

Neighborhood Advisory Committee Minutes  
October 26, 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** and **Philip Lenowitz**.

Members not present: Barber Melton and. Pastor Spencer Hardaway.

City Council Liaison: **Chris Pelly**.

Neighborhood Coordinator: **Marsha Stickford**.

Also present: **Dave Russell**, Riverlink

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

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Teddy moved and Philip seconded a motion to approve the draft minutes of the August 24 and September 28 meetings as distributed. The motion passed.

*Reordered agenda:*

**4. a. Approval of Stream Name.** Dave Russell Riverlink's Director of Volunteer Services explained their Name That Creek program. It is an effort to make sure that every tributary to the French Broad River has an official name so that people gain a sense of ownership and will take care of it. Five creeks have been named so far. Two are in the county and the most recently completed one was Penland's Creek- which crosses Craven Street through the New Belgium site. The next one is in the Falconhurst Neighborhood running south of Patton Avenue at Louisiana Ave. to Smith Mill Creek. He explained the process. The Falconhurst Neighborhood set up an online poll and after six weeks the top three names were *Hayes Creek* (after a grandson of President Rutherford B Hayes) *Falcon Springs Creek* and *Fox Creek*-which won the poll. The rest of the process is to get support from this committee to ask City Council to approve a naming resolution and then to submit the name to the US Geologic Survey's Board of Geographic Names for official approval and placement on future maps. Teddy moved and Philip seconded a motion to endorse the naming of Fox Creek and the motion passed.

**c. Introduction to CAP by DeWayne Barton**

DeWayne introduced the Community Accountability Plan. It was designed to assist the three historically African American Communities with neighborhood plans and the Public Housing Residents Council in how to organize and to work as a team on common issues to complete their plans. There are three focus areas: Youth Development, Social Enterprise and building capacity to support the plan (Hood Talk). The first uses experiential learning to engage youth by offering school credit to high school seniors who work on implementing neighborhood plans. The second connects local businesses to the community by supporting youth programs which build community capacity and leads to other programs more efficiently and effectively. A Core program uses the existing structure to use transitional translators between the community and outside groups to direct help from outside organizations such as for volunteers. The goal is that the community takes the lead on what they want by a community needs assessment and then have some skin in the game and connect to existing support systems, matching community goals to the City Strategic Plan and writing job descriptions for leaders in the neighborhood and that the groups leave an inheritance(legacy) behind and have a collective impact. The third uses Hood Talk meetings and newsletters to build capacity in the neighborhood. Youth learn to be accountable. Community Investment Network for youth engagement, neighborhood assets, supporting neighborhood businesses, community partnerships in Burton Street community and East End and Shiloh who feel their plans are not being supported. DeWayne showed the Burton Street job description but each neighborhood needs to write their own job descriptions and goals for themselves. Churches in East End and Burton Street have been involved. Elaine expressed great interest in finding new approaches that other communities could learn from and adapt it and that the committee supports his efforts and will help move forward with it. Chris noted that he observed in Shiloh that when the outside community was brought in for Heritage Days to help they come away with a sense of ownership. Teddy encouraged everyone to go to the Burton Street Peace Garden which is organized in different themes: reusing trash, growing food, building community. How are the communities doing now in the face of change? Elaine observed that from a school perspective East End and Burton Street are safer for children than ten years ago. Ongoing issues about affordable housing. It is important for it to work need to incentivize opportunities around the core plans and work with existing structures and get buy in from parents and coaches. The end goal is investment and capacity to create an environment to let the kids shine. For youth there are monthly meetings of Hood Talk and some paid landscaping jobs. DeWayne moved and Phil seconded a motion that NAC endorses the CAP for improving conditions in African American neighborhood development. The motion passed.

**b. Report on Pace Car Program by Alan Escovitz**

Alan explained the process of working collaboratively with the Police Department, Traffic department and the neighborhood leaders on speed reduction. 4-5 years ago the neighborhood began raising concerns about speeding and safety and improving livability. A year ago a planning committee was organized. The idea was rolled out in May by email and an organizing meeting was held on May 19. The program uses a three prong approach: Education, Engineering and Enforcement. They first selected the four streets with the most traffic: Kimberly Ave., Edwin Pl., Charlotte St. and Macon Ave. At the meeting residents were asked to fill out a form and take a pledge to follow the

speed limit on the four streets. And they received a Pace Car decal with the city logo to place on their cars. Signs were posted and the traffic engineer measured before and after capturing speed, traffic volume, time of day and direction. This data helped the police target enforcement when most violations happened. Unfortunately this occurred when radar units were not available, but nevertheless many citations were issued. The program went on for 90 days and a post assessment by the traffic department and police is expected soon. Alan felt it was successful and was ready to be rolled out to other neighborhoods. Marsha noted that not every neighborhood qualifies for speed bumps and that Pace Car is one alternative solution.

### **3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **a. Sidewalk Maintenance (rescheduled to November meeting)**

#### **b. Debrief South Area Meeting**

General comments: lively crowd, good turnout, requests for more information and contact addresses, key people encouraged others to be more active, extremely pleased. Chris forwarded the draft minutes to fellow City Council members and was thanked by the Mayor. It was recommended that future area meeting notes be sent to Council timely rather than waiting for the annual report.

### **2. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:**

#### **a. Report from Sub-Committees**

##### **i. Report on November 7 Neighborhood Plan Workshop**

Marsha distributed a draft agenda outline and list of potential informational packet contents or resource list. The blog is already written and a press release will be going out soon. She will try to make the workshop a project page on the city website with background information and links to existing plans. There will be no pre-registration but area reps should encourage delegations to attend. Chris noted that it is the expectation that the Planning Director articulates the process of the neighborhood role in the process of input into the Comprehensive Plan and the differences between vision plans, short plans and the comprehensive plan. There was discussion of the relation between neighborhood plans and the comprehensive plan.

##### **ii. Report on Citizens Academy meeting**

Teddy and Greta reported that they are starting to survey boards and commissions for what information they want to get out to citizens. Some topics for the five or so weeks starting in September 2016 are Police, Fire, City Council, Development, hot spots, etc. They want it to be interesting with possible field trips to Water Treatment, Nature Center, etc. and balancing what wants to be told and what wants to be heard. The goal is to give citizens an understanding of the processes of government and possibly grooming of future leadership and improving communication between citizens and government. Chris thought it might be in order for there to be some expectation of participants at the end. There is a budget of \$1,000 for the first class of 20-30.

#### **b. Meetings attended by NAC members**

**Phil:** South Area Meeting, Candidates Debate at AB Tech, Coffee with a Cop, Ice Cream Social, Lakeshore Heights organizational naming meeting (Merrimon-Osborne, Lakeshore, Pinetree, Lakeshore, Horizon Hill.)

**Greta:** Young Professionals of Asheville x2, Parkway Forest Neighborhood meeting x2, Asheville Downtown Association presentation at Civic Center, Citizens Academy sub-committee meeting, City Council Candidates

Debate, CAN Forum. **Teddy:** Visioning Chestnut Hill + Charlotte Street + Five Points (x2 each) CAN Forum, South area meeting, Kenilworth meeting. **Joe:** WECAN Board, Livingston Street plan, Candidates Forum at YWCA, Time Capsule Installation, NCDOT RADTIP, South Area Meeting, Livingston Street follow up meeting, Intergenerational conversation on Race and Age, the Mayor's State of the City Address, Green Opportunities meeting, Planning workshop meetings. **Alan:** State of the City, CAN, First Charlotte Street Businesses Organizational Meeting, CAN City Council Candidates Forum focusing on Neighborhood issues. **DeWayne:** Livingston Street, I-26 Connector, Edington Center, Burton Street, West Asheville Business Association, CAP Group, Code Faith, Community Investment Group, Western Carolina African American @ YMI, UNCA Stop the Violence, Conversation on Race and Age. **Elaine** was out of the country. **Spencer** is running as a write-in candidate for City Council.

**4. NEW BUSINESS** Elaine announced that online City Newsletter had posted Greta's Neighborhood Profile on *Parkway Forest*. Alan had turned in November's for *Albemarle Park* and DeWayne was scheduled for one in December.

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

Elaine noted this was the last meeting for Chris who will be missed for his support, experience and direction. He said that from the beginning he was more invested in role of the Neighborhood Advisory Committee in making a contribution to serve neighborhoods and was impressed with the progress made.

**6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** For the November 23 meeting: Communication Plan for I-26 Connector input, Debrief Planning Workshop, Sidewalk Maintenance,

**NEXT MEETING: November 23 6:30 pm Public Works Building**

**Workshop: November 7, 2015 from 9-11:30 AB Tech Ferguson Auditorium**

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Minutes submitted by Joe Fioccola, Secretary