

Neighborhood Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2016
Public Works Building, 6:30 pm

Committee Members present were: Elaine Poovey, Chair, Teddy Jordan, Vice Chair, Joe Fioccola, Secretary, DeWayne Barton, Greta Bush and Philip Lenowitz.

Members not present were: Alan Escovitz, Barber Melton and Pastor Spencer Hardaway.

City Council Liaison: Gordon Smith.

Neighborhood Coordinator: Marsha Stickford.

CALL TO ORDER The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and welcomed Gordon Smith the new City Council Liaison.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES for November 23, 2015 Meeting:

Greta added the following in section 4a: Greta suggested that before NAC makes a decision we hear both sides of the argument. The minutes were approved with that addition. Elaine also outlined the process for approval of the minutes: A draft version is emailed within a few days of the meeting and corrections or additions should be sent to Elaine in the following week allowing time for corrections to be made and copies ready for the next meeting.

2. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

A. Sub-Committee report on Citizens' Academy: Marsha is responsible with City Staff and NAC sub-committee members Teddy, Greta and DeWayne to get community members who currently serve on boards and committees as a focus group to develop the curriculum to be initiated by May of 2016. The initial focus will be a four-hour session with topics based on the results of the focus group. By next year the Core Curriculum will also incorporate tours of facilities and other activities and will be used as an orientation for future appointments to Boards and Commissions. Marsha handed out a list of questions for the survey. Joe suggested a dry run could be tried at the upcoming Central or North area meetings. Resources include: Leadership Asheville, Culture of Leadership, NC School of Government and a Survey Monkey will be used to involve current Boards and Commissions.

2. b. Meetings attended by NAC members: Teddy: Kenilworth neighborhood meetings, NAC meeting with Givens Estates. Citizens Advisory Committee, Luncheon meeting with Gordon Smith; Phil: Montford Tour of Homes, Neighborhood meeting for Plan on a Page, City Council Meeting on Dec 6, Multimodal Transportation Commission (which drafted the resolution on the I-26 Connector that was passed by City Council on Dec 28.) Gordon noted that Councilor Julie Mayfield and City Transportation Staff will meet with NCDOT on an ongoing basis (every 6-8 weeks) to get clarification and push the best parts from each of the alternatives presented. This arrangement is unprecedented and is very promising; Greta: Young Professionals of Asheville (x3), Parkway Forest Holiday party and judging for the Parkway Forest Holiday Lighting Contest: Joe: WECAN Board December and January; Elaine: Malvern Hills Board, Malvern Hills Christmas Party, Montford Tour of Homes, Lunch with Gordon Smith and a meeting with leadership of Givens Estates to begin Plan on a Page. They committed to organize South area neighborhood groups beginning with Ballentree and Park Avenue; DeWayne: I-26 Meeting, Community Accountability Plan (CAP), Shiloh, City Council, Residents Council, Police Chief Hooper, Planning Director Todd Okolichany, and City Manager.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (none).

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Priority Highlights for 2016: The committee was asked to identify the top three or four planned highlights in 2016 for presentation on January 18. After discussion the following items were developed:
- 1- PLANNING: Support the Comprehensive Plan process: getting neighborhoods involved and getting a process for Council approval or adoption of neighborhood plans.
 - 2- RESOURCE for Neighborhood Organizations to fill the organizational toolbox and provide additional support and assistance to threatened and affected neighborhoods identified by the Community Accountability Plan group.
 - 3- CITIZENS ACADEMY: assist developing the initial session.
 - 4- COMMUNICATION: Raise visibility of NAC: use Face Book page, email and periodic ‘Cliffs Notes’ version of what we have to offer. Register neighborhoods for Interactive Map. Hold three area meetings (Central, North and West.)
- b. Review draft of annual report: Joe prepared a draft of the annual report summarizing the activities for 2015. Corrections and additions were incorporated into the document including the following Recommendations for 2016: Include Neighborhoods in City Strategic Plan, Request a budget, Formalize process for adopting neighborhood plans. The revised draft will be distributed by email and other discussion will be confined to email.
- c. Update on Comprehensive Plan: Detailed RFQ’s have gone out and when the consultant is hired by February the process will be outlined along with a timeline for completion. There is still some confusion about how Plan on a Page fits in. Every neighborhood will have an opportunity to participate in the process and be heard. There will also be strategies to involve low-wealth neighborhoods and get their input the weight they deserve.
- d. Discussion on Central Region Meeting
Elaine will send out a Save-the-date soon and in February an invitation and will help contact Central area neighborhood organizations.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES EACH)

- 1- Phil observed that we have reported back on what we have done but not what difference it has made. He cited an example was NEXTDOOR.COM and that neighborhoods and the police were using it.
- 2- He also suggested a neighborhood blog /discussion group that would direct traffic to appropriate places on the city website.
- 3-Joe noted that our founding documents called for an annual plan with benchmarks. We do have a plan but may need to articulate some benchmarks. Elaine suggested that should happen at the planning retreat.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Approve Final draft Annual Report; Neighborhood organization registration; Central Area Meeting. Citizens' Academy.

NEXT MEETING: January 25, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.
Minutes submitted by Joe Fioccola, Secretary