The squeaky wheel gets the grease as they say. keep it up. And I think we can make this happen. In the coming year, we need to make sure as we're updating the comp plan that all neighborhoods and neighborhood associations in other communities are involved in updating that plan. And that's a good way to make sure that all the concerns of everybody are heard and we can get to prioritizing certain things. Ultimately I think it's you all that are going to have to hold council and staff accountable and I do support direct control of communities by the residents who live there. I will do my best as councilor to be led by residents and not to do the leading particularly on the issues that are about neighborhood development or neighborhood protection.

And just one quick note, I think you know sidewalks and the railroad crossing are big issues that probably should have been dealt with by now and I think we'll see in the coming year regardless of who gets on council, that we're going to move forward on these things and hopefully we can use a local workforce to do that work. I also support a great expansion of public transit and I think that's something that everybody in this neighborhood could get behind and hope we can make it happen.

Satyendra Huja:

It is important that City Council hold city staff accountable. To do that, this year, the city has set up a new system of accountability, which calls for a three P's system of plan, performance, and

perfect. The system will have performance measures. It will take into account city goals and visions, and then we'll find out what staff is doing and how well it is doing. It also needs feedback from the citizens like you, and so that part of the process has just been set up this year and I think it will help better the accountability of staff.

Brevy Cannon:

Well I think checking on whether policies are being executed is one of the key things that a councilor needs to do, really on all fronts. And certainly on this neighborhood, among others.

You know I think driving by and seeing whether sidewalks are being built when there has been a city council decision to build them. That's the kind of thing a councilor needs to be doing routinely.

I know this neighborhood has had some frustrating with dealing with city staff and feeling like the neighborhood has to do all the work and kind of drag city staff along with them practically do their job for them. You know do the drawings do the planning. You know if that's continuing that's the kind of thing a councilor needs to get to the bottom of. And there may need to be some personnel changes.

Paul Long:

I believe the office of Mayor, the Mayor should be directly elected by the people of Charlottesville. And I don't believe there should be a ceremonial post. I believe that the Mayor should be given executive authority to actually be authority for the overall direction of the city to make sure that the policies enacted by city council are enforced. I believe that the number of city councilors should be increased. I think it should be increased to 10, and I think only three should be elected at-large, and seven should be elected by local neighborhoods and be directly responsible to them. And I also believe that city council should meet once a week. I've been going to city council meetings for three years, and the only two issues that are regularly addressed is the city dam and the Meadow Creek Parkway. And even though there are strong viewpoints on both sides of those issues. There are multi-faceted issues that are affecting this city, they need to be addressed by city council and residents should feel confident they can go and address other issues as well.

Colette Blount:

Thank you. I'm a firm believer that it is not up to citizens to have their elected officials...it is not up to the citizens to follow up on their elected officials. That it is our duty as elected officials to ensure that we have policy that guides our objectives.

I have seen that on the school board and in working with candidate Galvin on that. And also with making sure that oversight is reduced and along those lines looking at basing the annual evaluation of the city manager on clear performance measures. Also the staff in that they have measures as well that will be evaluated. Conducting a mid-year assessment, work that we are doing on the board to ensure that things are going as planned. Include a self-evaluation of city council and we do that on the school board and it is very very helpful to see the direction that we

are headed. We need to keep a close eye on the new plan for the comprehensive work for the city and making sure that those objectives have clearly delineated outcomes as well. I've made the suggestion that in addition to the strategic plan we need to have departments, clear departments, that are responsible for that follow through and work session wrap-ups and looked at what we do on the school board as well to make sure that our ideas are given back to us in that session. Thank you.

Dede Smith:

Thank you. I think we have a great opportunity because we have a new city manager, relatively new. We did just come out of a situation where I think there was a lot of distrust between that the city manager would actually follow through on policies. And so, I think we need to set a very firm stand that the city manager is there to implement policy that the city council makes. Always have to be careful, whether its city council or school board, that we don't take on this sort of day-to-day management of the city and micromanage. And that's why it's so important to hold the city manager, who is then holding the staff, responsible and accountable for policy.

But we also need to always be aware that it is policy, and we need to be sure that policy actually matches our vision. This is one of the reasons why it's so important there's a broad representation on City Council of a lot of different parts of the city. So much of when policy isn't followed its immediate. If somebody's eyes on the ground...That's why this neighborhood association is so great. You're pretty quick, you know, to tell the city when things aren't being done. When you have representation, then, you know, there's somebody there who actually sees it and understands it as well. But as I say, accountability is huge, and we have a great opportunity.

Paul Beyer:

Well I would say as a general principle, I think that the city government needs to have some business-like efficiency. It needs to be run like a business. We need accountability. We also need city councilors that come on council and are reasonable, and fair, and level-headed with their staff. I have a small business. I have 20 employees. That's kind of the perspective that I come at it with.

What's interesting to me is that a lot of what I hear tonight is talk about infrastructure. This is where I think council...I'm a developer. I'm a homebuilder. That's a hot button issue, in this room in particular. But I think, having that kind of perspective of how things actually get built. How sidewalks are actually installed. Would be tremendously useful on council. We have a lot of capital improvement projects, and this is the type of thing I think a diverse perspective on council is very helpful in that regard. So I hear infrastructure and I think I'm an infrastructure kind of guy. Thank you.

Andrew Williams:

Well, as far as holding city manager and city staff accountable, first off the council is certainly the legislative body of the city. So it's important for us to clarify priorities, to clarify policies, to clarify direction, to clarify the expectations, and also to monitor the results. And then if we need

to make adjustments as far as staff members are concerned, then we need to move forward. Yes. We do need to exercise good judgment, and good principles, and upon a successful election, anyone of us up here has a fiduciary responsibility to the major populace of Charlottesville as a whole.

However, I think it's very important to represent also and address the concerns of the few. This is a wonderful list. It is itemized. If people are going to come together and take this time to host a candidate forum and to try to work actively and move forward on these initiatives, these are certainly some initiatives that we need to move forward on. If you all agree with these, and you are Charlottesville residents, my perspective and my thought is we need to go ahead and see what we can do and move forward on everything here itemized, making sure it is a positive or neutral impact on surrounding neighborhoods, because there are many neighborhoods. But yes, a lot of things on here. The principles that are oriented with this itemized list here is based on long term sustainability. To my knowledge, I think I was the first to really emphasize that in this campaign, and to represent the populace back in 2009.

Scott Bandy:

So that we can move forward fast, I'll be very brief. Fry's Spring Neighborhood Association is very, very good with their itemized list. Kudos to you all. As far as accountability, I will only say this once and nothing more afterwards. It shouldn't be overbearing, but on the other hand it should be fair and balanced.

Hardy Whitten:

Question 3: What priorities would you set for improving infrastructure in or affecting our neighborhood?

Dede Smith:

Well certainly there are four major projects that are either underway or on the books that we need to be sure stay a high priority. Of course, we've got the bridge at JPA, and the Old Lynchburg Road, OLR project. Azalea park is on the books. We need to be sure that stays in the queue. But we also need to be really cognizant of being able to get around our neighborhood safely. Particularly as bicycling and pedestrian traffic becomes ever more popular, and frequent. Sidewalks are huge.

And I think Fry's Spring really does exemplify one of the issues in Charlottesville, which is that it's an old part of town. And so we're retrofitting sort of a new way of prioritizing our transportation in what wasn't built for that. So I think we could be a good model for how to increase our pedestrian friendly and bike friendly, and make it safe. That Cleveland, JPA, Sunset intersection is one concern here to really be able...to safely walk across it. But these are the kinds of issues, also public transportation in our neighborhood; we're so close to some major arteries that I'd like to see more attention given to improving that.

Paul Beyer:

I think it's easy to look sometimes at infrastructure as just a matter of getting here, going there -- that's sort of a method of transportation -- and not as where we live and I'm really interested in the question of how infrastructure and investing in infrastructure can promote and foster community.

Obviously, I mention tonight a lot that I'm a developer because people in this room know that I was involved with the development of the Huntley neighborhood. It's a hot button issue. And I guess what I'm trying to relate is that to peg me as a typical developer, a typical businessman is not correct. I'm a young guy. I went to NYU for film and for writing and for history. I care about development that fosters community and that fosters green space. So let's talk about infrastructure like pocket parks. And that's one of the things I'm working on now actually over in Huntley. It's this sense of "How does a community come together?" and I am really focusing on pocket parks because I think community gardens and stream restoration projects and I'd be happy to talk more about it because those are in the works. But those are the types of focuses that I want to bring to council.

Brevy Cannon:

Well I agree with the infrastructure priorities that you guys have laid out. The Sunset-Fontaine Connector, the finishing of the bridge, improving the safety situation and straightening on Old Lynchburg Road and making the upgrades to Azalea Park, definitely. And I think that one thing I might be able to add to value to that is that I work at UVa in their news office so I have a pretty good sense of the landscape at UVa and how things work at UVa and I think that would be valuable on council to help smooth the interactions with UVa which is certainly one of the things that is at stake with the Sunset-Fontaine Connector.

James Halfaday:

That's also a good question. The priorities, what priorities would you set for improving infrastructure in or affecting our neighborhoods. The Sunset-Fontaine Connector, that's a big thing in our community, I think. I think we need to work better with that so we can have that connector a reality. And then also improving our infrastructure here in this community is a very big importance here, whether it be with the sidewalks or the drainage here in this community.

Not to point out Jeanne Chase again, but Jeanne Chase took me on her neighborhood tour and the drainage systems around here are very poor and we need to improve on that here in our area. And then also, I will also say that Mr. Beyer brought up the pocket park idea. That is the biggest farce I've ever seen or ever heard of in this community. We need individuals that will stop projects like that in this community and not have the wool pulled over our eyes.

Scott Bandy:

For one, I have to agree with Mr. Williams when he said that we might be better served if we have our Councilors elected by ward. Certainly, for instance, and this is just only very much only

a part, but I believe that the Old Lynchburg Road and drainage improvement would have been fast-tracked a lot faster had it been that way. But, no.

But still, we endure. Fry's Spring Neighborhood has endured, but hopefully that project will see fruition and it will see a finish. And I agree with Jeanne Chase. This is something that needs to be fast-tracked. The next councilor, whoever is elected, for one of those three positions, that is one dangerous road and that needs to be addressed.

Andrew Williams:

Ultimately we need to improve our tangible and intangible infrastructure across the board, all across Charlottesville. I like to certainly, you know, take a closer look and do what I can and most importantly not make promises that I can't keep. I'm not an aspiring politician but I do want to represent the residences of my city. I want to certainly move forward with as many of these as possible. If this is something that you're requesting, simply, can we move forward on most of this or if not all of these and does it have a positive, negative or neutral impact on surrounding neighborhood. What we need to do is scrutinize the budget, see what we can do to appropriate directly or re-appropriate funds to building the city's infrastructure as a whole.

But here, in this neighborhood, certainly, yes, back in 2009, a key component of my platform was the consideration of ward system. In a ward system, there would always be consistent representation, precinct by precinct, and issues can be much better addressed. Yes, it's still at-large.

This [list] is itemized. I have no problem with trying to move forward on each and every last one of these that we can given that it serves the major populace, or if it doesn't serve the major populace, it certainly serves the needs of a few and can we do it.

Colette Blount:

You all have outlined some very strong infrastructure priorities and goals. And on that list, I would say the biggest priority would be that they are followed through in a timely fashion. I know it is thanks to the Fry's Spring Neighborhood Association for some of the progress on the bridge, that you all kept an eye on the work that was done there.

Also, on the OLR and the drainage and sidewalk improvement activity. I do have a concern that there is still a portion of the OLR that is still inaccessible and I know there is a route through Azalea Park to accommodate that but I still have a concern for citizens who will continue to try and access OLR on foot or by bike.

Another infrastructure priority would be on the transit service. We need to look at minimizing our cars on our roads, again with the cut-through issues. And I know many of you who do access the transit/trolley service and looking into extending that into the neighborhoods especially with UVa's presence here in some of the Fry's Spring neighborhoods.

So, the biggest priority would be on the timely follow through of issues the association and the council have agreed to, so that another 1972 concern does not come across on desk any longer.

Paul Long:

I've been a resident of Charlottesville since 1998. I'm originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I'm the only candidate to my knowledge that has any experience with public transportation. For a number of years, I lived just south of Philadelphia in Tinicum Township in Delaware County, and I was appointed their representative on the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority and I served in that function for over nine years.

And I called two years ago and I continue to call for the creation of a public transportation authority that would include the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County and I also believe in extending invitations to the six surrounding counties to participate if they would like to, and they would manage the Charlottesville transportation service.

I believe that we need to increase bus service. For public transportation to be successful, we have to convince the great many people who use private cars to switch over to using buses. And to do that, you can't have buses running once an hour. They need to be running every fifteen minutes. We need a full complement of bus service on Sundays from 6:00 am to 12:00 at night and we need the buses to be running on legal holidays. This coming Labor Day, for two days, the buses aren't going to be running. I can never figure that out. For a world class city, life goes on on legal holidays. We need those buses running. People who don't have cars and maybe would like to come downtown, they work, they would like to come downtown to go to movies, to shop, those buses should be running. How can you convince car-owners to give up driving their cars everywhere if on legal holidays and Sundays the buses aren't running?

Brandon Collins:

As far as priorities go, I think you all have done, obviously, a great job of laying out your priorities and that should be a priority for council. What's great about this list is that many of the suggestions are things that are priorities for me citywide. You can find that in my pamphlet of maybe on my website, votebrandoncollins.wordpress.com.

One of those things is improving pedestrian and bike access city-wide. And for a number of reasons. I would like to point out that any time we expand pedestrian access, we're also expanding access for people with disabilities and those are people who get left out of the conversation way too often. So, I hope you keep that in mind as you are going about how you want your neighborhood to be.

Public transit, a huge expansion of public transit, to me is needed for a number of reasons for ecological sustainability, for the working class to get to work and to alleviate some of that suffering and it will also bring some jobs as we expand transit. So I think we should take our transit development plan, at least I think that's what it's called, for the long-term and make that short-term. I think we can do that. I think there's a lot of interest out there for that and that includes park and ride that we not only set up but we promote and make people know that it's

there. Expanding the free service, expanding the trolley route and certainly like Mr. Long says, improving times, you know, 15 minutes. This is how we can do it and I think there is a lot of energy out there for that service on Sundays and late night service.

Satyendra Huja:

Fry's Spring is an old and historic neighborhood and thus its infrastructure is also old and a little bit historic. Pipes are leaking and they are in bad shape, so a lot of the infrastructure needs to improve. First, we are working on the bridge and the sidewalk and drainage on OLR. They are important projects to be done.

I also made a call to our public works department to see what else is being done in terms of infrastructure improvement. They have a huge list and I will give that to you just for you to know. The water lines on Nalle Street, Wildberry, Thomas Drive, Fontaine and Maury are being replaced and expanded. Similarly, sewer lines behind Westerly Avenue, Sunset Circle and Sunset Avenue are being replaced. The main services of water and sewer lines need to be made available in this neighborhood because it is an old neighborhood and when you have an old neighborhood pipes are very old. They need to be fixed. And the city has a plan to build at least 14 pipelines right now on the list and I will be happy to give that to you to share with you.

Bob Fenwick:

Improving and maintaining infrastructure is critical to keep a city a working ship. Visitors to Charlottesville, or really any southern Virginia city or southern city, they like to go through the city as students and parents to see what the city looks like. Now, JPA is a beautiful avenue and it's a little different now because the bridge is being built, but that's what people look at when they come into a city. It sells the city and it proves the quality of life. It creates jobs.

Infrastructure and maintenance creates jobs, whether it is plumbers, heavy equipment operators, managers, whatever.

And I'll flip that around. Belmont Bridge. Belmont Bridge is at the focal point of the downtown mall, right next to the Pavilion. The sidewalk is crumbling. That bridge hasn't been maintained for many, many years. The western sidewalk, western-side sidewalk was repaired. The eastern side sidewalk, the sidewalk is still crumbling but there's a fence up there now. And when people come to the downtown, either the pavilion or they want to see the Presidents on city hall, or even go the restaurants downtown, that's one of the things they see.

So, infrastructure and maintenance is critical and it helps the quality of life and like I said, jobs.

Kathleen Galvin:

Yes, I see this infrastructure question as having a long-term and a short-term dimension. Long-term, your traffic issues are very much tied to your housing issues. A lot of the people coming in to your neighborhood are our teachers, police officers, firefighters, emergency tech people.

Sixty-five percent of our teachers cannot find affordable housing in the City of Charlottesville. So when you think about that, if we begin to work with the Planning and Coordination Council at

UVa and with the county, for example, and begin to address their needs to provide better housing for their faculty and staff, and also begin to address some of the issues associated with student housing and how that's encroaching upon our neighborhoods and raising and inflating housing costs, then we begin to start getting this synergy going between the parties involved and we can start solving the housing problem. We get people off the road, the roads are not so congested.

So that's the long-term, and it's going to take a while. Another long-term issue is storm-water infrastructure. There is a question of how do we begin to start visualizing the 21st century solution to stormwater. I think you don't have to look too far. JPA Arena and the Dell. We need to start thinking in terms of stormwater infrastructure now.

Hardy Whitten:

Question 4: What would you do to make the Sunset-Fontaine Connector a reality?

Colette Blount:

Well, I know that there was a recent PACC-Tech meeting in which there was some confusion regarding the proposed roadway and part of that is that the University back behind the research park, is that the proposed road is not to go through the research park. And that there is proposed development on that land there. And I am concerned that the alternative is with the railroad bridge there at the extended Stribling Avenue, that it would involve that and reduced traffic speeds as well. And so we need to hold the University accountable to what they had proposed initially and that would alleviate some of those concerns with the connector there.

And that would also ensure that the association, the city and the county continue to work collaboratively and with respect in honoring their commitments and proposed objectives. Thank you.

Bob Fenwick:

The Sunset-Fontaine Connector I think is one of these transportation issues that the politicians have taken over. We have a big problem in our community, Central Virginia, with politicians making transportation decisions. In the county, and in the city. This really is going to take a coordinated effort between local people, not only city staff and city elected representatives, but it's going to take our state representatives and I believe that's Rob Bell and David Toscano.

We don't have to fight this fight by ourselves. We're a strong community. We don't have to knuckle under when Richmond or VDOT gives an excuse that we can't do this for money and we can't do that for some other reason. We can say, yes we can. This is what we want. And that's really how I approach it. I wouldn't just keep it as a local City Council issue. I'd get the state representatives involved and the University of Virginia involved. They have a lot of pull down in Richmond and it's not like where they're the city, county and UVa. We are a community. And we can draw on the University of Virginia. We've had a cooperative relationship for years, and it has served us well and I think we could use that in this particular case to create the pact.

Satyendra Huja:

This project is located in the county but has effect on the city and that's why we need cooperation from the county working with us. I would encourage them to make this a priority project for VDOT funding. I'd also encourage the University of Virginia to contribute to this project because they will benefit also, so I think between the two of them, it should be able to get funding to deal with it.

Paul Long:

If I was elected to City Council, I would not vote to spend any money on building new roads, period, I believe that that money – and I'm opposed to the Meadowcreek Parkway for that reason – I believe any money that we consider spending go to new roads and highways should be dovetailed to public transportation.

I want to close my remarks by saying that famous Virginian, George Washington, in his farewell address gave us advice to be wary of falling into factions. The City of Charlottesville has been dominated by one party politics for a number of years. Everybody here attending this forum has the opportunity to find independent candidates. If you can't find it in your heart to vote for me, you have 4 other independent candidates to consider. It's time to end one-party rule in Charlottesville. Elect three independent city council candidates come November 8. Thank you.

Andrew Williams:

As with every initiative, issue, whether big or small, whether it has to do with the city or the relationship and the negotiating among the county with everything, I will do the best that I can possibly can within the powers associated with the office. This is certainly something we're going to need to review more and make sure that it benefits Charlottesville residents. City councilors have a fiduciary relationship to Charlottesville residents and of course small business owners. Once the University of Virginia and all of the other associated parties come up with something that's reasonable and mutually beneficial, then we can move forward. But I am much for, even if it takes 20 years and we don't need to spend any more time with any of that I understand, I'm not going to support something that's going to harm my fellow residents or something that is going to benefit one government entity more so than the entity I represent.

My website is andrewforville.com and I'm certainly open to suggestions. I still need to be on the ballot, so I would appreciate any signatures.

Brevy Cannon:

Well this is an issue of city, county and UVa relations and I think it is a good example of how we need to be pragmatic about how to make this happen. This is a city transportation priority that is in the county. The county happens to have a transportation priority that is in the city, and that's the exit ramp at Best Buy. So we're going to be building that which is the current plan. We could for instance try and make that contingent on building the Sunset-Fontaine Connector. I think that one of the things City Council has been lacking is a real spine when there are negotiations

between the city and the county. At the end of the day, we all need to get along but the city also needs to stand up and makes sure its interests are being represented in these negotiations.

Kathleen Galvin:

Yes, the Fontaine connector. I was on the study team for the Area B study that recommended this connector the very first time I guess about five or six years ago when I worked for the Renaissance Planning Group. It is, as Mr. Huja has said, it is in the county. It is going to be a private developer that develops it. It's going to be doing that proffer dance that we all understand and know and probably don't like very well, but it's the way business is done.

Now, again, a golden opportunity awaits us. We have a comprehensive plan update being done jointly with the county and the city through the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission. The county has a process, a master planning process, that looks holistically at its growth areas. It's not just a land use problem. It's not just a transportation problem. It isn't just about businesses. It isn't just about residents.

This is a time for us to look at the adjacencies. The city and the county. They affect each other. Let us then update our comp plan with this neighborhood adjacent to the next comprehensive plan update that the county is going to do. We can do that. Once we know that, that road is going to make some sense. It's not going to just be about a road. It's going to be about the land uses around it. The physical form around it. The destinations you want to go to. It could very well be a wonderful new neighborhood. But, if we only think about it in turns of fighting the county, and negotiating with the county, we don't see the vision that we can both share.

Scott Bandy:

Well, Ms. Galvin, I can see that you are very concerned that if Coran Capshaw develops the property, that there will be development.

I'm sure this room can actually see the schism of those that have never seen a road they didn't like, and those that know that there is practicality of the roads that we need. Now, I'm not saying that I am totally against bikes. I'm not saying I'm against improvements in public transit. But there is a practicality that we must address and we cannot put off.

I say fast-track the Fontaine-Sunset Connector.

Dede Smith:

I agree. I am not a big fan of roads but this one we need and we have had such an incredible pressure of the high-density development south of Fry's Spring, that this is such an essential road. It's not really a matter of what's developed around it, it's what been developed. And we need to hold the county accountable and responsible for building the infrastructure for their own development instead of using the city for the roadways to move their residents around. I agree with Brevy in that we should be holding out in negotiations for this road. There's a lot of big ticket items out there that we are negotiating right now with the county and with UVa and this should be one of them. We should hold out that this be built and it be built soon.

The other big concern is that, and Jeanne caught this, is that recent maps show then unlocking Sunset. We cannot allow that to happen. Where we shut off Sunset when they started to build all that high-density, that was a safety issue. And it's still a safety issue and it will always be a safety issue. And we have to be vigilant that as this project goes forward and as the planning goes forward that it is not taken up through the city. But it's a really critical project for our part of the city and I think we need to make sure it happens and it happens soon.

Paul Beyer:

What you heard from the candidates just now, where Brevy said we need to have spine in our negotiations, and Dede said we need to hold the county accountable.

Well, what that means is that not a lot is going to get done and it's going to be more of the same and its going to be more contentiousness. The heart of this issue is cooperation between the county, the city and UVa. We're all partners together and this is where I... I'm a business person and I know I don't go into any negotiating table self-righteously or wagging my finger at people saying 'you should do this.' The issue is, do you find ways that are mutually beneficial for everybody. And if you can't do that, or if you come in with some of these more activist kind of ways, you won't get things done.

James Halfaday:

I'd have to agree with Mr. Huja on this, and Ms. Galvin on this. The whole project is out in the county so I'd have to agree with them on this. As Brandon Collins said, the squeaky wheel will get the grease. I think that we need to do this. Not only do we need to have a backbone here in this community, we need strong representatives on City Council and I am that individual that will do that.

We also need to look at ways to have incentive programs for car-pooling here in this area so we don't have to have more roads like the Sunset-Fontaine Connector. So we need to look at other incentive programs, as Brevy says, we need to have a pragmatic approach. That's the only time you'll ever hear me say that word. Otherwise, thank you for coming out this evening and I look forward to your vote on the 20th.

Brandon Collins:

First, I'd like to say I approach pretty much every issue for the city and nationally and everything in an activist way and I think that's a healthy thing for all people to do. I do cautiously support this connector. It's a roads project that folks here want and I think folks in the county would like to see this happen as well. This is a local priority that we can advocate for with the state like Bob mentioned, rather the other way round where the state really want something and they push it on us.

However, as we go about this we need to be as open and honest in every step of the planning and construction of any road and to adequate impact studies on the natural area where the roads looks like it's going to. We can't get bogged down in dishonest tactics and just because

we want to make it happen wind up making some bad decisions the way the Meadow Creek Parkway has turned into.

We can advocate for this on the MPO as they update the comprehensive plan and we do need to be mindful of what we're going to do with that land around the road. Do we want another new neighborhood? Do we want commercial development and I think we should try to avoid that at all costs. I think the road as it is seems smart as I said I have cautious support for it.

I think any time we're talking about new roads, we also need to talk about in a big way what we're going to do with transit and see if we can find transit related solutions.

Hardy Whitten:

That concludes the four questions and we're pretty much close to being out of time. I wanted to thank everybody for your attendance and letting the candidates give you a chance to let them know who they are and how they respond to specific issues of the Fry's Spring Neighborhood Association.