



Downtown Public Space Management



Posted 9/11/2015
Last Revised 4/06/2016

Timeline

2016

May – proposed Public Forum at Public Safety Committee

April 5 – Stakeholders Meeting

2015

March 15 – Process meeting with Chairs of Downtown-related committees

December 15 – Stakeholder Meeting

October 26 – Report at Public Safety Committee

Fall – Report at Public Safety Committee

September 22 - Small group stakeholder meeting

August 24 - Staff report to Public Safety Committee

June 1 - Public Safety Committee, Updates on ordinances for street performances and sidewalk vending

April 27 - Public Safety Committee, Report on status of street performance and sidewalk vending ordinances

January through end of March - ADA and buskers meet to review potential changes to local street performer ordinances

2014

December 16 - ADA Buskers Forum

September through December - ADA works with Busker's Collective to study concerns related to street performances in CBD

September 22 – Public Safety Committee update on Downtown Enhancement Plan

September 17 - ADA convened the first meeting with stakeholders about public safety issues associated with street performers

What's Happening Now

Since August of 2015 several stakeholder meetings have been held to develop and refine a proposal for a pilot program to address public safety concerns related to crowds attracted to street performances, including overcrowded sidewalks, pedestrian crowding in roadways, motorist safety, blocked crosswalks and handicap access.

The most recent meeting was held on April 5 and involved downtown businesses and residents and members of the Asheville Buskers Collective. A [presentation](#) of an updated proposal and [map](#) for the pilot was shared and discussed by participating stakeholders.

City staff will review the input and make revisions to the proposal in preparation with the goal of presenting it at the May Public Safety Committee for further discussion in a public forum. Additional resources will be used to solicit community feedback on the proposal before the pilot is finalized for implementation this spring.

Why It's Happening

Downtown Asheville is a bustling and vibrant place. The unique mix of uses contributes to a unique atmosphere appreciated by residents and out-of-town visitors alike.

Placemaking is one of the tools local governments use to engage the community in sustaining an area's character. Its key attributes include (a) sociability; (b) uses and activities; (c) access and linkages; and (d) comfort and image. A successful 'place' is a reflection of a community's effort to create an appropriate balance of these important components. The challenge and importance of taking steps to balance the various components becomes all the more important as the number of people and uses in downtown Asheville grows.¹

¹"What is Placemaking?" Project for PublicPlaces, www.pps.org/reference/what_is_placemaking/.

Supporting Information

[April 5, 2016 Meeting presentation and map](#)

[Input from December 15, 2015 meeting](#)

[Input from September 22, 2015 Meeting](#)

[Additional input from Asheville Buskers Collective](#)

[September 22, 2014 Downtown Enhancement Plan Update](#)

[April 27, 2015 Public Safety Committee Staff Report](#)

[June 1, 2015 Public Safety Committee Staff Report](#)

[August 24, 2015 Public Safety Meeting Packet](#)

[Public Space Management Presentation](#)

Comments/Inquiries

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