

Neighborhood Advisory Committee Minutes

June 22, 2015

Public Works Building, 6:30 pm

Committee Members Attending: **DeWayne Barton, Saul Chase, Alan Escovitz, Joe Fioccola, Pastor Spencer Hardaway, Philip Lenowitz, Barber Melton and Elaine Poovey**. Member not present: Teddy Jordan, City Council Liaison: **Chris Pelly**. Neighborhood Coordinator: **Marsha Stickford**. City Staff: **Alan Glines**
Welcome: Elaine called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and introduced Philip Lenowitz who will replace Bob Roepnak in representing 28804. She also announced that Greta Bush will fill the At-Large seat held by Saul. Also that Joe Fioccola and Spencer Hardaway have been reappointed to three year terms representing 28801 and 28803/27804 respectively..

Item I. Approval of Minutes of April 27 and May 18 Meetings: The minutes were approved as emailed.

Item II. Alan Glines: Comprehensive Planning: Alan spoke about how NAC fits in the City Planning process. The current Comprehensive Plan 2025 was adopted in 2003 and is due for an update. The plan anticipated growth in neighborhoods and smart sustainable goals. Next fall a consultant will be hired to lead a 2 year process with stakeholder meetings and research of best practices from around the country to move the 2025 plan forward. He suggested one way for neighborhoods to integrate their issues into the comprehensive plan was to create a short plan. The elements include identification of neighborhood and boundaries, history and when it became a part of the city, community expectations, best parts of the neighborhood and 3-5 issues that need study or attention with suggested solutions and see how they might fit in with the City Strategic Operating Plan and the Comprehensive Plan. (both of which are accessible online). Chris suggested adding questions asking if residents know the zoning in the neighborhood and if they think it is appropriate and what may be missing from the neighborhood. Elaine pointed out that NAC has spent time and energy on Sidewalk Criteria and the Sign Ordinance and asked what the commitment from the City that the information will be used and validated. Alan E asked about input into the comp plan. Alan G explained that currently the planning department was small staffed and mostly spent time on development review and not long range planning. The next step after developing a Short Plan would be to ask City Council to adopt it (after it was vetted by staff). DeWayne asked what a community needs to do to keep the momentum going. Alan G answered that Council sets up the integration of plans with staff workload. Marsha pointed out that the two plans Council has adopted so far are the WECAN Citizens Master Plan and the Shiloh Neighborhood Plan. Alan E asked how the short plans will feed in to the comp plan. Alan G answered that the consultant will collect the information and use it to update the Comp plan. DeWayne asked about the process for getting a plan adopted. Alan G answered that there is no step by step process in place. Marsha suggested that perhaps CAN could provide an orientation for neighborhood planning that would explain the steps that WECAN, Shiloh, Burton Street, South French Broad and East End/Valley Street have gone through to develop their neighborhood plans and visions. Spencer asked how much change can or should a neighborhood expect? Marsha noted that the Baileys say an effective neighborhood plan should only cover 3-5 years. Elaine asked about next steps. Alan G will email the draft Short Plans document. Alan E asked about the visioning process for neighborhoods. Marsha can identify some materials for neighborhoods to use such as 'world café' process, but the city cannot drive the process. Barber stated that CAN does want to start an orientation that is concentrated and explanatory. Further ideas or questions can be emailed to Alan at AGLINES@ASHEVILLENC.GOV.

Item III. Debrief East Area Meeting May 18: Elaine noted the turnout of over fifty people was excellent. Saul agreed. Elaine explained that we were prepared to discuss concerns from two years ago but they have moved on.. Barber noted the group was engaged now and working together on things like the Library. She was pleased they showed up and were willing to talk. Elaine and Teddy took a field trip after the meeting to see the library and the Azalea Park. The Library was tiny and had no access to the bathrooms at LEAF. Barber announced a meeting about the Library on July 15 at 7 pm at Groce United Methodist Church. Chris felt that the seating of NAC members all together was too formal. Spencer said it was an excellent opportunity to exchange information and good ideas for groups just starting out. Alan noted that it shows we are listening to them and that we do have a role to play in advising Council about their concerns. Saul liked the NAC seating angled toward the audience. He said we need better information as to what NAC is, and what happens to the information. He felt the energy fizzle when we explained that we put the information in an annual report to City Council. He thinks we don't need to wait for an annual report. Finally he noted that we have tried staff presenting first and community first and he prefers the results

from community first. Chris added that NAC can send occasional reports to Council with highlighted notes. Elaine observed there could be a sign for East like the one West. Joe asked if the minutes should be sent to attendees who left email addresses to show that we heard what they said. Elaine prefers to send them to the neighborhood group leaders and noted they will be available on the City's Website.

Item IV. Discussion of Summer Retreat: Elaine distributed a draft outline of the retreat set for Friday June 26 from 9-12 at 23 Edwin Place in place of the regular July Meeting. Alan cannot attend due to a conflict but he raised the issue of comments on a website that state that NAC is just window dressing and not intended to be an amendment review body(regarding input from neighborhoods on Home Stays, Short term rentals, ADU's and other issues). The comments say NAC has no role, since issues go to Planning and Zoning and then to City Council. Alan asserted that NAC does have a role, that we are being ignored and that we need to assert ourselves. Elaine noted that in the past City Staff has initiated requests for input from NAC regarding traffic calming and the Sign Ordinance. Chris pointed out the difference between NAC and CAN: advisory versus advocacy. Saul observed that NAC is supposed to report advice to City Council not Planning and Zoning. He asserted that we should stay within our founding documents. Barber experienced a problem she had trying to get a copy of a draft ordinance before a Council vote. She would advise Council to make sure information is put out in a timely manner to improve communication—which is in our charter. Marsha was concerned about the wording of some draft discussion questions and the consensus was to remove them. Barber suggested that the questions could be reworded and discussed one or two at a time at regular meetings. Elaine requested anyone interested in rewording the questions for later discussion to give them to her.

Item V. Sidewalk Criteria Update: Bob Roepnak was the liaison and Elaine has been covering the meetings since he left. The Sidewalk Committees meets every other week at 9 am . They are still developing criteria; they still have the list of sidewalk priorities and re still working on the final criteria but they are not there yet. Elaine will ask for two volunteers at Friday's retreat--one to attend the biweekly sidewalk meetings and one to attend the monthly Multi-Modal meetings (3 pm on the 4th Wednesday 1st floor City Hall.).

Item VI. Meetings attended by Committee Members: **Joe** attended meetings at WECAN, Community Garden, Garden Club, Stephens Lee Open House and Vance Monument re-dedication, New Belgium Leaders roundtable, Introduction to Form Based Code, and Police Chief Candidates meet and greet (along with Spencer, Alan, and Barber.) **Philip** attended the East Area Meeting, and met with Ken Putnam about cut-through truck traffic. **Spencer** attended a Citizens Police Advisory Committee Meeting. **Alan** attended Pace Car rollout meeting, Grove Park Neighborhood meeting, City Council Meeting, was appointed to the Civil Service Board and sworn in, attended a CAN meeting, lunch meeting with Parks and Recreation and a Planning and Zoning, meeting. **Barber** met with Haw Creek Community Association to clear up the area around the neighborhood sign, attended affordable Housing Meeting, CAN Meeting, and refereed a public meeting with a Haw Creek developer. **DeWayne** attended a Burton Street Community Meeting, and a meeting with East End and African American Heritage Committee. **Saul** attended no meetings, and **Elaine** attended the Sidewalk Criteria, Multi-Modal Commission and Kenilworth Art Walk.

Item VII. Appointment of Nominating Committee: Elaine appointed Barber Melton and Spencer Hardaway to form a committee to nominate officers of NAC for 2015-2016 at the August Meeting.

Item VIII. Agenda Items for August 24, 2015 meeting: I) Report from Nominating Committee, II) Report on Pace Car Expansion, III) Sidewalk Criteria, IV) Update on Sign Ordinance (Marsha), V) Plan next Area Meeting at South Library on September 28.

DeWayne announced the Burton Street Agricultural Fair was set for September 18 and 19. Saul wished the committee well in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm by Elaine.

Minutes submitted by Joe Fioccola, Secretary