

Tuesday – November 30, 2010 – 6:30 p.m.
W.C. Reid Community Center

Community Meeting – Central Asheville

Present: Mayor Terry M. Bellamy, Presiding; Vice-Mayor Brownie W. Newman; Councilman Cecil Bothwell; Councilman Jan B. Davis; Councilwoman Esther E. Manheimer; Councilman William A. Russell Jr.; Councilman Gordon D. Smith; City Manager Gary W. Jackson; and City Attorney Robert W. Oast Jr.

Absent: None

Mayor Bellamy opened the meeting and welcomed the audience. She then introduced City Council members and explained the questions and answer process.

Mr. Robert Hardy, President of the Southside Neighborhood Association, thanked City Council for meeting at the Reid Center. He expressed several concerns, some being, but are not limited to: potential traffic alleviation plans and how that might impact Walton Street Park, inadequate notice of meeting; new aquatic center replacing Walton Street pool and the need for neighborhood children to use the facilities consistent with how they currently use available facilities; and safety, security and stability of area. Mr. Hardy said that (1) he has a proposal for an option that would leave the park intact and would like to share that idea when the topic is addressed again; (2) the community wants to ensure they are included in all plans and can provide input; (3) the community would like replacement facilities if plans fall through after the existing facilities are demolished; and (4) the community would like to engage in conversation via forum with A-B Technical Community College regarding potential and alternate routes for projects that will impact their neighborhood.

Mr. Hank Dunn, President of A-B Technical Community College, pointed out that they are a part of the community and they are concerned about safety for everyone, not just those on campus. They have on-campus traffic challenges and are exploring options, noting they would like to collaborate with the surrounding community to find something that works for everyone. They are looking for ways to make AB-Tech campus and the community safer.

Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Roderick Simmons explained the vision for the Livingston Street Park redevelopment including multi-modal transportation, community center, outdoor play with water feature, etc. He said that this is the highest ranking project in the Master Plan process. He explained the following three phases which are planned for this project: Phase 1 – Community Center/Auditorium; Phase 2 – Gymnasium; and Phase 3 – community involvement for determining the highest and best use of undersigned program space.

Director of Administrative Services Lauren Bradley explained the City's strategic goals and financial realities. She then explained the constraints to which the City is subject, as well as the level of service delivery we provide and the volume of citizens and visitors to whom we provide them.

Mayor Bellamy then opened up the meeting for questions and answers explaining that all answered questions would be delegated to City staff for response and posting on the City's website.

Mayor Bellamy and Council members expressed their appreciation for the community involvement.

At 8:15 p.m., Mayor Bellamy adjourned the meeting.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR