

## Neighborhood Advisory Committee Minutes

October 27, 2014

Public Works Building, 6:30 pm

### **Committee Members Attending:**

Bob Roepnack, Alan Escovitz, Joe Fioccola, Pastor Spencer Hardaway, Elaine Poovey, Teddy Jordan, DeWayne Barton.

City Council Liaison: Chris Pelly

Neighborhood Coordinator: Marsha Stickford

**Item I: Approval of Minutes from August 25 and September 22 Meetings:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairman Elaine. The minutes of the both meetings were approved with a minor change noted in the numbering of the Vision, Mission and Goals.

**Item II: Debrief West region meeting:** Good representation, participation, city staff well represented, speaker Jay Gurney apologized for missing, turnout helped by posting at schools and mailing to churches, clearly defined area, good facility, four council members in attendance, could have been more diverse, some minorities need empowerment, sense of value and respect, some are very dissatisfied.

**What is our outreach mode for the future?** Alan suggested continuing the strategy of ongoing meetings, trying to meet on a regular basis maybe once or twice a year. Bob relayed a request from the Sidewalks Committee to get input from neighborhoods as they complete the criteria for their priority list in late December or January. DeWayne expressed the idea to help neighborhoods organize and get better involved to assist emerging groups before big meetings (perhaps briefing or coaching.) Chris suggested we may want to focus more on constituencies or topics rather than on regional areas. Dewayne emphasized the need for a special effort with the housing community to respect their process and trust their leadership. DeWayne will check in with the resident's council to touch base and offer support.

**Item III: Report on meetings attended by committee members:** **Teddy** attended Asheville In Motion meeting on Friday and the Symposium on Saturday with **Joe, Bob,** and **Chris**. There was a better turnout on Saturday. She would prefer more time between the meetings. **Joe** attended an I-26 informational meeting; the Burton Street Agricultural Fair and mural unveiling with **Dewayne** and **Marsha**; The Mayor's State of the City address with **Elaine, Teddy, Bob, Alan, Marsha** and **Chris**; OLLI and the Community Relations Council first Conversation on Race and Age; The work session presentation of the draft City Council Comprehensive Affordable Housing Strategy; The East End Valley Street Neighborhood Association Family Fall Festival; and the Use of Force Discussion at the Grant Center. Joe was apprehensive at the Asheville In Motion Symposium when the panel was introduced by a consultant. Consultants are expensive, and no smarter than people here in Asheville and they are often a tool for funders to get what they want and appear to have community support for something that worked somewhere else. However, the moderator was excellent and the level of discussion on big picture issues such as generational change and expectations redeemed his respect. **Alan** also attended the City Council meeting adopting Innovation Districts on Charlotte Street Corridor, South Slope and the River Arts District. **Spencer** has been receiving a lot of emails as the Media Events Committee. **Bob** has been to Multi-Modal Commission meetings, and Sidewalk Committee.

**DeWayne** was at EEVNSA Fall Family Festival and the Burton Street Agricultural Fair and Mural unveiling and Hood Talks on the last Thursday of the month. (Community people encouraging information sharing and organizing.); The Non-Violence Committee; African Americans in Western North Carolina at the YMI last Thursday and Friday at UNC-A; Environment at the Grant Center; There was a good turnout at the Hillcrest Hood Talk. **Chris** met with **Marsha** and Mayor Esther Manheimer with 20 people in East Asheville about a drug house problem; also with the Five Points Neighborhood about buffering traffic problems near Chic-Fil-A. He also met with Hazel Mill Road residents about new affordable housing going in there.

**Item IV: Utilizing the Neighborhood Portal on Website:** Elaine reported that she and Teddy and Joe met with Marsha to discuss the website. They looked at websites of several larger cities and one thing that looked good was neighborhood profiles. She handed out a sample of information needed which included: *Define location/boundaries; Short History; Association Contacts (e-mail, website, phone, Face Book, next door); Area Plan Y/N; Neighborhood Activities (list annual events); Incorporated Y/N; Tax Exempt Status Y/N' By Laws Y/N;* Other items discussed were: Leadership, Board, Team, Regular meeting Date, Location, Time, Newsletter, The profiles should contain static information and avoid dates or events that require frequent updating but should include links to websites, plans, newsletters, etc. Chris also suggested each group should be allowed a couple of pictures. Elaine distributed a list of about 65 organizations divided by zip code.

**Assignment I:** Then assignments were made for committee members divide the list and make contact to gather profile information as follows: 28801-**Joe** and **Alan**; 28803- **Spencer** and **Teddy**; 28804- **Bob**; 28805- **Saul** and **Barber**; 28806- **Elaine** and **DeWayne**; The goal is to collect information and have it ready in the next few months to put on the Website. Elaine will check on progress at the November NAC Meeting. Elaine reminded the committee

that in August Marsha gave out copies of Neighborhood profiles from WECAN, Five Points and Shiloh that appeared in the City of Asheville Blog and asked for more and so far received just one from Alan. The intent was to get detailed profiles of every neighborhood for the bi-monthly blog at 6 per year. **Assignment II:** Using the established format of 6 questions select a neighborhood and get the profile to Marsha by the following schedule: January 2015: **Elaine**; March 2015: **DeWayne**; May 2015: **Teddy/ Spencer**; July 2015: **Bob**; September 2015: **Barber/Saul**; November 2015: **Alan/Joe**.

**Item V: Change in December Meeting Date ( January 12, 2015)** Elaine noted that as in the past there will not be a December meeting but instead an additional meeting will be held on Monday, January 12. The committee agreed to this date by consensus.

**Item VI: Collaborative Traffic Safety and Speed Reduction Campaign: Pilot Study** Alan briefly explained a three part proposal of Engineering, Enforcement and Education involving the Charlotte Street Corridor residents, the city's traffic engineer and police department. The four streets covered are Charlotte Street, Edwin Place, Kimberly Avenue and Macon Avenue. The program begins with awareness to improve safety and livability and make better use of city resources. The immediate area will be notified first, then signage will be installed, then the wider community will be notified, then a 'pace car' program will be initiated (where residents pledge not to exceed the speed limit) followed by police enforcement. There will also be speed check tubes collecting data before and after to measure success. This program may be used as a template for speeding problems in other areas. He expects a timeline for implementation to come out soon.

**Item VII: Criteria for Neighborhood Sidewalks:** Bob advised that Neighborhood Sidewalks group was meeting every two weeks. They are developing criteria to prioritize sidewalk needs with limited resources and then want neighborhood input. They requested to use a dedicated NAC-style regional meeting. Chris pointed out that the police have also requested the same type of input for their strategic plan and he suggested a general meeting (perhaps in the US Cellular Center) but with different area break out groups. There is no timeline yet from the sidewalks group.

**Item VIII: Meeting Invitation: CAN:** Elaine read an email request from Barber, who could not attend while early voting was happening. She announced the next Coalition of Asheville Neighborhoods meeting will be on Monday November 10, 2014 from 7-9 pm at the Oakley Community Center. CAN is facilitating a conversation on Affordable Housing and participating will be the developer working in Shiloh, Mountain Housing Opportunities and Community Development Director Jeff Staudinger. They will talk about the challenges in affordable housing. Barber asked if NAC should co-sponsor the conversation. Discussion considered the advocacy role of CAN versus the advisory role of NAC. Since the purpose of the conversation was educational it was felt that both NAC and CAN could collect input and then use it as they each saw fit. Bob moved **that NAC agree to co-sponsor the Affordable Housing Conversation with CAN.** The motion was seconded by Teddy and passed.

**Item X: The State of Black Asheville:** DeWayne asked us to consider that Asheville as we know it is really 2 or 3 different worlds. We try to work collaboratively and collectively with organizations to address the gaps in community. He wants our group to look at conditions that are driving them apart. He sees a booming city but little impact on the housing communities like Hillcrest and Lee Walker Heights. We need to be aware of the rock throwing. He asked what does resilience look like? They feel disconnected from the rest of the city. They need understanding and support and we need to ask how can we address this? He has some statistics he will bring to the next meeting. He said the African American community feels disconnected. Spencer added that if the African American community is important to Asheville then events at Shiloh and Burton Street should be attended by the Mayor, Council members and the higher level office holders. That would show the people that it is important to be there. He mentioned the ribbon cutting this Saturday from 12-1 at the Edington Center (formerly the Reid Center) celebrating Kitchen Ready, construction training programs and other partners but they still need a gym floor and auditorium. He asked how we can go deeper. For example, can residents be hired to do sidewalks? Chris noted that the city cannot legally require it of contractors. Spencer also pointed out that millions are being spent on a new school on Hill Street across from Hillcrest and how can some of that money flow into the community and underserved neighborhoods. It's not just the work being done but who is doing it. How to plug in existing infrastructure to the arts and history.

**Item XI Agenda Items for November 24 meeting:** State of Black Asheville; First draft: Report from Neighborhoods; Meetings attended; Website profiles, Sidewalks

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm by Elaine.  
Secretary

Minutes submitted by Joe Fioccola,