

Neighborhood Advisory Committee Minutes  
November 23, 2015  
Public Works Building, 6:30 pm

Committee Members present were: **Elaine Poovey**, Chair, **Teddy Jordan**, Vice Chair, **Joe Fioccola**, Secretary, **DeWayne Barton**, **Alan Escovitz**, **Greta Bush**, **Philip Lenowitz**, **Barber Melton** and **Pastor Spencer Hardaway**.

City Council Liaison: **Chris Pelly**.

Neighborhood Coordinator: **Marsha Stickford**.

Also present: **Chad Bandy**, Streets Division Manager

**CALL TO ORDER** The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Teddy moved and Spencer seconded a motion to approve the draft minutes of the October 26 meetings as distributed with one correction. (Time of November meeting should be 6:30). The motion passed.

*Reordered agenda:*

**3. a. Unfinished Business:** Chad Bandy, (259-5431), Manager of the Streets Division answered sidewalk maintenance questions. **Q: Who is responsible for maintaining sidewalks and curbs when they are overgrown?** **A:** By ordinance the adjacent property owner is responsible to keep the sidewalk clear of vegetation and snow. That includes the city and state when sidewalks are adjacent to their properties. **Q. How is it monitored?** **A.** Complaint driven. **Q. How do you know which is a state road?** **A.** Mostly, numbered roads are state roads but some others such as Haywood Road and Clingman Avenue are also State Roads. You can use the Asheville App or email Marsha or Chad. **Q. Who is responsible for maintaining greenways?** **A.** Parks and Rec. **Q. Are property owners responsible not only for sidewalks but also into the roadway?** **A.** Sight distance safety is important, and fines can be enforced after warnings and notice of violations **Q. How long does it take for the city to respond?** **A.** James Boone (259-5749) is the compliance officer. He makes a site visit and a recommendation may go to the city arborist Mark Foster. Roadside maintenance and mowing was assigned to Parks and Rec but is moving back to Public Works. **Q. Can we know the mowing schedule to prevent litter and trash from being mowed over?** **A.** It's not a firm schedule due to weather and mechanical issues. **Q. Where does leaf pickup go?** **A.** Danny's Dumpsters near Azalea Park for composting. **Q. What about brush in the street?** **A.** Brush is picked up every two weeks but it has to be called in (and cut into 4 foot lengths.) **Q. What about blocked storm drains?** **A.** Street sweepers try to get to every street at least quarterly and check drains on rainy days. Leaf debris doesn't accumulate quarterly and they may get behind. **Q. Where do I find the actual ordinance?** **A.** The website: ASHEVILLENC.GOV, GOVERNMENT, MUNICODE, Code of ordinances.

**3 b. Debrief Neighborhood Plan Workshop:** Good information back. **Barb:** good cooperative venture for NAC and CAN. It was great attendance for such a bad day. Neighborhoods were impressed with the presenters and it inspired some. They thanked NAC for partnering with CAN. Neighborhoods are feeling stressed. **Alan:** Consider a follow up to bring neighborhoods back in with feedback to neighborhoods how the plan will be structured with the consultant and the role of neighborhoods in the comprehensive plan. **Elaine:** Impressed with Todd's presentation and that he answered questions well. She was disappointed that Shiloh was the only group from South area to attend but noted that Becky Anderson, who lives at Givens Estates and Pat Best have met with their management for permission for Teddy and Elaine to meet with them on Friday December 4 about organizing the south area. Also thanks to CAN for supplying the food. Julie Mayfield is a force on City Council for neighborhoods for what they need. Joe's was a good presentation. We can take the evaluations to plan the next workshops. 65 people attended and 50% responded. Thanks to Chris. Elaine was very pleased with the turnout. **Marsha** responded to a question about posting the slides that there is a meeting next week on creating a good platform for posting the website information, Todd is the right person at the right time. Also that all the presentations were recorded and Don Farris will combine and edit them. **DeWayne:** How can we advance and support neighborhoods in getting their plans done? Plan on a Page? Moving the pipeline of engagement after

several years what is the next step to accomplish them? Neighborhoods need help to push their plan along. There is no momentum after a plan is made. **Marsha** noted that Shiloh's Plan is moving along all the time. They move it forward on their own with assistance when they need it. The comprehensive plan will be looking to neighborhoods for guidance. **Teddy** agreed that it has to come from neighborhoods. DeWayne admitted that the Burton Street Plan has not been totally ignored. They have gotten help with sidewalks, street lights, community center etc. but they need direction, next steps and a support mechanism. **Spencer**: It is incumbent on each community to make sure that what was planned gets done not by new folks moving in. **Chris** noted that City Council has an annual Strategic Plan and all policies relate to it and development needs to hold to plans. **Phil** asked how does the Burton Street Plan get adopted?

**3. c. Guidelines for Neighborhood Profiles** Elaine noted an issue with the Albemarle profile. It was edited for the blog. She said we need clear guidelines. There are established questions for the format to follow. Marsha provided the guidelines used so far:

*a- Word limit: 400-550*

*b-Include a picture related to your neighborhood-pictures with people in them tend to draw people into the article.*

*c- Suggested content:*

*1-Name of Group*

*2-When formed*

*3-Where it is*

*4-What qualities make your neighborhood unique?*

*5-Who lives in your neighborhood?*

*6-What are some activities your neighborhood does together?*

*7- Brief history of your neighborhood's history?*

*8-What role does your neighborhood play as part of Asheville's community?*

*9-What are some of the things you look forward to in the future of your neighborhood?*

*10- Name something that you would like to see to make your neighborhood better.*

Length or word limit is the only critical one. Joe took issue with some of the questions. Suggestions for other questions should be forwarded to Marsha. No previously published profiles will be re-issued. DeWayne will submit the profile for December. The schedule for the first half of 2016 are: January/ Barber; February/ Teddy; March/ Spencer; April/ Phil; May/ Joe;

**2. a. Report from Sub-Committees:** No reports.

**2. b. Meetings attended by NAC members** **Spencer:** ABCRC, Baptist Ministers, IMA, CPAC, Slavery By Another Name, and was a write in candidate for City Council with 4-700 votes.

**Phil:** a live City Council Meeting, The NAC Neighborhood Plan Workshop, and Multi-Modal Commission Meeting; **Greta:** The NH Plan Workshop, Young Professionals of Asheville, Citizen Times Forum on Asheville's Middle Class and the Housing Summit; **Teddy:** Five Points, Charlotte Street, Chestnut, and Kenilworth neighborhood meetings, Growing Asheville, City Managers Development Forum; **Joe:** WECAN Board, NAC NH Plan Workshop, Community Forum on the Middle Class, Housing Summit, NCDOT I-26 Connector Public Hearing, and City Managers Development Forum. **Alan:** Grove Park Neighborhood wine and food buffet, Neighborhood workshop, CAN Meeting, two Charlotte Street Business Association meetings, Asheville Buncombe Housing Summit, Grove Park/ Sunset Board meeting, City Managers Development Forum; **Barber:** CAN Meeting, NH Plan Workshop, Housing Summit, City Council Meeting, Haw Creek Board Meeting, East Asheville Library Meeting; **DeWayne:** I-26 Meeting, CAP, Shiloh, East End, Burton Street and Green Opportunities; **Elaine:** NAC NH Plan Workshop.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

**a.** Barber introduced the topic that the Affordable Housing Committee asked CAN to ask NAC to advocate for no STR(Short Term Rentals) or ADU's(Accessory Dwelling Units) and that home stays are a debacle and dangerous to neighborhoods. Neighborhoods are being thrown to the wolves. Lindsey Simerly

at the Affordable Housing Committee said we need to think about how we want to plug into plans and keep commercial development from intruding into neighborhoods. Alan expanded: by allowing unlimited home stays it commercializes a street and for neighborhoods it is a shared concern in the near future. Not addressing the parking issue in dense neighborhoods makes more problems in the future. Then it is an affordable housing issue as it takes away from rental properties. Barber wanted to raise the issue with the NAC to join with CAN trying to get clarity for or against affordable housing. Chris explained what was done. Elections have consequences. It should be monitored closely over the year. Joe offered that a more appropriate venue for the discussion is the NAC Annual Report which we will be working on in January. We can present both sides. Phil noted that arguments have been made on both sides and all arguments have been heard. Other cities have initiated moratoria. The difference was explained that STR's and ADU's are empty houses and Home Stays are just empty rooms in an occupied residence.

b. DeWayne raised the issue of how to help the city advise NCDOT on the neighborhoods most affected by the I-26 Connector. Joe repeated that the Annual report is where this should also be done. Also the NCDOT is accepting comments until December 16. Affected neighborhoods should get the word out that their neighborhood may be affected and they should look at the options and give feedback. Three areas which may be affected are Burton Street, Emma Road, and Virginia Avenue.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES EACH)**

Elaine introduced Norma Baines from the Shiloh Neighborhood who expressed a concern about commercial development on Hendersonville Road encroaching into the residential area of her neighborhood. Marsha explained that a developer asked for conditional zoning to build a large self storage unit. City staff noted that it was against the city-adopted Shiloh 2025 Plan and denied the request. The developer then went to city council which followed the staff recommendation and also rejected the permit. Now no conditional zoning requests are allowed for a period of 1 year. But since then the developer, unhappy about the decision, has been pressuring the neighborhood organization for information about their by-laws, membership, minutes, dues, tax exempt status, and has disrupted some of their meetings. They also employ or have employed several Shiloh residents and may possibly try to pressure them to make the neighborhood association change their 2025 Plan. Looking for advice Ms Baines was advised to: look to their by-laws, get an attorney, review their 501(c) 3 status, and educate their members on the 2025 Plan and the organization.

**6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Review draft Annual Report; Orient new City Council Representative; Bicycle Report; Update on Comprehensive Plan (Marsha); Citizen's Academy. Begin plan for Central Area Meeting in March. Invite new City Staff: Chief Hooper, Todd Okolichany.

**NEXT MEETING:** No meeting in December. Next meetings: January 11, 2016 and January 25, 2016.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Minutes submitted by Joe Fioccola, Secretary