



**AARRC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
*Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015*  
*Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce, Second Floor Board Room*

**Board Members in Attendance:** Chair Pattiy Torno, Vice Chair Carleton Collins, Stephanie Brown, Esther Cartwright, Councilman Jan Davis, Joe Ferikes, Karl Koon, George Morosani, Commissioner Brownie Newman, Ricky Silver, Peter Sprague, Pam Turner, Cindy Visnich Weeks

**Board Members Absent:** Mayor Jerry Vehaun

**Staff in Attendance:** Stephanie Monson Dahl, City Manager Gary Jackson, Caroline Long, Sasha Vrtunski

**Guests:** Alistair Hyatt, Helen Hyatt, Roger McCredie, Robert Roland, Dee Williams

A quorum was established and Chair Torno called the commission to order at 4:03 p.m.

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

Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting, Ms. Turner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **2. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

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

Vice Chair Collins gave an update from Ms. Vrtunski on the Form-Based Code process. Code Studios will be here June 17th and 18th for a meeting with the advisory committee and several stakeholder meetings. Sasha will send out a communication e-mail on Friday with more details. The website is <http://rad.code-studio.com/>. The Committee will give an overview at the July meeting on greenway planning and design, and during August through October will review specific East, West, and North zones.

The committee has adjusted their schedule to accommodate individuals who are out of town next month, but have not yet permanently rescheduled their monthly meeting.

#### **b. Networking Subcommittee**

The committee held their monthly meeting June 1<sup>st</sup> at the office of Morosani and Associates. Mr. Sprague noted that Penland Creek will be recorded in the US Geological Survey Geographic Names Office. The Committee had representation at the Riverfront Office Third Thursday meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup> in City Hall. The group discussed Form-Based Code in addition to the openings of riverfront businesses Smoky Park Supper Club the Smoky Mountain Adventure Center in July. The group also took on property owners, managers, and businesses in the areas to outreach to them about Form-Based Code. Ms. Visnich Weeks has resigned from the Networking committee due to overbooking, as she also serves on the Planning and Design Review Committee.

### **3. STAFF UPDATES**

#### **a. Whitewater Park Proposal**

Ms. Monson Dahl reviewed the project sheet and noted the update to the Whitewater Park proposal under 'on the radar.' Staff noted that the project does not fit within the current RADTIP project, but that it does align with general City and community master plans. Council will direct Staff as to whether they would like Staff to pursue the project. The project was to be on the May 26<sup>th</sup> Council Agenda, but Staff decided to take more time to review the project before asking Council to make any decisions. Staff has relayed to the advocacy group two recommendations: that they receive and review the report and to consider creating an exploratory committee including a cross-section of groups and individuals who could provide support to the project. In addition, Staff would recommend that Council ask the Governance committee to review this process, and that Council create a Memorandum of Understanding between the Parks & Greenways Foundation and the City for an exploratory fund.

#### **b. Craven Street Bridge Improvement Project clarification**

Ms. Monson Dahl noted that the Craven Street Bridge improvement recommendation from Staff based on analysis of the feasibility study is to create an additional bridge to the north of the existing bridge which would carry pedestrian, bicycle, and westbound vehicle traffic. The design for the bridge is funded, while the construction funding is not completely committed yet. Staff plans ask to work with funding partners (such as Buncombe County, NCDOT, Army Corps of Engineers) to have the project completed by the end of 2018. Chair Torno asked if this is a realistic timeframe, and Ms. Monson Dahl noted that it is feasible and doing the construction at the same time as the RADTIP would provide a tax break to taxpayers. Mr. Morosani asked if the roadway and the bridge would require the same permits as the road. Ms. Monson Dahl noted the bridge requires a separate permit, and that it is unlikely to speed up the flood modeling enough for it to occur at the same time as the road flood modeling. Mr. Newman asked how long the design phase would take, and Ms. Monson Dahl noted the design would begin in July, finish in April, and then transition to environmental modeling phase.

#### **c. Communications**

APD Officers Sean Davis & Lucas Lovelace noted that there have been concerns from the surveyors about the homeless population on the west side and they have been working on relocating individuals.

Ms. Monson Dahl noted that Joey Robison is the community engagement and media specialist for multimodal, public works, capital projects, riverfront office, planning, and community & economic development department.

#### **d. COA Board and Commission Staff Liaison Training and Policy**

Ms. Long noted that there will be a training for Staff Liaisons to Boards and Commissions on June 30<sup>th</sup>. An assistant City Attorney and Public Information Officer will be present to help answer any questions which Staff may have regarding their roles. Staff will bring outcomes and a draft of the manual to the next Commission meeting.

### **4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **a. June 26<sup>th</sup> Retreat Agenda**

Ms. Monson Dahl reviewed the tentative agenda for the AARRC retreat in Knoxville on June 26th. Mr. Collins noted that he and Ms. Brown intend to have some preparatory work to hand out before the retreat.

### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Design Review: Amboy Road Food Truck Park**

Chair Torno stated that the review did not get completed in committee, so the review has been pushed back to July. Vice Chair Collins noted that the property is not readily visible from the road.

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Hyatt asked if the Whitewater Park would occupy the entire river, half the river, or how large the footprint would be. Ms. Monson Dahl noted that the plan which was submitted as part of the report would span the entire river. Ms. Monson Dahl noted that the plan submitted may or may not be what actually happens. Chair Torno suggested that there will be a public input process going forward.

Ms. Dee Williams works in minority economic development and is glad to see the interest in the redevelopment process in the riverfront and Southside areas. She asked whether the commission is able to utilize only federal grants, or other kinds of funding. Chair Torno noted that the AARRC is an advisory board which does not have a budget or any way to allocate funding or grants. Their role is to hear issues from the riverfront community and advise City Council on those issues. Ms. Brown also noted that the commission is not a policy making body, and does not create or implement any policy.

## **7. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Torno noted the following announcements: RADBA One Neighborhood Meeting June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm at Grant Center; Form-Based Code meeting June 17<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm at Grant Center; Grilling for Greenways June 27<sup>th</sup>, 11am-1pm at Carrier Park Pavilion; upcoming Friends of Connect Buncombe Branding Roundtable Meetings.

## **8. ADJOURN**

**Chair Torno adjourned the meeting at 5:09p.m. without objection.**