



## **AARRC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

*Thursday, December 12, 2015*

*Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce, Second Floor Board Room*

**Board Members in Attendance: Acting Chair Carleton Collins, Councilman Cecil Bothwell, Joe Ferikes, Karl Koon, George Morosani, Commissioner Brownie Newman, Peter Sprague, Pam Turner, Cindy Visnich Weeks**

**Board Members Absent: Esther Cartwright, Ricky Silver, Jerry Vehaun**

**Staff in Attendance: Stephanie Monson Dahl, Sara Henry, Caroline Long**

**Guests: City Manager Gary Jackson, Josh O’Conner, Timothy Sadler**

A quorum was established and Vice Chair Collins called the commission to order at 4:04 p.m.

### **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

### **2. ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

#### **a. Annual Elections – Carleton Collins, Chair and Stephanie Brown, Vice Chair**

Ms. Monson Dahl moderated the elections for new commission members. The slate of officers is Carleton Collins as Chair and Stephanie Brown as Vice Chair. Ms. Turner made a motion to close the nominations. Commissioner Newman made a motion to elect Mr. Collins as Chair and Mr. Sprague seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. Ms. Turner made a motion to elect Ms. Brown as Vice Chair and Ms. Weeks seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

#### **b. Review Draft Annual Report**

Mr. Collins asked the Committee to review the draft and to email edits to himself or Stephanie. The Commission also verbally suggested edits at the meeting including moving the City and County to the top and then move appointing boards to alphabetical order. They would also like to use different images.

#### **c. Recognition for Pattiy Torno, Ricky Silver, Jerry Vehaun**

Chair Collins thanked the three commissioners for their service. Woodfin will be appointing Jason Young, and Buncombe County is in the process of choosing an appointee. Cards were passed around and signed for these Committee members.

**d. Vacancies – No Design Professionals Have Applied**

Mr. Newman noted that they have received a number of applicants for the County. They are interviewing them and hope to have a new member for January. Chair Collins noted that no design professionals have applied for that specific vacancy.

**3. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

**a. Planning and Design Review Committee Report**

Chair Collins noted that 14 Riverside Drive plans will be presented under Design Review.

**b. Networking Report**

Mr. Sprague stated the committee is interested in creating a historical documentation of business and properties in the riverfront. Mr. Morosani noted the soft opening of Sweeten Creek Brewing tomorrow evening.

**5. STAFF UPDATES**

**a. RADTIP**

Ms. Monson Dahl provided an update. We are on target for Tiger IV funding. Currently, staff is in the process of property acquisitions and all property owners will have offer letters by January. Utility relocations are complete. Public Art and Streetscape are part of the current scope of work. Staff is meeting with Asheville Design Center and the Public Art Advisory Board. She noted that costs for the RADTIP are growing due to the economic growth in the area and the increased costs of labor and materials since the original project estimate 2 years ago.

**b. I-26 Alternatives Submitted to City Council**

City Council adopted a resolution for NCDOT to minimize impact. Ms. Monson Dahl read the resolution 15.232 to the Committee. Mr. Bothwell added that the state is suggesting a four lane road on Amboy Road whereas Council believes the road should be multimodal. Mr. Newman noted that the County Commission will address this issue in 2016. The hope is for both the City and County to echo each other so that both local governments are on the same page when reporting back to the state.

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**a. Sternberg Resolution Update**

Mr. Collins discussed Mr. Sternberg's petition. It has been decided to postpone this discussion until there is a draft of the Form Based Code in hand. Mr. Collins has been speaking with Mr.

Sternberg. Ms. Monson Dahl noted that staff met with EDC this week regarding industrial use in the RAD. She will write up the notes from the meeting and share them with the Commission. Mr. Bothwell was concerned that FBC would require businesses to move out of the RAD. Ms. Monson Dahl explained that existing businesses are grandfathered in. The flood zones would prohibit industrial businesses from moving into the area.

#### **b. 2016 Priorities List**

Chair Collins reviewed the 2016 priorities and asked for any comments.

### **7. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a. 14 Riverside Drive – Design Review**

Ms. Monson Dahl gave background on the property. Staff has construction documents from architect Jane Mathews and are hoping to have construction begin in May. Commissioners expressed concerns regarding the number of bathrooms, and Chair Collins noted that the internal parameters are not under the purview of the Planning & Design Review Committee. Chair Collins noted the PDRSC recommended that the design of 14 Riverside Drive does meet the spirit and intent of the design review guidelines. Ms. Weeks seconded the motion. Ms. Monson Dahl noted that any issuance of RFP for the rental of the space will be a City Council process, and that a representative from the AARRC will participate in that process. In addition, the Commission has the opportunity to recommend to City Council a consideration of more public restrooms in the RAD as a part of their annual report. The Commission recommended that the City consider the number of restrooms in the building with regard to the intended use of the space.

Mr. Collins moved to vote on approval of the 14 Riverside Dr. Design. The group unanimously approved the design, as it meets the guidelines for the spirit and intent of the River District.

### **8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

a. Timothy Sadler addressed the Commission with a concern about maintaining a space in the City for artists, asking that the Commission possibly create a committee regarding the RAD and planning for the arts. Ms. Brown expressed thanks to the private community for funding working spaces for artists, and Ms. Visnich Weeks thanked the City for supporting 82 units of affordable housing in Glen Rock Depot. Mr. Sadler also suggested the City consider an artist in residence program for the City.

### **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

a. Mr. Newman announced that Josh O’Conner with Parks and Rec will be attending AARRC meetings.

Vice Chair Collins adjourned the meeting at 5:20pm.