



AARRC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 11, 2016

Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce, Second Floor Board Room

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Carleton Collins, Vice Chair Stephanie Brown, Councilman Cecil Bothwell, Esther Cartwright, Karl Koon, Jane Mathews, Kristie Quinn, Cindy Visnich Weeks

Board Members Absent: Joe Ferikes, George Morosani, Brownie Newman, Peter Sprague, Pam Turner, Jason Young

Staff in Attendance: Sara Henry, Sam Powers, Sasha Vrtunski

Guests: Howard Helmken, Jonathan Helmken, Josh O'Conner, Jason Sanford, Ricky Silver, Pattiy Torno, Jerry Vehaun

Chair Collins called the commission to order at 4:08 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Collins noted there were not enough members present to make a quorum at the beginning of the meeting. The commission will vote on January minutes in March.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

a. Recognition

Chair Collins welcomed new members: Ms. Mathews, Ms. Quinn, and Mr. Young. Chair Collins also recognized Mr. Vehaun and Mr. Silver for their service to the City and the commission. He then thanked Ms. Torno for her service and dedication as a business owner and an able leader to the commission. Ms. Torno was dubbed a true advocate. She thanked the commission and expressed her gratitude.

3. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

a. Network Planning Committee Update

The committee met, but there were no updates provided during the meeting.

b. Planning Committee Update

The committee did not meet and there are no updates.

5. STAFF UPDATES

a. Equitable Development Strategies Workshop Report – Sasha Vrtunski

Ms. Vrtunski presented the Building Blocks Grant information to the commission. She reviewed the EPA definition of equitable development and reviewed City's past initiatives on the effort. She also reviewed the alternatives to gentrification report. The goal of the workshop was to educate participants and brainstorm ideas of how to move the community forward. In the gentrification study, a survey was conducted with the artists and the results of that survey showed that artists are concerned with being able to afford to work in the RAD. Chair Collins seconded that he's heard these concerns. The objective is to improve the area and still keep rates affordable.

b. City Projects Matrix; Review Calendar Update

The commission was given a handout of the City Projects. Ms. Vrtunski mentioned the Public Art meetings upcoming on February 13th and 16th. She announced the Livingston St. Public Meeting also taking place on February 16th.

c. Private Development Update

Ms. Vrtunski announced the Norfolk Southern roundhouse demolition was completed. Rivermill Lofts are under construction with about 250 residential units, small office, and commercial space. The Fairview at Stoner Apartments are also under construction with about 309 residential units and 10,000 square feet of retail space. The Foundation at old Lyman is working to activate the space for a studio stroll. The Phil's Mechanic building was sold and the new owners are working with architects for a redesign.

Ms. Weeks provided an update also. The Old Glenrock Hotel has a new tenant; a dentist and a design firm is moving into the old Blue Kudzu space.

d. Buncombe County Parks and Recreation Update – Josh O'Conner

Mr. O'Conner announce a public information session coming up on March 24, 2016 from 4-6pm at the WNC Farmer's Market. The public is asked to provide feedback on potential greenway segments between Brevard Road and the existing French Broad River Greenway.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Orientation Dates

Chair Collins asked staff to send out the new orientation dates to the new members and any existing members interested in attending are able to do so as well.

b. Draft Form Based Code Update

Ms. Vrtunski reviewed the timeline for Form Based Code drafts. The next draft will be released on March 4th. City staff will hold several public meetings and the AARRC is able to attend any of these meetings. Also, in April the commission is scheduled to discuss the draft code in the monthly meeting.

Chair Collins addressed Mr. Sternberg's resolution. The commission agreed to address Mr. Sternberg's resolution following the Commission's review of the draft code.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Chairman's Work Session on High Level Vision for the Commission

Chair Collins presented the informational handout with questions to consider, priorities, purpose and powers to the commission. He reviewed the language of the ordinances and polices with the commission to familiarize them with commission's history and purpose. He asked the group to review this information and be prepared to come back and discuss this further next month.

8. CITY/COUNTY LIAISON UPDATE

a. City Council Update

Councilman Bothwell recounted the City Council retreat. He relayed that among many things discussed at the retreat, equitable development is a priority. Council will also be working on the budget from now until June.

b. County Commission Update

None.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. None

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. A public information session on March 24, 2016 from 4-6pm will take place at the WNC Farmer's Market for greenway input with Buncombe County. RAD Public Art meetings will take place on February 13th and 16th, and a Livingston Street public meeting is on February 16th.

b. The commission would like an update on the City's storm water improvement process. Mr. Powers confirmed that this can be provided to the commission at the next meeting.

Chair Collins adjourned the meeting at 5:12pm.