



**MINUTES OF THE
NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APRIL 25, 2016 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Public Works Building, 161 South Charlotte Street**

Present:

Teddy Jordan, Vice-Chair
DeWayne Barton
Greta Bush

Pastor Spenser Hardaway
Phil Lenowitz
Barber Melton

Absent:

Elaine Poovey, Chair
Joe Fioccola, Secretary

Gordon Smith, City Council Liaison

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER: Teddy Jordan called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES for February 22 and March 21 Central Community meeting**
Pastor Hardaway moved and Barber Melton seconded; minutes were approved

2. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

a. Sub-Committee report on Citizens' Academy

Marsha reported that 25 people had signed up for the first 2 sessions of the Citizens Academy. They will be held May 16 and May 24. Each session will be approximately 2 hours; the first will cover governance and finance; the second will cover overview of services such as planning and development and land use. The presentations will be video recorded with the plan to post on the website to be used for orientation for new members of Boards and Commissions

b. Meetings attended by NAC members

Barber: 2 Planning and Zoning meetings, Affordable Housing, 2 CAN meetings, Plan-on-a-Page workshop, 2 Haw Creek Board meetings.

Pastor Hardaway: Baptist Ministry Union, Shiloh Association, Pop-up food for community, Veterans meeting, Habitat.

Greta: Parkway Forest Board Meeting, Forest Parkway neighborhood meeting, Plan-on-a-Page workshop, CAN.

Phil: Grace neighborhood meeting, 2 MMTC meetings, CAN, Beaucatcher Greenway meeting, Central Region NAC meeting, 2 City Council meetings, Woodfin Planning and Zoning meeting, Plan-on-a-Page workshop.

Teddy: Kenilworth Board, 4-5 Plan-on-a-Page planning meetings, Greenway meeting, Central Region NAC meeting, Plan-on-a-Page workshop.

DeWayne: CAN, Burton Street, Grant Center, Kat Williams Pearson discussion

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Debrief Central area meeting

Barber noted that the issues raised at the meeting were important and should not wait for the NAC Annual Report to be brought to City Council. There was general agreement that the minutes of the Central Region NAC meeting reflected issues with ADU, STRs, parking on narrow streets, storm-water runoff that needed to get to City Council. People were engaged and had a lot to say. In the past, Chris Pelly would extract the important information from the minutes and share with Council. Since Gordon Smith, our liaison to City Council missed tonight's and the Central region meeting, Teddy will get with Elaine to consider sitting down with Gordon and discuss the important issues and how to present them to City Council.

There was clarification on the rumored closure of Pritchard Park during renovation. Marsha noted that while areas of the park might be closed off during construction, the park would remain open and drum circle would proceed as always. The communication around the park was not well done as rumors that it would be totally closed, which might have been the initial plan, were not dispelled.

b. Neighborhood Organization Registration

Marsha noted that she had sent out the definition of neighborhood and registration form for NAC members to review. The plan will be to hold a campaign to get neighborhoods to register, generate interest in community perhaps with an article in MountainXpress. One goal is to raise the profile of neighborhoods. Marsha is working with IT to have a map on the website that will show the neighborhoods. Also, to try to develop a fillable registration form to make it easy for neighborhoods to register. Dwayne raised a question about the outcome of neighborhoods registering in order to receive City services that they should be receiving anyway. This lead into the next topic of discussion – Plan on a Page

c. Plan on a Page workshop

Dwayne questioned why we were inviting communities to participate in the Plan-on-a-Page exercise when the City has no process for addressing full-scale plans that had been developed by neighborhoods. It was discussed at some length that the Plan-on-a-Page process was for neighborhoods to have input into the City's Comprehensive Plan which will be developed through a consultant. But to the point that there is no process in the City for getting Neighborhood Plans adopted or accepted, there was agreement that neighborhoods are not cookie-cutter the same. It is frustrating and discouraging for a neighborhood to work on a community plan and then have no process for formal adoption/recognition by the city. The belief that communities are not all treated equally by the City and the need for fairness and equity was discussed. With our committee only an advisory body, concerns were voiced and questions raised as to how NAC can better effect positive change. We need to find a way to be heard. The need for neighborhood associations to go directly to City Council meetings to raise their issues was discussed. This is one way that the real needs of citizens can be heard. Again, Teddy will get with Elaine to consider how to approach Gordon to explain that we are not getting what we need and what do we need to do to get it?

Marsha reported that the Plan-on-a-Page workshop had 20 neighborhoods attending and that it was helpful for both neighborhoods and the City planning staff. Greta noted that the guidelines for the plans were fluid – one planner told her that the plan should stay within the boundaries of the neighborhood while another said that looking at bigger picture (such as Tunnel Road) was OK.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Plan May 23 North Community meeting

Marsha asked Phil what issues might be raised in the North Region meeting. Phil noted that the development of 184 condominiums on the land annexed by Woodfin, which has no access

without using Asheville City streets, might be a topic; sidewalks are always a topic as well. Marsha allowed as how Todd would meet with the folks involved in the condo issue but probably wouldn't be an issue for all of North Asheville.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES EACH)

There was no public comment

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS for June 27

Debrief of the retreat and debrief of the May 23 North Asheville meeting.

Everyone was reminded that the next meeting will be: May 23 North Asheville Community meeting – North Asheville Library

And the Committee Retreat will be on Friday June 24, 9 am to noon at the Burton Street Community Center. Tour of Burton Street Community Garden led by DeWayne Barton.

ADJOURNMENT

8:15 p.m.