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Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB)

SUMMARY MINUTES

Thurs. Sept. 17, 2015 @ 6:00PM
City Hall Conf. Rm. 337

200 West Fifth Street
Greenville, NC 27835-7207

BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATE MEMBERS PRESENT: PCRC ATTENDANCE NOTED ON THEIR MINUTES.

Attendance is denoted by an "*" and absentees are denoted by an "x"

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS			
NAME	DISTRICT	NAME	DISTRICT
Carolyn Glast - *	1	Kim Carney - x	1
Betty Hines *	2	David Douglas *	2
Ann Maxwell *	3	Laura McKenna *	3
Blythe Tennent Vice Chair - *	4	George Hamilton - x	4
Sharon Stang - x	5	Brenda Diggs, Chair *	5
NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY BOARD ALTERNATE MEMBERS			
NAME	DISTRICT	NAME	DISTRICT
Charlotte Smith - x	1	Merry Sandra Kennedy - *	4
Twinnia Dennis - x	2	Misun Hur - *	5
Vince Bellis - *	3		

City Staff Present: *Community Development Department:* Tiana Keith, & Gwen Turnage; *Police Department:* Carlton Dawson, Code Enforcement

1. **Meeting Called to Order – Brenda Diggs, Chair**
2. **Roll Call – Gwen Turnage**
3. **Approval of the Agenda – September 17, 2015**

Motion passed

Motion: Carolyn Glast

Second: Ann Maxwell

Motion Passed

4. **Approval of the NAB Minutes – August 20, 2015:**

Motion: Carolyn Glast

Second: Laura McKenna

Motion Passed

5. Transportation Presentation

Steve Hawley, Public Information Officer for the City of Greenville provided an Educational Transportation Presentation. Steve spoke on the bond referendum. It is important that the public understand that the city is not advocating for or against the referendum with this presentation. This presentation will provide educational information concerning the bond.

A bond referendum is a borrowing tool by which the city use its taxing power in order to borrow money which they will pay back, and if necessary will raise taxes to do it. The city has done bonds before for specific projects and the city has grown enough that they haven't had to raise taxes in the past in order to pay off those bonds. The city is hopeful that this will be the case this time too due to the fact that Greenville is one of the top growing states in North Carolina. However, worst case scenario there is always the possibility that something could happen and the city will not be able to use increased growth in order to pay for the bond.

The bond referendum will be on the ballot on Election Day, November 3rd when you vote for City Council and Mayor. The question would read to the effect of the following statement in the form of a question, "Should the order adopted on August 13, 2015, authorizing not exceeding \$15,850,000 for the purpose of providing funds, together with any other available funds, for providing street and pedestrian transportation improvements in said City, including, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, constructing, reconstructing, widening, extending, resurfacing and improving streets and roads, thoroughfares, and bridges; constructing, reconstruction, relocating and eliminating grade crossings and grade separations; constructing and installing traffic controls, signals, gateway treatments, markers, lighting, street trees and street furniture; improving, relocating and installing utility lines; constructing sidewalks, bike and pedestrian trails, greenways, curbs, gutters, culverts and drains; and acquiring any necessary rights of way or easements therefore, and authorizing the levy of taxes in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of and the interest on the bonds, be approved?"

Citizens of Greenville will have the option of voting "yes" or "no". Basically the city is asking should they be allowed to borrow this amount of money for city projects to enhance the city of Greenville's infrastructure and provide improvements for a safer city.

Projects are paid as they are done. The city is projected to start some projects in the spring of 2016, and spread out up to seven years, with 20 years to pay them off. If the bonds are not passed, the impact will have a major effect on the city streets of Greenville. One of the main roads that have been targeted for improvement is Arlington Boulevard, portions of Hooker Rd, Elms St., and other projects with the remaining funds. The bonds will not be used on state roads such as Dickinson Avenue, Greenville Blvd., and Evans Street. State taxes and NCDOT are used for these streets. A rode condition analysis has been conducted in 2014 and high priority roads have been identified for improvements. Steve did not have that list available. Stormwater projects are not covered in this bond project with the exception of W. 5th Street that includes the remaining streetscape project that began on Memorial Drive to Cadillac Street. This

bond will continue that project from Cadillac Street to the Intergenerational Center. A brief video was shown explaining the bond process and how it will fund five major projects.

The first project proposed will be for 10 million dollars that is targeted for repairing or rebuilding several roads. Greenville has more than 700 lane miles of streets which the city is responsible for maintaining. A recent study found that 100 lane miles are in need of resurfacing or repair. This ongoing project is designed to repair and maintain some of the worst of those roads. Project funds will be used to mill, repair and resurface city maintained roads. Streets were selected using the roadway condition analysis performed in 2014. Public Works maintenance records and sampled road course, utilities coordination, suitability for resurfacing in the road classification, major or minor roadways.

The second project proposed will be used for the Street improvements along Fifth Street. The streetscape project started with the 2004 bonds. Funds from this bond will continue streetscape improvements from Cadillac to Tyson Streets. Improvements include modification of sidewalks, and streets to enhance pedestrian safety, lighting improvements, planting of scenic trees and the vegetation, stormwater improvements and gateway projects that celebrates the history that makes West Greenville special. This project is currently priced at 1.95 million dollars.

The third project proposed is the Tenth Street Connector. The Tenth Street Connector is an NCDOT project that will connect Statonsburg Road and 10th Street. This will become the primary route for visitors coming from areas west of the City of Greenville to easily get into the downtown area known as Uptown Greenville. It will be a gateway to the heart of our city and one of the first impressions created for visitors. This project is currently priced at 1.75 million dollars that will fund the cost associated with the improvements noted to be above the NCDOT standards. In essence, this money will allow for extended and larger sidewalks, streetlights, trees and other items to present a more beautiful first impression of our city. These enhance provide for pedestrian safety and encourage walking as a viable means of transportation.

The fourth project focus on pedestrians. 1.4 million dollars of the proposed bonds will go to build sidewalks along some major thoroughfares and other high priority locations. Presently many streets and major thoroughfares do not have sidewalks to provide safe travels for pedestrian. The additional sidewalks & sidewalks improvement throughout Greenville will improve safety, community character and appeal as well as encouraging walking as a viable alternative means of transportation.

The fifth project proposed is \$750,000 to plan the expansion of the City's popular Greenways system into neighborhoods on the eastern side of the city. These paths which are often referred to as linear parks are really designed to create safe routes for non-vehicular traffic.

These are the specific projects which are intended to be funded by the bonds. It is possible that these projects may change, however if they do, the projects must be used for the purpose of the bonds for streets and pedestrian transportation improvements. The Greenville City Council has identified these bond projects after more than a year of discussion and input from throughout the city. If passed, the bonds will be sold as the projects becomes ready with the first one scheduled for 2016. Only after the bonds are sold will the city need to start repaying them. Past bonds were able to be paid without the need of a property tax increase. With Greenville growing as it is that is a possibility this time, but if increased revenue from growth does not allow for bond repayments a property tax increase may be necessary to cover the cost of repaying these bonds. Currently this is projected to be 2.25 cents interest once all of the bonds are sold. This fact will not be known until the bonds are sold and are getting ready to be repaid. For more information about the bond referendum please go to the city's website www.greenvillenc.gov

6. Old Business

A. District 3 Meeting Update

District 3 meeting has been planned to convene at the Cypress Glen Retirement Community, 100 Hickory Street, on Thursday, October 15th at 6:00PM. Flyers will be available for this event. City staff will be outside of the building directing people where to go along with directional signs. Updates will be provided from the following people:

- Mark Holtzman, Chief of Police
- Gary Fenton, Director of Recreation & Parks, will provide a recreation & parks update
- Kevin Mulligan, Director of Public Works, will provide an update on their Recycling Roll Out program
- Corporal Chris Viverette, Police Department, will entertain Code Enforcement comments
- Collette Kinane, Community Development, will speak on Historic Preservation

7. New Business

A. Elections

Nominations for vice-chair and chairperson will be effective at the October 15th board meeting

A MOTION TO RE-ELECT BLYTHE TENNENT TO A SECOND TERM FOR VICE-CHAIR:

Motion: Ann Maxwell
Motion Passed

Second: Laura McKenna

A MOTION TO ELECT BETTY HINES AS CHAIRPERSON:

Motion: Ann Maxwell
Motion Passed

Second: David Douglas

Comments:

Newly elected District 4 NAB Board Member is George Hamilton and the Alternate Board Member is Merry Sandra Kennedy, respectively.

8. Other

A. Member/Liaison Reports Announcements

- The Symposium committee is currently working on the 2016 Symposium. Their theme is "To find ways to help neighborhoods come together in a stronger way". The committee discussed having videos, presentations in an academic approach to help neighborhoods understand the importance of neighborhood community. The committee is looking at ways to find the chemistry that brings neighborhoods together, making neighborhood click, and conduct meetings.

The symposium committee welcomes suggestions for the symposium. Currently the board is not sure if there will be a speaker. If there is a speaker, the topic has not yet been decided. Inviting non-profits such as "Keep America Beautiful" to attend and partake with the symposium was suggested by Code Enforcement Supervisor Carlton Dawson.

- NAB members provided suggestions to get more people involved in their neighborhoods. Some of those ideas are listed below:
 - Coalesce around charities to unite neighborhoods.
 - Send out Face Book blast to communities to be involved and for donations to neighborhood associations. Those that donated to the charity Riley's Army have a gold bows were placed on their mailboxes.
 - For homeownership, conduct meetings that educate on how to maintain home value.
 - Information on feral cat populations in neighborhoods.
- A tribute to Harry Stubbs' honorable contributions to the Neighborhood Advisory Board was written by committee members Ann Maxwell and Brenda Diggs to the editor of the Daily Reflector. Article was posted Sunday, September 13, 2015. *Please see attachment.*
- Several members of the board attended the Comprehensive Plan meeting held at the Greenville Convention Center on September 14th and found it to be very impressive and educational.

B. Staff Report

Work plans have been received from board members. Plans were distributed, and update to include any changes was requested to be sent to Tiana Keith at tkeith@greenvillenc.gov. If dates were provided, Tiana included those dates in the updates. If dates were not provided they were considered as ongoing projects. Tiana will send out a YouTube video that the board had an opportunity to view. This video

consisted of one person that motivated his neighbor to get them to do things they wanted to see happen in their neighborhood. It's an entertaining video that is approximately 17 minutes long.

Merrill Flood, Director of Community Development Department has been promoted to Assistant City Manager. He is currently serving as interim Director of the Community Development Department. No date has been determined as to when this position will be filled.

9. Public Comments - Limit 3 minutes each

THREE (3) MINUTES ALLOTTED PER SPEAKER

FIFTEEN (15) MINUTES ALLOTTED FOR THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

10. ADJOURN

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion: Ann Maxwell Second: Blythe Tennent

Motion Passed

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:03PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Tiana Keith, Neighborhood Liaison Ombudsman

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EDITORIALS &

PUBLIC FORUM

Honor Stubbs with input

The Greenville Neighborhood Advisory Board recently lost a "hero." Harry W. Stubbs II passed away on Aug. 19, after a valiant battle with cancer.

Harry was an example of a passionate neighborhood leader. He worked with residents and volunteers to make an outdoor classroom in the Elmhurst woods, and to get purple and gold neighborhood markers on the street signs entering his neighborhood. Harry encouraged those he met to get more involved with the city government and to join boards and commissions so that they could impact the future of Greenville. He was elected to the Neighborhood Advisory Board in May. Always the Pirate, he was rarely seen in public without being dressed in his trademark purple and gold.

Harry understood the importance of a good quality of life for our city if we are to attract successful businesses and better paying jobs. He knew that vibrant neighborhoods with sidewalks, bike lanes,

greenways and safe streets are important to all citizens. A fierce loyalty to his Alma mater meant that the students at East Carolina University were always included in his vision of viable, walkable, bikeable neighborhoods.

Harry welcomed new liaisons to the Neighborhood Advisory Board with his unmistakable humor. He will be greatly missed. We must continue to uphold his vision so that his voice will continue to be heard through our work. He was an appointee to the Horizons 2026 Community Plan. Harry knew his input into this plan was paramount for guiding future growth in Greenville.

We can honor him by giving our input at the Horizons 2026 — Workshop for our Future — on Monday at the Greenville Convention Center from 6 to 8 p.m. Let's do this one for Harry!

BRENDA DIGGS
Winterville