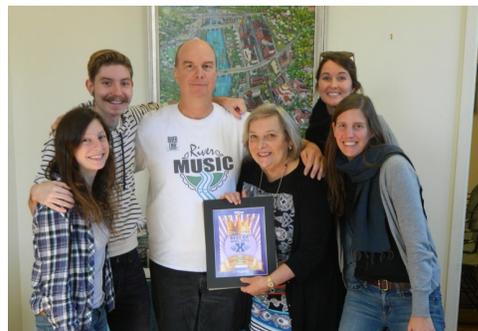


AAARRRC

Annual Report 2015



Asheville Area **Riverfront**
Redevelopment Commission



Appointing Boards

The Asheville Area Riverfront Redevelopment Commission is a partnership between several appointing boards including the Asheville City Council, Buncombe County Commission, The Town of Woodfin, Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce, Council for Independent Business Owners, and RiverLink.



Asheville City Council

The Asheville City Council is composed of a mayor and six council members who are elected at-large for four-year, staggered terms. The mayor, who is chosen on a separate ballot, presides over City Council meetings and serves as the ceremonial head of government. The mayor does not have the power to veto council action.



Buncombe County Commission

There are 100 counties in North Carolina and each one has a Board of Commissioners. In Buncombe County there is a seven member Board serving staggered four-year terms. They are elected by the people in partisan elections. The Chairman is elected separately and also serves a four-year term. The Commissioners enact policies such as the property tax rate, regulation of erosion control, and adoption of the annual budget.



Town of Woodfin

Nestled along the banks of the ancient French Broad River, Woodfin is a community that accomplishes the difficult balancing act of providing small town quality of life and big city amenities at the same time.

Appointing Boards



Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce

The Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce is focused on building community through business. Their programs and initiatives are aimed at growing jobs, serving as a voice for business and fostering the prosperity of our member businesses. The Asheville Chamber is North Carolina's third largest Chamber and it includes nearly 1,900 businesses, organizations, and coalitions.



Council for Independent Business Owners

The Council of Independent Business Owners (CIBO) was founded in 1987 by a group of local business owners who envisioned an organization that would educate business owners about the way local government works and its effect on business; provide a conduit for the flow of information between business and government; work to make Asheville -Buncombe area a better place to do business and; encourage business owners to serve on boards and commissions and to run for public office.



RiverLink

RiverLink is a regional non-profit spearheading the economic and environmental revitalization of the French Broad River and its tributaries as a place to live, work and play.

Mission and Purpose

The Commission is responsible for recommending to the City and County an overall policy for the continued development and sustainability of the regional riverfront.

The Commission provides recommendations to the City and County for effective management of the public resources for the districts.

The Commission actively pursues and assists private sector investment in the districts.

The Commission is to cooperate with, evaluate and represent the recommendations of other organizations, including, but not limited to, property owners, merchants, residents, businesses, tenants, non-profits, institutions and other members of the riverfront and regional riverfront district communities.

Presentations heard at our regular meetings

Being informed is our number one priority:

- New Biltmore Village Association: Robert Foster
- Whitewater Park Overview: Ben VanCamp
- Grilling for Greenways Event Update: Lucy Crown
- Greenways Northbound: Mary Weber and Jason Young
- French Broad River Academy: Jason Young
- Riverfront Area Greenways Eastbound: Leah Wong Ashburn
- Riverfront Greenways South and West: Josh O'Conner

Accomplishments of the Commission

We are proactive and involved in the community. This year our Commission:

- Acted as a community resource for Riverfront stakeholders regarding questions about RADTIP
- Visited Knoxville, TN to study multimodal infrastructure development potential
- Attended new business openings including Smokey Park Supper Club, Smokey Mountain Adventure Center, Amboy Road Food Truck Park
- Served as liaison for RAD Form-Based Code input process, including providing input on Charrette report
- Attended Grilling for Greenways event in Carrier Park and helped get input from community members
- Attended Azalea Road project grand opening
- Worked in collaboration with Greenway Committee, including attending greenway field trip
- Provided support for TPDF applications
- Attended Friends of Connect Buncombe branding roundtable
- Participated in New Belgium Brewery leadership round table

**2015 Highlight:
Amboy Road Food Truck Park
Opens in the RAD
Photo Credit: Citizen Times**



Committees

Our working committees also met monthly and achieved the following accomplishments:

Networking Subcommittee

- Monthly review and sharing of formal updates from appointing boards and partners
- Service on focus group for City's economic incentives policy review
- Attendance at Riverside drive development plan work-sessions
- Attendance at Riverfront Coordinator's Open Office Hours on third Thursdays
- Outreach to property and business owners in the riverfront
- Research on Swannanoa property ownership and development potential

Planning and Design Review Subcommittee

- Training and design review orientation
- Review of guidelines and creation of list of updates need
- Finalized list of historic assets and properties developed by networking group
- Began discussions with community on Form Based Code in the Riverfront
- Made River District Design Review recommendations to the full Commission

**2015 Highlight:
Smokey Park
Super Club
Opens in the RAD**

**2015 Highlight:
Smokey Mountain
Adventure Center
Opens in the RAD**



2016 AARRC Priorities

The Asheville Area Riverfront Redevelopment Commission will focus on the following items in 2016:

- Continue monitoring current City of Asheville Riverfront Redevelopment Initiatives, Including RADTIP, Form Based Code, RAD greenway network, 14 Riverside Drive renovation, and other projects
- Increase Outreach to Stakeholders about the Riverfront Commission and its role, and increase stakeholder awareness of development projects planned or proposed for the riverfront
- Support collaboration between Buncombe County, NC Department of Transportation, the City of Asheville, and the Town of Woodfin that expands riverfront redevelopment activity beyond the River Arts District

2016 AARRC Recommendations

The AARRC encourages Asheville City Council and riverfront redevelopment partners to consider the following policy and program recommendations in 2016:

1. As part of the RAD Form Based Code project, and through other coordinated efforts along the regional riverfront, incorporate:
 - Support for river recreation. This can be done through promotion of recreation activities and increased river access; and through support for outdoor industry / ec-tech business location opportunities in the RAD.
 - Create better parking options in RAD and beyond. As the activity and number of residents and businesses in the district increase, concerns about parking that will support the vitality of the district are rising.
 - Opportunities for advanced and clean technologies / manufacturing activity.
2. Work to improve and enforce policies that deal with dilapidated buildings. Creating a safe and welcoming environment for all is a critical part of the success of any redevelopment effort.
3. Focus on Water Quality. This will require coordination between local governments, the state of North Carolina, and not for profits like RiverLink and Greenworks.
4. Continue and Improve on Flood Mitigation and Flood Hazard management strategies.

2015 Membership

Asheville Area Riverfront Redevelopment Commission

Chairperson

City Council Appointee

January—October

Pattiy Torno

pattiykat@bellsouth.net

October—December

Acting Chair / Vice Chair Carleton Collins

ccollins@mcmillanpazdansmith.com

Vice Chairperson

Chamber of Commerce Appointee

Carleton Collins

ccollins@mcmillanpazdansmith.com

City of Asheville Appointee

City Councilman Jan Davis

jandavis@avlcouncil.com

Buncombe County Appointee

County Commissioner Brownie Newman

brownie.newman@buncombecounty.org

Town of Woodfin Appointee

Mayor Jerry Vehaun

jerry.vehaun@buncombecounty.org

City of Asheville Appointees

Carleton Collins

ccollins@mcmillanpazdansmith.com

Joe Ferikes

joe@ferikesbleynat.com

City of Asheville Appointees

Cindy Weeks

cindy@mtnhousing.org

Buncombe County Appointees

Ricky Silver

rsilver@slpipe.com

Brownie Newman

brownie.newman@buncombecounty.org

CIBO Appointees

Karl Koon

karl@ashevilleoil.com

George Morosani

gwmjm@aol.com

Chamber of Commerce Appointees

Stephanie Brown

sbrown@exploreasheville.com

Pam Turner

pturner277@aol.com

RiverLink Appointees

Esther Cartwright

ecartwright@avitech.com

Peter Sprague

psprague@ingles-markets.com

Administrative Support to the Commission is provided by City of Asheville staff liaisons:

Steph Monson Dahl, Riverfront Coordinator • smonson@ashevillenc.gov

Caroline Long, Administrative Assistant • clong@ashevillenc.gov

Sara Henry, Administrative Assistant • shenry@ashevillenc.gov

AAARRRC



Asheville Area Riverfront Redevelopment Commission

Annual Report 2015

