



AARRC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 14, 2016

Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce, Second Floor Board Room

Board Members in Attendance: Vice Chair Stephanie Brown, Councilman Cecil Bothwell, Esther Cartwright, Joe Ferikes, Karl Koon, Jane Mathews, George Morosani, Commissioner Brownie Newman, Peter Sprague, Cindy Visnich Weeks, Jason Young

Board Members Absent: Chair Carleton Collins, Pam Turner

Staff in Attendance: Stephanie Monson Dahl, Sara Henry, Sasha Vrtunski

Guests: Josh O'Conner, Chuck Pickering, Jason Sanford

A quorum was established and Vice Chair Brown called the commission to order at 4:06 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the December minutes and Peter Sprague seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

a. Annual Report

Vice Chair Brown noted all commission members have received the completed annual report and it was submitted by staff.

b. Boards and Commissions Luncheon

Vice Chair Brown attended the luncheon and recapped the main points of the event.

c. New Design Review Committee Appointee

Jane Mathews was appointed to the commission as the Design Review person.

3. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

a. Network Planning Committee Update

Mr. Sprague recapped the network sub-committee meeting to the group. The group is looking for ways to collaborate with new community partners.

There is new brewery on Sweeten Creek. The group also discussed flooding and how the city handles rapid water flow. The group also discussed Form Based Code draft report. The consensus is to have a joint commission in planning and zoning in March. The group also discussed graffiti in the River District. Mr. Morosani recapped Ms. Dahl's presentation of the Riverfront.

b. Planning Committee Update

The planning committee did not meet.

5. STAFF UPDATES

a. City Project Update

Ms. Dahl provided the group with the Project Update form.

b. Private Development Update

Ms. Dahl gave general updates on private developments. Duke Subspace expansion caught on fire last night and over 1000 people were out of power. New Belgium Brewery is doing some sneak peaks and will have a soft opening in March. Rivermill Lofts on Thompson St. are under construction and staff will have more updates next month. The Salvage Station is also considering opening a restaurant on their property. More information will be shared on this in the coming months as it is available. The French Broad River Greenway Craven Street section will also be open at the end of April. Brewery Row is also close to pulling permits.

c. Draft Form Based Code Update and Timeline

Ms. Vrtunski presented an update on the Draft Form Based Code. The concepts in review are the building height maximums and keeping the zones mixed use. Several zones have also been collapsed. Staff would like to invite the entire commission to review the Form Based Code Draft when it becomes available so that everyone can have greater familiarity with the code. There will be a few rounds of the Draft Code shared with the public and various riverfront organizations to ensure we have ample feedback. Mr. Morosani suggested we have a recap of the changes on a cheat sheet so that there is an easy way to see the evolution of this code. Vice Chair Brown asked about the property acquisition process. Ms. Dahl explained that the process to work with property owners is underway. City staff is in the acquisitions process and is working with property owners to help them understand their rights.

Ms. Vrtunski also discussed Equitable Development strategies and the workshops that took place previously. Staff is presenting the report from the EPA to Council. The Commission asked for an update next month.

Mr. Morosani asked about Mr. Pilo's property. Ms. Dahl updated the group.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. None

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Orientation (handout)

Vice Chair Brown reviewed the proposed dates for orientation and asked the commission to vote on the date they would like.

b. Committee Assignments (handout)

Vice Chair Brown reviewed the existing committee assignments. Ms. Dahl reviewed the committee responsibilities to the group. The group is to review their options and determine if they want to join or change a committee. Mr. Morosani suggested Mr. Ferikes join the Rules Committee. Mr. Ferikes accepted. Vice Chair Brown suggested other changes be followed up by Chair Collins. Mr. Newman suggested that the committee brainstorm vacancies as a group. The group discussed the vacancy management process and would like to take a proactive role in finding commission members. Ms. Dahl explained that Maggie Burleson and Kathy Hughes with the city and county respectively help with appointments for the commission. Vice Chair Brown suggested that when they know a vacancy is coming open that as a group it is discussed to determine the types of qualifications needed for the open seat. Councilman Bothwell noted that Ms. Burleson keeps applications on file.

c. Set Annual Calendar (handout)

Vice Chair Brown reviewed the proposed calendar. Ms. Dahl added that in March she will work with Josh O'Conner of Buncombe County regarding greenways. The goal of planning out the year is to help ensure that the priorities are imbedded in the plan throughout the year. Vice Chair Brown also mentioned moving the retreat from the summer to fall months. The group unanimously agreed to move the retreat to October. Mr. Morosani would still like to alternate between local and traveling retreats.

Mr. Newman also discussed presenting to the County Commission the full scope of what is happening on the Riverfront. He said more thought on the timeline and what to present is needed. Ms. Dahl suggested all the subcommittees come up with a few ideas this month. Vice Chair Brown asked if the Annual Report needs to be repackaged for the County Commission. Mr. Newman said this is not needed but if there are specific things to bring to the County then they should submit their ideas. Vice Chair Brown suggested that in October the group plan to also present to the County Commission as well as to City Council.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. None

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Vice Chair Brown announced that the TDA partnered with the Airport Authority to create an air force development task force. They are meeting on 2:00 PM on January 20th to present their findings.

Vice Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 5:08pm.