

Neighborhood Advisory Committee Minutes

January 13, 2014

Public Works Building, Conference Room 5:30 pm-7:30 pm

Committee Members Attending:

Saul Chase (Chairman), Bob Roepnack, Alan Escovitz, DeWayne Barton, Joe Fioccola, Barber Melton, Pastor Spencer Hardaway, Elaine Poovey

City Council Liaison: Chris Pelly

Neighborhood Coordinator: Marsha Stickford

Item 1: Welcome and Approval of Minutes of November 25 Meeting

Chairman Saul Chase called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. The minutes of the November 25 meeting were approved with the following corrections: Item 2: City of Asheville Staff Seek Input Regarding Neighborhood/Community Signs-UDO was changed to Code of Ordinances and an extra period was deleted after 1997. Barber moved and Alan seconded *that the minutes be approved as corrected.*

Item 2: Annual Report for 2013, Review of Draft

Saul asked for additions to the annual report for City Council. Elaine suggested a statement about attendance by committee members at city sponsored and other community meetings. Alan said that would show how engaged committee members are. Elaine agreed to formulate those sentences. Joe had suggested changing NAC to ANAC (Asheville Neighborhoods Advisory Committee) as it is listed in the founding document. The committee agreed by consensus to leave it as NAC. Chris suggested elaborating on the Festival of Neighborhoods celebration using language from the invitation. He agreed to write the additional sentences. A question was raised about the timeline for funding requests to City Council. The committee agreed to have this issue as a future agenda item due to the fact the budget process will be ongoing until June. Alan suggested a statement regarding the partnership with CAN for the Festival should be added. Joe suggested the vision and mission statements be added in the first section.

Item 3: Advice from NAC as an addendum to the Annual Report for 2013

Saul presented the idea using neighborhood communication systems set up along zip codes as an example. He explained the process that would be used for vetting the ideas. Committee members Barber, Elaine, and Bob agreed that we need to hear what neighborhoods are saying before beginning to make suggestions. Pastor Hardaway asked for clarification regarding the timeline. Chris suggested we may want to revisit this for the future.

Item 4: Strengthening Community Policing

Chris presented a draft proposal from the Asheville Police Department titled "Community-Police Network Proposal" written by Captain Stony Gonce. He stated Police Chief William Anderson is trying to implement community policing by building a network of community leaders who can disseminate information to neighborhoods when there is a need. This proposal focuses on crime prevention. DeWayne stated this needs to be broader than just dealing with crime, for example, when there is a disaster. Other agencies would have to be incorporated. Alan stated he is not sure we need to look at the narrow focus because of the Citizens Police Advisory Committee. Pastor Hardaway said we need to work on relationships with communities. DeWayne stated our committee needs to present who we are to youth groups. The committee questioned how NAC would be involved. Chris stated the idea is to proactively invite the police out to community meetings. Saul will meet with Alan Brailsford to define how the two groups will work together. Chris will share the committee's comments with the Asheville Police Department committee.

Alan passed out a draft document he had written for the Asheville Police Department dated August 6, 2013. Captain Stony Gonce's document contained some of the same language used in Alan's proposal. He felt it was inappropriate to use wording similar to the two documents he wrote for the department and not be credited with those statements.

Item 5: Community Signs Subcommittee Report

Bob thanked Marsha for taking notes of the meeting. Marsha explained the process to be used and stated the Planning Department would write changes to the ordinances that would go to City Council. She recommended that before the changes go to City Council that the Planning Department meet with NAC. There were several changes suggested by Committee members and the subcommittee was directed to consider those changes. This report will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Item 6: Neighborhood Meetings Subcommittee Report

The committee met on December 16, 2013. Following discussion of the subcommittee report, it was agreed the next community meeting will be March 24 for the Central district to be held in the Conference Room of the Public Works Building from 7:00 pm-9:00 pm. The regular meeting date in May was changed to the third Monday, May 19, and a community meeting will be held for the North area on that date. Geographically this includes all neighborhoods north of I-240. The West area community meeting will be held on September 22, 2014. Marsha will share the updated list of neighborhood organizations that she and Elaine compiled following the Festival of Neighborhoods celebration. The format for the meetings will contain the following:

- Overview of City projects
- Public Safety Reports
- Explanation of the role of NAC
- Public Forum-each group presents key concerns and issues

Item 7: Agenda Items for January 27, 2014 Meeting and Announcements

Agenda items will include the following:

- Reviewing/developing the plan for 2014
- Request for funding for Festival
- Final approval of Annual report (2013)
- Subcommittee report on neighborhood signs

Marsha announced that Stacy Murton with the Historic Resources Commission is developing a master plan and seeking input. A meeting will be held January 30 at 5:30 pm (Grove Park Inn?). Consultants will present a master plan and issue an invitation for input.

Rich Matthews will be at the Wesley Grant Center on February 4 at 7:00 pm to discuss impact on urban renewal for the Southside neighborhood.

Elaine moved and Bob seconded *that the meeting be adjourned at 7:32 pm*. The motion carried.

Elaine Poovey
Secretary