



AARRC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 12th, 2015

Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce, Second Floor Board Room

Board Members in Attendance: Acting Chair Carleton Collins, Esther Cartwright, Councilman Jan Davis, George Morosani, Commissioner Brownie Newman, Ricky Silver, Peter Sprague, Jerry Vebaun, Cindy Visnich Weeks

Board Members Absent: Joe Ferikes, Karl Koon, Pam Turner

Staff in Attendance: Lucy Crown, Stephanie Monson Dahl, Sara Henry, Caroline Long, Sasha Vrtunski

Guests: Linda Giltz, Josh O'Conner, Mary Weber

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

Vice Chair Mr. Collins thanked Mr. Davis for his time and dedication to the city. He was presented with a token of appreciation from the AARRC. Mr. Davis thanked the Riverfront community and noted the importance of the AARRC as the Riverfront and city grows.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Collins made a motion to approve the October minutes and Mr. Silver seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

a. Nominating Committee

Mr. Vebaun noted that the committee recommends Carleton Collins for Chair and Stephanie Brown for Vice Chair.

b. Vacancies

City Staff recommends Mr. Collins into the Chair role and will be advertising for a design professional to take his place in the Planning and Design review vacancy.

Ms. Dahl explained that Mayor Vebaun will be replaced by Jason Young, the Town Manager of Woodfin. Mr. Silver will remain on the board until he is replaced. His replacement must be a property owner or business owner on the Riverfront.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

a. Planning and Design Review Committee

Acting Chair Carleton Collins stated the subcommittee did not meet.

b. Networking Committee

Mr. Sprague noted that the Committee held their meeting at the Smokey Park Supper Club. They reviewed the EDC's monthly report and discussed the opening of the Smokey Park Adventure Center. In addition, the Amboy Road Food Truck Park is now open along with Edna's Coffee House. The group also looked at the RADTIP Plans in more detail, led by Ms. Dahl and Ms. McKinnon from the City's Real Estate division. Their next meeting is December 7th at Explore Asheville.

c. Update on the Greenway Committee Tour

Commissioner Newman noted that he attended the tour and that the greenway will be a great asset to the community.

5. STAFF UPDATES

a. Project Sheet

Ms. Dahl gave an update on the project sheet, including RADTIP and 14 Riverside Drive. Staff had a meeting with landscape architects and streetscape team for RADIP today. She noted that Staff will be adjusting the way Design Review functions, incorporating more feedback from the general Commission.

The design review for 14 Riverside Drive will happen next month at the Design Review Committee. Ms. Dahl asked for the Commission's support with help leasing the space and asked for leases to be for longer than one year. Ms. Brown offered to assist with helping with the leasing process. Staff hopes for 14 Riverside Drive to be open in October of 2016 and is time lining backwards from that date including a 30 day RFP process, 30 day review, and 30 day lease negotiation. The uses of this building will be for public service; restrooms and information point. The other side of the building will need to be leased to strengthen the identity of the space for arts and culture.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Riverfront Greenways – South and West

Mr. O'Conner is the new Parks and Rec director for Buncombe County. The County did a feasibility study from Asheville Outlets to Lake Julian Park and is now looking at continuing from Asheville Outlets northward past the Farmer's Market toward the existing French Broad river greenway system. He noted that there is a 20% down payment and if the project is funded, DOT will fund the remaining 80%. He also reviewed the French Broad/251 Greenway. FHWA is proposing an additional greenway cantilevered multi-use trail from I240W West Asheville exit to downtown.

b. Form-Based Code Update

Ms. Vrtunski noted Staff has received input on the Charette Report. Staff is expecting a draft code in late January. Ms. Vrtunski suggested a combined work session with Commissioners, Consultant and P&Z. The code would come to the Commission for recommendation to P&Z and from there to Council. One of the concerns is light industrial, and also fill. Property owners are concerned with neighbors utilizing 10+ feet of fill adjacent to their property which is in the flood. Ms. Brown asked whether there has been any coordination with the EDC regarding industrial uses in the district and coordination with industrial job growth.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2016 Priorities, Recommendations to the Council

Acting Chair Collins reviewed last year's priorities and annual report and asked what the Commission would like priorities to be for 2016.

The Commission briefly discussed priorities and decided to give further consideration to the matter. Mr. Collins suggested the team email him their top 5 priorities. The team will compile and then discuss further in December.

Vice Chair Collins adjourned the meeting at 5:40pm.