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**Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB)**

**Minutes**

Thurs. March 15, 2018, 6:00pm

City Hall Conf. Rm. 337

200 West Fifth Street

Greenville, NC 27835-7207

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BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATE members PRESENT:

Attendance is denoted by an “\*” and absentees are denoted by an “x”

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| **NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS** | | | | |
| **NAME** | **DISTRICT** |  | **NAME** | **DISTRICT** |
| Carolyn Glast - x | 1 |  | Charlotte Smith - x | 1 |
| Betty Hines - \* | 2 |  | Joyce Williams - \* | 2 |
| Ann Maxwell, Chair -\* | 3 |  | Ann Hamze - \* | 3 |
| Blythe Tennent - \* | 4 |  | Judy Bernhardt-Vice Chair \* | 4 |
| Sharon Stang - \* | 5 |  | Brenda Diggs - \* | 5 |
| **NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY BOARD ALTERNATE MEMBERS** | | | | |
| **NAME** | **DISTRICT** |  | **NAME** | **DISTRICT** |
| Margaret Hrushesky - x | 1 |  | Jim Brown - x | 4 |
| David Douglas - x | 2 |  | Vacant | 5 |
| Vacant | 3 |  |  |  |

City Staff Present: *Community Development Department*: Interim Director Joe Durham and Neighborhood Liaison Christi Williamson. *Public Works*: Director Kevin Mulligan.

**CALL TO ORDER –** Ann Maxwell

Ann welcomed Joe Durham who is the Interim Director of Community Development. He introduced himself and said that he appreciated everyone on the board. He lives in Raleigh. He is currently retired and is a consultant. He worked in government for 30 years. In Wake County he was Assistant County Manager and Interim County Manager. He attended ECU and is familiar with the Greenville area.

1. **ROLL CALL –** Christi Williamson
2. **Motion to Approve the Agenda**

Minutes approved

**3. GUEST SPEAKER–** Kevin Mulligan, Public Works Director

Ann introduced Mr. Mulligan to speak on the role of public works and then answer questions. Kevin said that he has been in this role for five years. There has been a lot of change in that time. Public Works employs 175 people. Administration, Buildings and Grounds, Fleet Maintenance, Street and Storm Water Management, Sanitation pickup for household garbage, bulk, recycling and yard waste. We also have the Great Buses that have six routes, six days a week. There was a reorganization of Public Works Sanitation and they changed the garbage trucks from rear loaders to side loaders. There is great growth in the city. There is 650 million dollars of development going on in the Uptown area. The Town Creek Culvert project has also started which is green and sustainable and will help eliminate flooding. So what’s going on with storm water? There are 70 miles of ditches that the city maintains and 250 miles of pipe. The Engineers are busy with all of the new development in the city. A survey was done by the city to see what the biggest citizen concern is and it is traffic safety.

Public Works maintains all City vehicles. Each department pays a monthly rent for maintenance so that there is money to purchase new vehicles. Fleet maintenance has about 750 pieces of equipment. Ninety five percent is fixed or maintained in-house. The gasoline tax is what helps us maintain the roads. Facility Maintenance includes all of the city buildings. There is 400,000 sq. feet to maintain. This includes the Library, Convention Center, all other city buildings and the parking deck which does offer public parking spaces. Hopefully it will all be public when the City finishes their employee parking lot. We will be building another lot over by Dickinson Lofts which we will lease to that housing complex. The new student housing will have about 300 beds. They will have approximately .75 parking spots per bed so there are not enough parking spaces. There is a great benefit to economic development. The tax money collected from new buildings will help upgrade and update city streets etc. Economic development keeps our taxes down. With the new transportation center right next to the new student housing we hope that they will utilize public transportation instead of their own vehicles. There is both student and market rate housing at the Dickenson Lofts. Market rate is unfurnished and a different floor plan with less bedrooms.

***Question***: A builder was having a parking lot problem because of the way the trees had to be planted. Would this be an appropriate time to look for a better tree ordinance for our city? There are no requirements until you get up to 20 acres. ***Answer***: There is a landscaping and buffering ordinance. When City Council discussed this at their meeting they were talking about when increasing the footprint by 20% that is when the ordinance would apply. An example is Grady White Boats. It was built in the 70’s. The new ordinance is requiring them to plant trees based on the building. There is no attempt to do away with that ordinance. ***Question***: How much protection is there for canopy trees?

***Answer****:* That is different type of ordinance. It addresses actual tree preservation. Mr. Mulligan stated that on private property the owners can do as they please. If it is in the right of way then they have to get a permit to take the tree down. The right of way varies but road width is 28 feet and 50 feet is the right of way. We usually find out about a tree after it has been taken down. If that is the case and they did not get a permit then we can make them put more trees back. ***Question***: What about the property at Elm and Greenville Blvd? ***Answer***: He is doing everything legal even though he has removed most of the trees on that property. It is private property and he can do what he wants with it as long as he follows ordinances. Mulligan said that we have been designated Tree City USA for many years now. It means that we set aside a part of the budget to maintain trees. Sometimes we have to take down trees because of rot etc. There is a plan for large oaks where we make sure a tree has a useful life.

***Question*:** How are you giving priority to pot holes? ***Answer***: We fill them as the complaints come in. There is an app called City Compass that can be used. This last cold spell was the worst we have had in many years which is what has caused most of the street damage. DOT will fix a pothole within 48 hours of the complaint but you have to make the complaint to them. There is a map that tells what roads are City and what are DOT. If we receive a complaint for a DOT road, we will forward it to them. DOT will be addressing the manhole issues on Greenville Blvd. When they resurfaced the road, they didn’t bring them up to the level of the new asphalt. Greenville is talking to them about it and they said that they should be back to fix the ones that were missed. Public Works is following up on those issues daily. ***Question***: There is a side walk erosion issue on the back side of Eastern Elementary. Is there anything that will be done with that? ***Answer***: Sidewalk repair takes a little longer. There is a storm water project getting ready to start behind that school. They will be replacing a pipe in a resident’s yard that has cause flooding and erosion. There are 220 miles of pipe, 17000 catch basins and 100 culverts in the City. We don’t maintain all of the ditches. Mulligan said that the city is trying to do a better job of communicating what is the city and or homeowners responsibility. ***Question***: How often does the street sweeper come through? ***Answer***: Every 6-8 weeks. For leaf collection, we have the truck with the vacuum hose and the sweeper trucks to make sure it doesn’t go into the drains. ***Question***: How do we eliminate the scraping of the grass from the arm truck? ***Answer***: Putting down pavers will help in the area that you normally place your yard debris.

The Great Bus system has the Next Bus App. It will tell you how long before the bus will get to your stop. The transfer station will be moving to GTAC when it is complete. We do need to change some things with the transit system because we do not have a stop on Firetower Road. The county has PATS. ECU and Vidant have a busing systems too. We need to figure out a way to have a combined system and work together. Ann Maxwell stated that maybe the NAB can work to figure out a way to have a combined system for transit.

In 2013 the City changed from rear loader trash trucks. There was an extremely high amount of workman’s compensation claims. With the new trucks we have zero claims. In the past it was three men and one truck and they could reach 500 residences. Now it is one man in one truck and he can reach 1000 residences. We went from 73 employees down to 48 due to retirements etc. If we miss any garbage pickup then you can use the Compass App to let us know.

There are many major roadways that DOT will be improving over the next 5-10 years. 14th Street was initially going to be a 4 lane with a median now it is 2 lane with a median, bike lanes and sidewalks. 10th Street will be finished November and then Dickinson will start after 10th Street opens. There will be no bike lanes on Dickinson Avenue but there will be raised crosswalks. The Firetower expansion will start in 2019. Fire Station 7 will be built right by the firetower on Firetower Rd. Evans Street will be expanded to have sidewalks and bike lanes. We are converting all of the streetlights in the City to LED. We are also in the final stages of adding Lime Bike in the City. This will be a great addition.

***Question***: How do you keep the parks and greenway clean? ***Answer***: Recreation and Parks Division maintain them. ***Question***: How can we get more garbage cans in the city? ***Answer***: They are unsightly and usually attract more litter on the ground. We are hoping that the initiatives of Adopt a Street and Keep Greenville Beautiful will help. ***Question***: What are the flags on Hooker Rd.? ***Answer***: They are getting ready to replace the drainage pipe. It may be 6 weeks before they start because they will resurface the road right after the pipe is put in. ***Question***: What about the large pothole in the parking lot near Cubbies? It is horrible. ***Answer***: There are 30+ owners that are responsible for that lot. It is a private issue. Cubbies said that the contractor will come in 2-3 weeks to fix the issue but the City is going to fill it in a couple of days because it is a safety issue. ***Question***: Where do we send our solid waste and do we receive any from other areas? ***Answer***: We send our garbage to the Allen Road Transfer Station. We send recycling to ECVC and our yard waste to a land fill on 33. The transfer station then takes household garbage to Bertie County. ***Question***: Is there an Education Committee component to the Storm Water Advisory Committee? If so, we would like to have someone on that committee. ***Answer***: He is not sure. Public Works recently hired a Public Information Officer so that we can explain what we do to the public. He will let the NAB know if an Education Committee is formed. Ann Maxwell thanked Mr. Mulligan for coming and stated that we are appreciative of all of the important information that he provided. Someone requested a copy of his power point. Mr. Mulligan said that he will send it via email to Ann Maxwell. It will be nice to show it to the neighborhood associations throughout the City.

1. **Motion to Approve the February 15, 2018 Minutes** *Tabled for April Meeting*

Ann would like to have a chance to re-read these minutes. She would like to edit some of the comments due to the fact that there is so much that is repetitive. She would like to table the approval of these meetings until next meeting. Ann Hamze needs to be added to the combined land use city services public safety committee. We will do final approval at the April Meeting.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENTS – Limit 3 minutes each**

* Three (3) minutes allotted per speaker
* Fifteen (15) minutes allotted for the public comment period

No public Comments.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**

**Update Completion Dates for 2017-2018 Work Plan–**Ann Maxwell said that we discussed changing the goal completion dates for the Land Use, City Services and Public Safety Committees at the last meeting. She would like to move all completion dates to June of 2018. These items are in pages 6 and 7 of the Work Plan. Judy Bernhardt made a motion to change the items. It was second by Ann Hamze. All approved and the motion passed.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
2. **City Services Report–**Brenda Diggssaid that most things that she was going to talk about were covered by Mr. Mulligan. The Adopt a Street Program will be run by Cheryl Tafoya whose new title is Sanitation Operation Supervisor. The program has changed from cleaning two times a year to once a quarter. Any group can sign up but in order for the City to make a sign, the group must clean at least two times. They sent a letter to all of the organizations that they have on file from the past. They sent out 60 but only got response from only 15. They are trying to get those 15 to get started again. The goal of the Adopt a Street Program is to revitalize a previously successful litter removal program that involves citizen participation in order to enhance the appearance of neighborhoods, roadways and the City of Greenville. The council is on board with the program and Cheryl Tafoya wants to get the citizens to buy into it. Brenda Diggs said that we need to have a public campaign. There is a term called plogging where you jog and pick up trash. Christi Williamson said that there are jogging clubs who meet all over the City so why not try to get them involved. There was a quote from a lady who is a Plogger in Virginia. She said, “Yes it is gross to pick up trash but it is grosser for a person to not take responsibility for the trash”. Not all public spaces in the city are city owned and maintained. Like a parking lot in Walmart or a public shopping center. Brenda needs more clarification on that. There is also a DOT program called Swat a Litter Bug. You can get post cards to use and send in if you see a car littering. We are trying to get them but have not been able to get a call back. It is educating those who litter.
3. **Community Building Committee Update–**Sharon Stang changed the completion dates for Objective 1 and 2 to April 30, 2018. All of the other dates stay the same. Sharon said that goal number two was to split up between the three committee members. They were each given 16 neighborhoods that did not have associations listed with the City of Greenville. Carolyn Glast has completed 4 of 16 she was assigned. Sharon completed 8 of 16 and made contact on 6 more obtaining partial information. Sharon needs info on Tucker Estates and Oakmont. Betty Hines completed 11 out of 16 contacts. We will all have to work together to find contacts for some of these neighborhoods.

Progress report on welcome bags by Christi Williamson: We want to update the student responsibility booklet that was done in 2008 to hand out to property managers. Christi made up one welcome bag today to show what it might look like. In the insulated lunch box there is tissue paper and some giveaways from the City. You will have to personalize it with a letter from you NA, garbage pickup times etc. You can give gift cards, coupons, candy. This will be given to new neighbors from this day forward. We only have 100 at this time.

1. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Community Tree Day is this weekend. Ann Maxwell hopes that everyone can come. Betty Hines wants to know how we can preserve and strengthen neighborhoods that are having so many more renters move in. This will be good information for our goals and objectives for next year.

1. **ADJOURN**

**Motion to Adjourn**

Motion: Sharon Stang Second: Brenda Diggs

Motion Passed

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Christi Williamson, Neighborhood Liaison