

Neighborhood Advisory Committee Minutes

February 23, 2015

Public Works Building, 6:30 pm

Committee Members Attending: DeWayne Barton, Saul Chase, Alan Escovitz, Joe Fioccola, Pastor Spencer Hardaway, Teddy Jordan, Barber Melton and Elaine Poovey.

City Council Liaison: **Chris Pelly.** Neighborhood Coordinator: **Marsha Stickford.**

Item I: Welcome, Approval of Minutes of January 26 Meeting: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairman Elaine. The minutes of the January 26, 2015 meeting were corrected as follows: *Item III: Teddy had groups #24-34 from the list and has received replies from Biltmore Park, Blake Mountain, Devonshire and Kenilworth. She followed up again with those that had not replied, without any further success. Elaine has yet to receive any from 28804 and just one from 28805-Parkway Forest. And in Item IV: After the 150 planned turnout # was stated, Marsha recommended we plan for 170.* They were approved without objection as corrected.

Item II: Update on the Festival of Neighborhoods II: Workshops: The list of confirmed attendees was distributed with 14 confirmed neighborhood groups and 6 groups requesting tables. 28806 was well represented. '03, '04 and '05 were less so. Elaine will ask Alan to help on '04 and Chris to help on '03. Marsha asked that if new contacts are found to advise her to update her list. Chris is working on an Op-Ed piece. Teddy has contacted Trader Joe's and will contact Jason's Deli for finger foods. Elaine noted that all directional signage was taken care of. She reminded that the building opens at noon and we may need to rearrange tables. Participants are expected after 1 pm.

Item III. State of Black Asheville discussion with Sir Charles Gardner, et al: Due to an unexpected family emergency Sir Charles was unable to attend. He will be rescheduled.

Item IV: Website update: Marsha reported that a new system will survey the website and correct misspellings, and broken links. She will meet on Thursday with Christy Edwards from the Planning Department who is new on the team to redesign the Neighborhood Services web page. She noted that a team was redoing MapAsheville so that when an address is entered all the basic information like trash pickup, phone numbers, etc. will appear. She also noted that the entire city website will be redone in the next 18 months to make it more interactive. Elaine, Teddy and Joe are scheduled for user tests next week.

Item V: Community Meetings Going Forward: Saul suggested that we schedule another round of area meetings. Elaine noted that it took trial and error to develop a format that worked. After discussion Saul moved that a meeting in the East section be set for May 18 7-9 pm. (Marsha will work on securing an appropriate location.) The motion was seconded. The motion passed. Alan initiated a discussion about the need for changing the focus of the area meetings. He expressed the need to demonstrate that they are not just window dressing. There should be deliverables. Identifying them shall be on the March meeting agenda. Chris observed that the Asheville In Motion Survey should have some results specific to the East area. There should also be a summary and review of the concerns brought up at the 2013 East Area Meeting.

Item VI: Meeting attended by Committee Members: Bob sent info that he attended meetings at Asheville Green Works, Sidewalks Committee and Building Bridges. **Saul** also attended the meeting at Green Works and reported that it concerned the one day event to clean up neighborhoods on Saturday April 18. Neighborhood Organizations can arrange to pick up gloves and vests and bags before the event and organize clean ups of gutters, storm drains, sidewalks, and streets. Some dumpsters will be available for groups generating more than 20 bags. **DeWayne** attended meetings of Hood Talk, Community History at the Edington Center, Shiloh and Pisgah View. He also visited a City Council meeting. **Spencer** attended a Shiloh Meeting. **Joe** attended the City Council Retreat, a WE CAN Board Meeting and a Community Garden Organizing Meeting. **Elaine** had none. **Teddy** attended Neighborhood Kenilworth and C.A.N. **Barber** attended the City Council Retreat, C.A.N meeting, and noted that Haw Creek recently did a clean up and had 27 neighbors and students help. **Alan** attended the C.A.N Meeting. Marsha announced Asheville In Motion Multi Modal Public is holding a drop in charrette on March 11, 12, and 13 from 9-5 in the Swannanoa Room of the Renaissance Hotel. From 8-9 pm will be pin ups of what was heard each day. Then on Saturday March 14 they will summarize what was heard as the last round of public input before they write up their report.

Item VII Agenda Items for March 23, 2015 meeting: I- Evaluation of Festival of Neighborhoods II: Workshops; II- State of Black Asheville Discussion (DeWayne will invite Sir Charles Gardner) III- Plan East Area Meeting: Identify and summarize concerns and actions. IV- Neighborhood Sidewalks: developing policy and criteria for prioritizing limited resources. V. Barb Mee will be invited to speak about sidewalk priorities.

Item VIII Other: Elaine asked about the status of Neighborhood Sign Ordinance. Marsha explained it was not forgotten but has been delayed by the retirement of the Planning Director. Some action should happen in the next month. Elaine emphasized that the committee's efforts need to be validated. Alan agreed that it is something fundamental to neighborhoods. Spencer noted the passing of community activist Minnie Jones on Feb 11. She was the first African American to move into Pisgah View Apartments. Her concerns were with health care and voting rights for the least, the last and the lost.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm by Elaine.

Minutes submitted by Joe Fioccola, Secretary