

## **Neighborhood Advisory Committee Minutes**

February 24, 2014

Public Works Building, Conference Room 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

### **Committee Members Attending:**

Saul Chase (Chairman), Bob Roepnack, Alan Escovitz, Carmen Ramos-Kennedy, Joe Fioccola, Barber Melton, Pastor Spencer Hardaway, Elaine Poovey

Neighborhood Coordinator: Marsha Stickford

Other Attendees: Captain Stony Gonce, Asheville Police Department

Eric Bradford, Greenworks Volunteer/Clean Communities Coordinator

### **Item 1: Welcome and Approval of Minutes of January 27, 2014 Meeting**

Chairman Saul Chase called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. *The minutes of the January 27 meeting were approved on a motion by Barber seconded by Alan.*

### **Item 2: Captain Stony Gonce, Community-Police Network Proposal**

Captain Stony Gonce presented information about the Community-Police Network. He thanked Alan and Marsha for being trailblazers with the project and acknowledged that Alan had written much of the material being presented tonight. Captain Gonce said the Police Department wanted to build trust in the community. Some communities have a high level of trust; other communities lacked a high level of trust.

Communication is vital and trust is very fluid. A key component is people feeling comfortable engaging with city government. Barber asked about graffiti. Marsha said there are community groups working on this issue and by April, there should be a comprehensive picture. Carmen stated that education is important and asked that there not be criminal punishment for graffiti artists. Captain Gonce stated he was looking for champions for the agency to act as stewards. Saul asked if communication among committee members would take place at a monthly meeting and Captain Gonce commented that was still in the planning stages. Pastor Hardaway asked if there was an instrument to gauge response time to neighborhoods where there was trust and Alan responded there was a process currently in use that tracks this information. Joe observed that the current Police Department Strategic Planning process has a community group addressing Community Quality of Life which overlaps with this proposal. Joe, Alan, Spencer, Marsha and Stony all attended a talk on February 17 about conducting a community survey called "Situational Policing—A Neighborhood Dynamics Approach."

### **Item 3: Eric Bradford, Greenworks Volunteer/Clean Communities Coordinator**

Eric Bradford commented that Greenworks wanted to be a partner with NAC in organizing neighborhood projects. His organization has available resources. They have been in existence for 40 years and there was no charge for any of their services. He emphasized the month long celebration of Great Asheville-Buncombe clean-up in April. He pointed out the April 1 kickoff at Asheville Pizza and Brewing at 77 Coxe Avenue as well as Earth Day activities on April 16, 19, and 22. The April 26 Hard 2 Recycle Collection information sheet will be e-mailed to committee members by Marsha.

### **Item 4: Bob Roepnack, Multi-Modal Transportation Commission**

Bob shared activities from the Multi-Modal Transportation Commission since its inception in August, 2013. City Council has approved a new Greenways master plan. The commission had done a lot of work on bus transit issues. Some routes have changed to make them more responsive to the patrons who use them. The commission was working on the current issue of the Charlotte Street corridor. Alan asked about the street ratings in his neighborhood with regard to conditions of street pavement and how that related to multi-modal use. He asked Bob to take that issue to the committee for discussion. Bob shared information regarding an Asheville app for use in reporting water leaks and pothole patching. He said the commission was organized in subcommittees that included bicycles, pedestrian, vehicular traffic, and greenways.

### **Item 5: Planning for Central Region Meeting, March 24, 2014**

Saul reported that there was a good organizational plan for the meeting. The agenda will include committee introductions, presentations by city staff, a presentation by Eric Bradford on Greenworks, and presentations by neighborhoods groups. Saul shared a poster design that the subcommittee developed.

NAC members agreed the posters should be placed in businesses in the central district. Joe and Alan agreed to distribute these. Marsha will do a press release notification about the meeting.

**Item 6: Proposal for NAC-Sponsored Breakfast Meeting of Neighborhood Leaders**

Discussion was held regarding a neighborhood leaders' breakfast. Saul felt the cafeteria tables at Hall Fletcher Elementary School would be uncomfortable for adult seating. He had e-mailed and telephoned the principal inquiring if tables and chairs were available but had not received a response by the meeting time. Marsha questioned why the committee wanted to do a breakfast and stated city staff also questioned the idea. Elaine, Bob, Alan, Joe, and Saul responded with numerous reasons for doing this: networking, building communication among neighborhoods, securing information about individual neighborhoods, assisting neighborhoods to develop and organize an association, follow up to the Festival and discerning if there is a need to have another one this year. Following the discussion, Elaine *moved that a coffee klatch be held on Friday, May 2, 2014 from 8:30 am-10:30 am in the Public Works Building*. Bob seconded the motion and it was approved. Elaine agreed to serve as subcommittee chairman and Alan and Joe agreed to work with her. Saul offered to contact Atlanta Bread Company about donating the pastries.

**Item 7: Agenda Items for April 28, 2014 meeting**

Report on graffiti  
Neighborhood coffee klatch

**Item 8: Announcements**

Elaine issued an invitation to attend the Malvern Hills Community Club meeting on Sunday, March 23, 2014 at 3:00 pm at the Malvern Hills Presbyterian Church. The speaker will be author Rick Matthews who had written a book that included some early history of Malvern Hills and the Sulphur Springs Hotel.

Bob announced that the Beavertdam community was organizing and they have developed a website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm by Saul.

Elaine Poovey  
Secretary