

ASHEVILLE BUSKERS COLLECTIVE
STAKEHOLDER'S MEETING NOTES
(from Sept 22nd meeting)

1. **SIDEWALKS.** We feel as if it is important to focus on widening sidewalks and fixing the pinch areas first and foremost. Public safety and pedestrian safety can be an issue at some of these spots despite a busker's presence. We feel there are several options and opportunities available to do so at very little cost or resources. It is important to keep our buskers on the sidewalks where they belong. Our buskers at this time feel like there may be opportunities in the parks in the future, but serious reform of those parks and possible advertising would have to happen to make them viable spots for busking. At this moment, a majority of our buskers do not wish to play within our parks system. Busking majorly happens on the sidewalk, and passer-by traffic is required to earn an income.
 - As one example, we could widen the pack square area by moving the curb line back a few feet, straightening the line of the road there. This would leave space still for the two parking spots that are there, plus possibly leave room for a third spot. This generates more area than a box on the sidewalk would save, and keeps our buskers where they belong.
2. **NOISE.** We would like to find a way to effectively regulate the volume of buskers, and not just the source of the volume. Acoustic groups/buskers can have the same volume as amplified buskers. Perhaps another look at the current most effective way of measuring sound should be brought back to the table... the use of decibel meters. The technology has become advanced, and the devices are very effective. This takes the guesswork out of the equation.
3. **BUSKER LIASION.** The majority of our buskers are satisfied with the thought of having a busker liaison.
4. **PARTIAL PERMITS.** A good number of our regular local buskers have voiced that they would be satisfied with partial permits. The ABC wants to ensure that everyone has a chance to play. There have been questions popping up since the discussion, although they are open to the idea. Many buskers wanted to know who would be in charge of these permits, if they would cost money, and how easily they would be obtained. One busker asked "Can other musicians play with me if I have a permit?" Also voiced was that they did not want there to be limits as to the number of permits given out, and that permits should probably only be in effect during tourist season (daylight savings).
5. **CD SALES.** Our musical buskers want to sell CDs on the sidewalk where they play. The ability to sell CDs is a very important issue to a majority of our buskers. While the ability to sell merchandise in the parks is a giant step in the right direction, this would not help our musical buskers until the parks were cleaned up, as the majority of the musical buskers are unwilling to play within the parks system as it stands right now. Our buskers are willing to pay a fee for such a right, or have it be part of the semi-permitting of certain spots as mentioned above.

