

Asheville City Council
Planning and Economic Development Committee

2:00 p.m., July 24, 2012
City Hall, First Floor Conference Room

Minutes

Present: Vice Mayor Esther Manheimer, Chair; Councilmember Cecil Bothwell;
Councilmember Marc Hunt

Staff: Gary Jackson, Judy Daniel, Shannon Tuch, Jonathan Feldman, Stephanie
Monson, Robert Griffin

The Planning and Economic Development Committee met on July 24, 2012, in the First
Floor Conference Room, City Hall. Vice Mayor Manheimer called the meeting to order
at 2:05 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes from the May 15, 2012, meeting were approved as written.

2. Updates

Redevelopment of 14 Riverside Drive

Stephanie Monson, Urban Planner II with the Office of Economic Development, reported
to the Committee that earlier this year, SCANA Energy donated the old PSNC building,
located at 14 Riverside Drive, to the City. The City now owns quite a bit of property
along Riverside Drive in the River Arts District, and therefore is a major stakeholder in
the area. She gave an overview of the planning activities that have occurred over the
past couple of years in the area, which have primarily focused on building relationships
within the community.

Next steps: With \$50,000 from Tiger II funds, to be used for transformation development,
and \$5,000 from the Chamber of Commerce/EDC, staff is recommending that the funds
be spent on the redevelopment of 14 Riverside Drive and the immediate environs. An
RFP, which would be strictly for planning, would be released by the end of the year, and
a team that would look at three study areas: the building, the city owned property for
economic development sites, and the west side of the river for parks and recreation and
stormwater mitigation activities. The goal is to receive concrete recommendations about
the type of public investments in the area to support the private investments. This could
be done in a 12-month period. Staff would then ask Council to consider the
recommendations and to the impact on the City's CIP.

Councilman Hunt asked staff to look into sites that are ineligible for SHIPO
requirements.

BTIP Permitting Software

Robert Griffin, Building Safety Director, gave the update; please see attached memo. He highlighted that few places in the nation look at the process as a city process; that the City of Asheville takes a holistic approach to permit approvals, not strictly departmental approval. Councilman Bothwell supported the One Stop Shop approach, but is looking forward to more online processes to replace much of the paperwork involved in the permitting process.

Mr. Griffin reported to the committee that the total budget for implementing the software is approximately \$400,000. However, the funding will all come from a technology fee that has been in place for four years, which is 4% of every permit.

Development Services Center: Ongoing Management Study

Gary Jackson, City Manager, reported to the Committee that with the technology investment and the process management and customer interface at the One Stop Shop, the City is going through basic management monitoring. He commented that the next phase of the One Stop Shop's evolution will be reorganizing and reassignments, with the possibility of a new management structure; that the City is talking to customers and employees, and will be investing in ways to empower both.

3. New Business

No items scheduled.

4. Unfinished Business

No items scheduled.

5. Presentations and Public Comment

No presentations or public comment.

Public Comment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.