

Neighborhood Advisory Committee
West Asheville Area Meeting
West Asheville Library Community Room 942 Haywood Road
September 26, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Committee Members Attending: Elaine Poovey (Chairman), Phil Lenowitz (Vice Chair), Joe Fioccola (Secretary), Billie Buie, Greta Bush, Pat Deck, Barber Melton, Gordon Smith, Asheville City Council

Not Present: Pastor Spenser Hardaway.

City Staff Attending: Marsha Stickford, Neighborhood Coordinator; Ken Putnam, Director Transportation Department; Asheville Police Department West Asheville District Commander Lt. Geoffrey Rollins, Asheville Fire Department Division Chief Joy Ponder; Approximately 20 members of the public were in attendance.

Welcome and Introduction At 7:03 Chairman Elaine Poovey welcomed attendees, indicated some handouts about the 3rd Festival of Neighborhoods set for November 13, an application for City Boards and Commissions including an open position on the Neighborhood Advisory Committee for a West Asheville Representative, and then all present were asked to introduce themselves and their neighborhood.

Update on 2016 Bond Referendum: Gordon Smith gave a brief overview of the upcoming bond referendum called GO Bond 2016 for General Obligation Bonds. On the ballot are three questions for \$17 million for Parks and Recreation, \$25 million for Housing Affordability and \$32 million for Streets, Sidewalks and Bike Lanes. Approving these will expedite already planned items in the city's Capital Improvement Projects list and move up those items further down the list. Later next month will be a meeting to answer all questions related to this bond vote and all information is available on line at www.ashevilenc.gov/2016bondreferendum.

City of Asheville Updates:

Information on Residential Parking Program: Ken Putnam, Transportation Department Director announced that a consultant was working alongside the city drafting a document to initiate a Residential Permit Parking Program which was recommended by the Haywood Road Corridor Study. This will address the influx of business customer parking on residential streets off Haywood Road. There are many options being considered such as manual or on-line, free or cost, guest permits and enforcement.

Update on the Comprehensive Plan: Todd Okolichany was out of town. Marsha Stickford indicated a handout about the planning process and announced that on after gathering input and listening to focus groups and compiling the results of the survey will be the first public meeting on October 10 at the Collider at 1 Haywood Street.

Asheville Police Department Lt. Geoffrey Rollins, West District Commander reviewed statistics about the west area: 25,000 population, 13,000 residences, about 700 businesses, over 191 miles of streets. The main objective is to reduce crime. The crime analyst helps identify hot spots for crime and traffic accidents. Last month, assaults were reduced by 67 %. This month there was a spike in car break-ins but the majority of those were crimes of opportunity because the cars were not locked. The new chief wants to push National Night Out events into the community and in August three were held in the West District. He announced that 'Coffee with a Cop' was a program to get to meet and talk to officers. The next one is at the Happy Hill Restaurant on Patton Avenue on Wednesday October 5 from 7-9 am. A question about quality of life with chronic speeding vehicles and reported lack of enforcement was answered that speeding complaints are immediately addressed. He reviewed that non-urgent and ongoing problems should be reported on the Asheville App but noise complaints should be reported on the police dispatch number (828) 252-1110.

Asheville Fire Department Division Chief Joy Ponder explained some Fire Department facts: There are 12 stations and 78 fire fighters on duty at all times who respond to the almost 17,000 calls each year. The response time has improved over the last ten years.

Reports from West Asheville Neighborhood Groups

MALVERN HILLS: Russ Davis reported there are 200 homes in their area around School Road, Bear Creek, Wendover Road and the Asheville School. The organization is 91 years old. Their activities include a community club, a newsletter, a website, face book, next door and a phone directory. In addition to social media their activity included: Malvern Hills Park Picnic (combined this year with National Night Out for over 100 people at the triangle space on School Road.) City wide cleanups in April, Community Yard Sale in May, Christmas Party, and completed Plan on a Page. About 25% of the residents are active in the organization and they are looking ahead to working on getting traffic calming speed humps on Wendover Drive.

BURTON STREET NEIGHBORHOOD: Vivian Conley reported that her neighborhood was 106 years old. Their biggest activity is the Agricultural Fair established in 1912 until 1945 and revived in 2012. They have a recording studio, Thanksgiving Pot Luck, Christmas Dinner, Trick or Truck and a fitness program that puts a strain on parking. Participation is dominated by the faithful few unless I-26 is on the agenda.

WILSHIRE PARK: Rachel Jensen reported their 120-home organization is only 53 years old. They hold two meetings per year with pot lucks and are thankful for the use of the facility at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. They publish a directory and have street reps. Their Community Watch was revived this year. The Police Chief attended National Night Out and did a walk through. On August 20 a neighborhood picnic was attended by 24 people. They are working on updating their by-laws and Constitution from 1963. Their main concern is noise from traffic on Patton Avenue

EAST WEST ASHEVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION: Ted Figura reported that EWANA was formed in 2012 inspired by the potential routing of trucks from New Belgium through their neighborhood. They have mostly succeeded waiting only on the improvements to the Craven/Riverside Drive intersection. They completed a Plan on a Page and are working on an action plan to identify the two main projects to prioritize. He noted that sidewalks and repaving on State Street was on the list from the bond referendum and there are no walkable and safe connections across State Street. They also are working on getting metal artwork designed and imprinted into new sidewalks and have a pot luck in August.

HUDSON HILLS: A HABITAT COMMUNITY OFF JOHNSTON BLVD, ON SOULSHINE COURT: Rhonda Kensinger reported they have 26 houses and all but one is occupied and it will close soon. They are using face book to plan a celebration. Their concern is that small children play in the street and traffic on Johnston Blvd needs to slow down.

CARNEY PLACE: A HABITAT COMMUNITY OFF VIRGINIA AVENUE: Victoria Rose reported that the neighborhood has 22 homes and was built approximately four and a half years ago. They had a good visit from the fire department and are working on a community garden. They are concerned about speeding on their dead end street. Elaine pointed out that the Neighborhood Advisory Committee has put neighborhood profiles on the City Blog Spot and in September Carney Place was profiled and in October it will be Wilshire Park.

FALCONHURST: Erin Waanders reported that she lives on Oakwood off Haywood and their street has a community picnic but are concerned about speeders on their dead end street.

PROJECT WILDLANDS: Jake McLean explained that Project Wildlands was engineering a watershed study of Smith Mill Creek. They are partnering with the City and NCDOT in the project to prevent flooding and preserve water quality through green infrastructure and improving quality of life. The goal is to build a network and prioritize the assignment of Capital Improvement Projects.

COALITION OF ASHEVILLE NEIGHBORHOODS: Rich Lee is the membership Chair of CAN. He noted that CAN is 30 years old and has represented 50-55 neighborhoods. He encouraged people to attend their monthly meetings at 7 pm on the second Monday at the Oakley Community Center.

QUESTION: Vivian Conley asked how do you get on the Bond referendum? She was answered that it is only for existing plans but it does move other projects closer to implementation.

Elaine thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.
Minutes submitted by Joe Fioccola