

Ben Fulmer

From: Inge Durre <ingedurre@gmail.com> on behalf of Inge Durre
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 9:52 PM
To: Inge Durre
Subject: Report of Inaugural Meeting and Progress Update of "Ravenscroft Reserve Initiative" - aka "Collier Avenue Wood Initiative" attached
Attachments: Progress Update Ravenscroft Reserve Initiative.doc

Hello,

Attached we are sending you our initiative progress update combined with our meeting summary. Last night, we submitted this document to our contacts at AC-T and Mountain xPress for potential publication of another article.

We hope to see you at our next meeting on Tuesday, November 10, in the Pack Library's, likely in the small glass meeting room, around the corner from the Lord Auditorium where we met on Wednesday.

Yours **treely**,
Inge and Imke
ingedurre@gmail.com



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Ben Fulmer

From: Cecil Bothwell <cecil@braveulysses.com> on behalf of Cecil Bothwell
Sent: Saturday, August 22, 2015 7:32 AM
To: Chris Pelly
Subject: Re: Current thinking on STRs

For whatever reason, the state only permits referenda on specific issues - public utilities are one. But we are completely forbidden from putting a question on a ballot about any issue not in the state's short list.

As you recall, the PARC phone poll in August 2012 very closely matched the outcome of that November's water referendum - but of course that poll was trashed by Jan and others as "unscientific." (We phoned every registered voter who had voted in the past two City elections.)

But a reputable polling firm could do this kind of poll.

-C

On Aug 22, 2015, at 7:27 AM, Chris Pelly <chrispelly@avlcouncil.com> wrote:

How would this referendum be different than the question we put to the voters regarding the future of the water system?

On Saturday, August 22, 2015, Cecil Bothwell <cecil@braveulysses.com> wrote:

Esther wondered if we could hold a non-binding referendum on STRs. No, per school of government. (Actually learned that non-binding referenda are illegal.)
And this isn't an issue that can be put to referendum.

So I plan to make a motion that we hire a reputable polling firm to conduct a poll on the issue. That isn't very expensive and I believe they should be able to do that by precinct which would inform us concerning potential overlay districts.
Hiring a polling company is legal.

-C

Ben Fulmer

From: WLangdon@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 4:46 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: (no subject)

City Council Members and PARC:

Like Bill McKibbons says, this money is our money and not the cities. Instituting this additional tax based on our successful location needs to be canned. I feel that BID **will hinder** not help businesses in the downtown. Asheville has a very successful downtown that other cities are trying to replicate. The diversity of retail and businesses in the downtown does not come from additional taxes for what is claimed to be for additional support services and not from top-down manipulations. One reason that I am against BID is that my retail tenants are totally against it. As for Byron Geiner of the Asheville Downtown Association, when it comes to BID, I don't think that you get it. Joe Minicozzi who slings bags of cigarette butts at city council meetings doesn't get it either. Let's kill this ill-conceived tax before it kills our vibrant downtown.

Sincerely

Bill Langdon,
Langdon Architecture PA
William K. Langdon, AIA
20 Battery Park Ave, Suite 820
Asheville, NC 28801
828.252.0296 office
828.712.2190 cell
William K. Langdon

Ben Fulmer

From: libby <ciscokids@gmail.com> on behalf of libby
Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2013 3:45 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: The Asheville Water System

We are totally against the take over of Asheville's water system and support the City in your/our fight against HB488!

Namaste,
mark & libby cornett
130 Cisco Rd.
Asheville, NC 28805

Ben Fulmer

From: Barbara <msbark@att.net> on behalf of Barbara
Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2013 2:38 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: water

it would help if you could included links for everyone you would like us to contact ... as I am opposed to the take over ... Barbara Kern

Ben Fulmer

From: hotmail_7672b44ab94aa30c@live.com on behalf of Norm Ray
Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2013 12:42 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;'PARC'
Subject: Water Bill

Dear Council, We appreciate all of your efforts (including lobbying in Raleigh) to keep the water system within the City.

In Gratitude

Helen Yamada & Norm Ray
400 Windswept Dr.
Asheville, NC 28801
Home 828-296-0017



Ben Fulmer

From: info@seeingasheville.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2013 12:10 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: Our water resource

National observers have long noted that the future belongs to those with clean water. Asheville had the foresight, and tax money, to create a pristine watershed. We have built and maintained a system that works in a mountainous terrain. I implore you to follow your constituents and defend our water system against an outside power grab.

Paul Endry
Asheville

Ben Fulmer

From: JJ Kitt <josephkitt@gmail.com> on behalf of JJ Kitt
Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2013 11:07 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: HB 488

I write today in opposition to House Bill 488, which forcibly merges Asheville's excellent water system with the MSD. The system is well run, and our water supply is safe and abundant. This legislation doesn't do anything but hurt Asheville. It doesn't even offer compensation for taking a public utility! That's the only way the "cost savings" claimed by the bill sponsors works – by refusing to compensate the city, which has made millions and millions of dollars of investments in the system.

Joseph Kitt

Ben Fulmer

From: Summer Rain <jsrain@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Summer Rain
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2013 4:41 PM
To: letters@citizen-times.com
Cc: PARC;backtalk@theurbannews.com;letters@mountainx.com;AshevilleNCCouncil@asheville.nc.gov
Subject: PARC Slam

The article in the Citizen-Times singling out Councilman Bothwell is exactly why I have stopped purchasing or advertising with the Citizen-Times. A large percentage of citizens petitioned and/or wrote to the City Council asking that the land across from the Basilica not be sold to another outside hotel company, but the City Council once again passed it through same as they did with Pac Square leaving our citizens to fight directly to protect the little land left to us downtown. Once again it is clear that most of our City Council are on the side of big outside business instead of the wishes of the citizens of Asheville. This whole issue should have been added to the November ballot same as our water issue will be. With so little valuable land left downtown, this citizen believes none of it should ever be sold without a direct vote by its citizen for clearly City Council has either no interest in protecting citizen desires/choices or is not capable of enacting votes to do so.

Once again a saddened citizen of Asheville has to speak out for City Council will not.
S. Rain

Ben Fulmer

From: Myra Ramsey <mramsey79@charter.net> on behalf of Myra Ramsey
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 10:09 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: Gun Shows

Per the email from PARC, I would like to vote against having gun shows in and Around Asheville, Buncombe County and the Ag Center.

Please take this item up at the next meeting.

Thanks,

Myra Ramsey
24 Merlin Way
Asheville, NC 28806

mramsey79@charter.net
828-253-3038

Ben Fulmer

From: Cecil Bothwell <cecil@braveulysses.com> on behalf of Cecil Bothwell
Sent: Wednesday, December 05, 2012 11:57 AM
To: Joe Scott
Cc: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: Re: Defend our Water demonstration

Not if there is a public sidewalk in front of your home.

-C

On Dec 5, 2012, at 10:22 AM, Joe Scott wrote:

I don't want these people in front of my house at 54 Macon Ave. Can they be restricted?

Joe Scott
President
IntelliSound, Inc.
82 Patton Avenue
Suite 620
Asheville, NC 28801
M) 828-210-9000
C) 828-775-9283
F) 828-210-9004
www.intellisound.net

From: PARC [mailto:ashevilleparc@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 05, 2012 9:16 AM
To: Joe Scott
Subject: Defend our Water demonstration

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Contact

City Council
Asheville Citizen-
Times
Mountain Xpress
The Urban News
Asheville PARC



Defend our water den



reservoir

Dear Asheville Neighbor,

On election day last month 86% of Asheville voters said they would support the current water system. In fact, as AC-T op-ed writer John Miall wrote at a time when 86% of Asheville voters agreed on anything,

So Asheville voters can be forgiven for wondering why. Instead, proponents of the takeover want you to believe you should be happy to accept pennies-on-the-dollar as compensation.

It seems the Republican-led legislature is sharpening its claws. The system come January. If allowed to happen, this would send fear statewide into every community.

Some of us believe not all is lost. Some of us believe we have the power of citizen opposition to this state power grab.

On Saturday evening December 8th, virtually all of Buncombe County, including in-coming Governor Pat McCrory, will be at the annual Charles Taylor's Republican fundraiser.

This is your invitation to join your neighbors as we assemble to raise the visibility of the water issue before the very eyes of traveling to Raleigh, this is your chance to be seen and heard to the taking of Asheville's water system by legislative fiat.

We plan to gather beginning at 5:30 pm, at the Buncombe County Courthouse and create a line of voters stretching up Macon Street on the water issue. We expect to finish once the Rally is over.

You are welcome to create your own sign. Extras will be provided. Positive. Examples might be:

Defend Our Water--Vote NO on State Takeover

86% Say NO to Water Grab

Hands Off Buncombe Water

The Party of 'Small Government'--Really?

What Problem is Being Solved?

No State Takings--Hands Off Buncombe Water

You get the idea.

The other important element to sending a strong message is to get out to your networks and invite them to join this rally. Elected officials can count heads. A big crowd sends a strong message.

As someone once said, democracy is not a spectator sport. It's up to us to Defend Our Water. See you Saturday evening.

For questions, comments, ideas or more information please contact:

Thank you,

Teddy Jordan -- 785-2644 -- teddy.jordan30@gmail.com

Cheryl Orengo -- 776-3327 ctorengo@gmail.com.



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Ben Fulmer

From: Joe Scott <jscott@intellisound.net> on behalf of Joe Scott
Sent: Wednesday, December 05, 2012 10:23 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: FW: Defend our Water demonstration

I don't want these people in front of my house at 54 Macon Ave. Can they be restricted?

Joe Scott
President
IntelliSound, Inc.
82 Patton Avenue
Suite 620
Asheville, NC 28801
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From: PARC [mailto:ashevilleparc@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 05, 2012 9:16 AM
To: Joe Scott
Subject: Defend our Water demonstration

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City Council
Asheville Citizen-
Times
Mountain Xpress
The Urban News
Asheville PARC



Defend our water democ



reservoir

Dear Asheville Neighbor,

On election day last month 86% of Asheville voters said 'No' to the takeover of the water system. In fact, as AC-T op-ed writer John Miall commented, it was a time when 86% of Asheville voters agreed on anything. Take that, takeover!

So Asheville voters can be forgiven for wondering why the state is pushing for the takeover. Instead, proponents of the takeover want you to believe the takeover is necessary. You should be happy to accept pennies-on-the-dollar as compensation for the loss of your water.

It seems the Republican-led legislature is sharpening their knives to take over the water system come January. If allowed to happen, this would be a disaster that would send fear statewide into every community.

Some of us believe not all is lost. Some of us believe we have enough power to stop this grab of citizen opposition to this state power grab.

On Saturday evening December 8th, virtually all leadership, including in-coming Governor Pat McCrory, will be at the annual Charles Taylor's Republican fundraiser.

This is your invitation to join your neighbors as we assemble to raise the visibility of the water issue before the very legislators. Of traveling to Raleigh, this is your chance to be seen and heard in the taking of Asheville's water system by legislative fiat.

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You are welcome to create your own sign. Extras will be available. Examples might be:

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As someone once said, democracy is not a spectator sport. It's up to Defend Our Water. See you Saturday evening.

For questions, comments, ideas or more information please

Thank you,

Teddy Jordan -- 785-2644 -- teddy.jordan30@gmail.com

Cheryl Orengo -- 776-3327 ctorengo@gmail.com.





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Ben Fulmer

From: Marc Hunt <marchunt@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Marc Hunt
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 1:36 PM
To: 'Cecil Bothwell'
Cc: 'councilgroup'
Subject: RE: Your reply to (a consituent, name withheld, regarding the BID)

Cecil

As I offered to you a couple times in advance the BID vote Tuesday, I'm glad to sit down and talk about the pros, cons, and tradeoffs, and the same goes for any issue before us. That offer stands to all members of Council and for as long as I am in office.

As for the BID issue, I and others on Council spent tons of time over months researching and listening to all sides of the issue, and I think that shows in the way the structure pragmatically evolved and in the votes I made. I hope you see in the email response I provided yesterday to many who had written me that I am committed to continued hard work to see the BID effort, imperfect as it might be, succeed. Particularly when it comes to public oversight and control. I do not view your "no" vote as unreasonable, but we do disagree.

You've heard me say that I feel that the effectiveness of leadership of our City is hampered by internal dysfunction within Council. I hope you could agree that a community is better off when its leaders have healthy debate and seek collaborative solutions instead of fighting.

Disagreeing on policy points does not amount to dysfunction; it's often the communication around the disagreement that gets in the way of effectiveness.

Please look again at the email you sent last night, and also the one you sent me the evening following the Haywood Street decision, pasted here:

" Considering your vote last night, I will proceed joyfully every time you are out of town.
I am so totally embarrassed that I endorsed you. What a total loser on matters that concern Asheville citizens.
Are your ears totally plugged with developmental money?
You make me want to puke.
-c"

Ask yourself whether communications like those (ad hominem insults more than serious attempts to discuss or resolve anything), or some of the emails you and PARC have sent regarding city policy and your fellow elected officials (communications that typically seek to inform little and scare a lot so as to swing folks to your unilateral view), are productive from a community leadership standpoint. Please also ask yourself whether it is productive to continue to attack a settled policy like the BID when it might be more productive to let it to go forward in the most productive and efficient way possible. It is this style of politics that has this country so unyieldingly divided and politically frozen. It is very painful for me to see a member of Council successfully dividing and disengaging our own good community that same way.

Cecil, you have great experience, knowledge, and important perspectives. I learn from you often, and your viewpoints do find their way into my internal deliberation on issues. Your approach to communication and leadership makes you much less effective than you could be as an elected official, however.
And it costs. Asheville has greater opportunities and challenges than the BID or Haywood Street. In order to make progress we need to work responsibly to build the community cohesion and trust that we currently lack. One side crushing and banishing the other will never happen, and efforts toward that are supremely unproductive.

I hope we all on Council can together rally to a positive leadership cause; this community deserves it.

Marc Hunt

+++++

-----Original Message-----

From: Cecil Bothwell [mailto:cecil@braveulysses.com]

Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 6:22 PM

To: marchunt@avlcouncil.com

Subject: Your reply to (a constituent, regarding the BID)

Hey Marc,

I just read your reply to (constituent), which I would guess you have sent to others.

What utter horse-shit.

We just handed off \$300 - \$600,000 in tax revenues to an unelected board.

We thereby abdicated any general tax increase that might have benefited the entire community.

We allowed creation of an "18-19 person board" according to Alberice. There is no surer way of preventing meaningful decision making than to create a board that will almost never achieve a quorum.

(Note: we are already trying to pare down some City boards with more than 10 members ... due to repeated quorum failures.)

I am repeatedly appalled that putative Democrats elected to Council somehow morph into Republicans once elected. You must have received most of the same anti-BID e-mails I did, and phone calls, and letters. How in hell can you pretend to be responsive to the people who elected you, when you vote to support that small coterie of downtown powermongers?

I really, truly, don't get it.

-c

+++++

Marc's Oct. 10th email to many constituents who had written him re the BID:

Dear _____,

Thanks for the input you provided me in advance of last night's City Council vote on the downtown Business Improvement District. I apologize for not responding earlier. You may have learned that Council did approve creation the BID district by a 5-2 vote. I believe that implementation of this BID will be critical to assuring that downtown Asheville will be an even greater, more vibrant centerpiece for our community, and will enhance business activity and property values for all taxpayers in the district in a way that pays for the commitment property owners and small businesses will make times over. I did read and take your email seriously, and it did help shape my view on this matter even though I might not have voted the way you would have preferred. Input from opponents of this move was particularly helpful in measures by Council in assuring strong public oversight and control as well as assuring a careful approach as to operations and funding level.

Key steps and decision points remain before the operation of the BID would get underway on July 1, 2013. The first step is appointment by Asheville City Council of a representative board of directors. Councilman Jan Davis and I will be serving on the nominating committee for that purpose, and I hope you will consider offering us suggestions of a person or two that might make a good candidate (please check for their willingness first, though). I particularly want to make sure we appoint a board that includes folks whose views might not have aligned completely with some of the strongest advocates but at the same time can make a positive contribution in molding the BID into the best and most efficient effort it can be. That board will be responsible for crafting by-laws, a scope of services, plan of work, and operating budget, also subject to approval of City Council before we would next spring consider a tax levy to fund the BID. I want to emphasize that we have a ways to go in shaping this thing, and broad community input is still needed.

Again, I sincerely appreciate the input you offered, and I hope you'll find ways to join in helping this effort be successful.

Marc Hunt
Asheville City Council

Ben Fulmer

From: Cecil Bothwell <cecil@braveulysses.com> on behalf of Cecil Bothwell
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2012 10:04 PM
To: Maggie Burleson
Cc: Marc Hunt;Chris Pelly;Esther Manheimer - Email;Gordon Smith;Jan Davis;Mayor Terry Bellamy;Gary Jackson
Subject: Re: BID Petitions

It's interesting to note that the opposition to the BID among downtown residents and business owners is significantly higher than the opposition recorded in the PARC PAC poll of all Asheville voters.

The logical interpretation is that Asheville voters who won't be affected by the tax increase are less opposed to the idea than those whose tax bill will be bumped by 15 percent.

-c

On Sep 27, 2012, at 11:37 AM, Maggie Burleson wrote:

> Well, it looks as though 22 pages were too many to scan in. I'll have
> a copy sitting my Council's boxes for you to review. Sorry, Maggie
>
>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Marc Hunt [mailto:marchunt@avlcouncil.com]
> Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2012 7:03 AM
> To: Maggie Burleson; Cecil Bothwell - Email; Chris Pelly; Esther
> Manheimer - Email; Gordon Smith; Jan Davis; Mayor Terry Bellamy
> Cc: Gary Jackson
> Subject: RE: BID Petitions
>

> Maggie

> How many pages are involved in the petition? If just a few, please
> scan to PDF and share with me. If many, I will come review.

> Thanks

> marc
>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Maggie Burleson [mailto:MBurleson@ashevillenc.gov]
> Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 12:45 PM
> To: Cecil Bothwell; Chris Pelly; Esther Manheimer; Gordon Smith; Jan
> Davis; Marc Hunt; Mayor Bellamy
> Subject: BID Petitions
>

> Attached is the first two pages of some information left for me to
> distribute to City Council. If you are interested, the actual
> petitions are in my office.
>

> Thanks,

> Maggie

>
>

Ben Fulmer

From: Bill Branyon <billbranyon@yahoo.com> on behalf of Bill Branyon
Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2012 6:48 PM
To: Chris Pelly
Subject: Re: McKibbon Contract

Thanks Chris. Interesting and persuasive points. I'll try to do them justice.
Hope to see you around.
B

From: Chris Pelly <chrispelly@avlcouncil.com>
To: Bill Branyon <billbranyon@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2012 5:40 PM
Subject: Re: McKibbon Contract

Hey again,

Couple responses to points you make:

-- A plaza of a size we hope is not yet guaranteed. The approved McKibbon plan calls for a 5,000 sq ft. plaza. If the basilica participates, that increases to an 18,000 sq ft plaza. This plan would involve straightening Page Ave and the church making available the two lots they own adjoining Page Ave. This larger plaza will require the basilica participating, not yet a done deal but they have said they support a public plaza in front of the basilica.

--The decision to sell this property traces back to 2007 when city council was looking at unused city-owned properties to sell to fund affordable housing initiatives.

--What was the hurry to sell? The decision to sell was the end result of the RFP process undertaken in 2008. At that time, nine parties submitted RFP's for this property. After evaluation, the McKibbon Group was selected to move forward with an actual development plan. It should be noted church leaders could have submitted a development proposal with the others in 2008 but did not participate yet, in 2012, asked the City to restart the process so they could submit a development proposal. City Council chose to stay with the original process.

The reason for the lag in resolution between '08 and 2012 was both the economy, and more recently, the desire by council for the Downtown Master Planning process to be completed so the McKibbon plan could meet the new standards.

--Private donations? Perhaps but the Pack Square Conservancy, who managed the redevelopment of Pack Square Park, was itself short on its final fundraising goals. And, remove this land from the tax rolls and all the benefits I mentioned earlier are lost.

Thanks Bill.

Chris

On Tue, Sep 18, 2012 at 8:07 PM, Bill Branyon <billbranyon@yahoo.com> wrote:

Thanks Chris for your prompt response. All very interesting information that I'll take into account. With a plaza guaranteed, and all that money assured, it starts to appear to be a win-win situation.

Guess there was a history to the negotiations that most of us are not up on. As if the decision to sell the property were made when, with the Master Plan? I guess my main remaining questions are: 1. What is the hurry to get the process settled. and 2. Perhaps private donations could have been solicited to pay for the park. Though your other priorities are impressive also.

Thanks again.

Bill

From: Chris Pelly <chrispelly@avlcouncil.com>

To: Bill Branyon <billbranyon@yahoo.com>

Cc: chris@chrispelly.com

Sent: Tuesday, September 18, 2012 12:02 PM

Subject: Re: McKibbon Contract

Hi Bill,

Thanks for asking me to comment on my vote. For what it's worth, this was my toughest vote yet on council

For me, it was about deciding which of the three competing proposals, McKibbon's, the basilica's, or PARC's made the most sense *and* had the most realistic chance of success. Wearing the City Council hat requires, I've learned, a willingness to listen to all sides. Doesn't mean drop the values you bring to the job but it does mean attempting to balance competing demands.

In this case, competing demands include balancing our budget at a time when demand for services is continually climbing but options for new revenue, such as growth through annexation, are constricted. We have a large segment of our population struggling economically so raising property taxes is a last resort. The McKibbon plan will generate not only a one-time infusion of about \$2.5 million at closing but also about \$800,000 a year, every year, in sales, room, and property taxes. Contrast that to, for example Pack Square Park, whose redevelopment cost upwards of \$15 million.

And it is not just about the money. The Downtown Master Plan did not identify this location as a site for future park development. The point of the master planning process is to set priorities. And as much as I support parks, having helped lead the effort for two in east Asheville, this idea of PARC's did not come about through a public process.

So, what council had to choose between was a plan which would have protected this site, but at a cost of \$2.5M and \$800K in annual income, for future development as a park at an unknown cost, perhaps several million, for a site not even on the DMP priority list. Or, as we chose, pick a developer with a proven track record, a commitment to quality and respect for this location and, a willingness to abide by stricter development terms imposed by city council.

And this does not even talk about fifty jobs estimated to be created, nor the improved City revenue stream that will allow us to do more affordable housing, sidewalks and transit, nor the potential for a landmark plaza that honors this location.

With the basilica proposal there was a whole other set of concerns to be balanced. My sense from your question however was to ask why the park idea did not get greater traction.

If I have not adequately answered your question, you are welcome to give me a call.

Thanks Bill and best wishes,

Chris Pelly,
Asheville City Council

231-3704

On Tue, Sep 18, 2012 at 10:47 AM, Bill Branyon <billbranyon@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Chris,

I was disappointed that you voted for the McKibbon Hotel project across from the Civic Center. I saw it as a once-in-a-hundred year opportunity to expand park availability in a Civic Center area that is an important community gathering space. I do understand that jobs, taxes and the purchase price was a major competing factor, especially in this time of tight money and jobs.

I'm writing an op-ed piece for Xpress about that transaction, and combining it with the Verizon sponsored DNC and Amy Goodman's recent talk at AB Tech. I was wondering if you'd explain your motivation in voting for McKibbon.

I understand if you're too busy or would prefer not to. I do admire you Council work in other areas. Keep it up!

Sincerely

Bill Branyon

Ben Fulmer

From: Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> on behalf of Leonard Carrier
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2012 11:23 PM
To: Gordon Smith
Cc: Terry Bellamy; Esther Manheimer; Chris Pelly
Subject: A question of priorities

Dear Gordon,

Thank you for your detailed defense of the McKibbon proposal for another hotel on City-owned land adjoining one of Asheville's treasures: The St. Laurence Basilica, with its irreplaceable Guastavino tiles. I have printed out your defense to show to my friends to get their reactions. But here are mine, given to you not only the perspective of a City tax-payer, but from my experience in teaching University courses in ethics and aesthetics. I hold a Stanford PhD in philosophy, and until my retirement twelve years ago, I taught first at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia; then at the University of South Florida in Tampa; and finally at the University of Miami until 2000, where I served as the Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of Philosophy. The students I have taught include the President of Quinnipiac College and several other philosophers who have published widely. I am the author of two books in philosophy, and my articles have been published in prestigious journals in several countries. I am now Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the University of Miami.

I now appeal to you, as a fellow citizen, not to let the monies that McKibbon promises you sway your decision. There are several hotels in Asheville. There is *The Royal Bohemian* in Biltmore Village. There is the *Indigo* close by to the Basilica; there is the latest McKibbon project, the *Aloft*, taking up lots of sidewalk space at 51 Biltmore; there is the *Inn at the Biltmore Estate*, and finally, across the bridge, there is the *Crowne Plaza Resort and Spa*, which is owned by my friend, Dennis Hulsing. I ask you, aren't these hotels enough to satisfy any tourists who want to visit Asheville? I venture to say that rooms in these hotels are now vacant. So why, except to benefit the McKibbon group, should we acquiesce to building another empty hotel, especially since the earthworks required could quite possibly cause the Guastavino tiles in our Basilica to fall? I have visited other Guastavino projects, both in Spain and at the Biltmore Estate. They are precious and should not be endangered, at least according to those who believe that money is less important than historical and artistic value.

Finally, there is the logic of the situation. We all know from past experience that there will be enormous City expenses in order to excavate the property in question and still protect the Basilica. We already know of the cost overruns in building *Aloft*. The proposal put forth by PARC is, not only cost effective, but will serve to bring tourists to our area. Despite the pronouncements of Roderick Simmons that parks require upkeep, I challenge both him and you to compare the costs of grass-cutting to that of maintaining a hotel.

It is my belief, backed by the evidence cited, that if you create a beautiful park, then people will be induced to visit. This, to me, is far more attractive than having another hotel with empty rooms.

The argument on behalf of McKibbon is that it will generate money for other projects. My response is that unless there is a reason for people to visit Asheville, they will visit Greenville, SC, where a smart City Manager, an energized citizenry, and corporate co-operation created a wonderful playground on the Reedy River, enjoyed not only by tourists, but by local families. I know this first hand, as I have spoken to Greenvilleans about their success. Therefore, I urge you to re-consider your vote in favor of the McKibbon project. Asheville is better than that. You are better than that. I rest my case.

L.S. Carrier
Emeritus Professor of Philosophy
University of Miami
26 Stonebridge Drive
Asheville 28805
296-0200

Ben Fulmer

From: Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> on behalf of Leonard Carrier
Sent: Thursday, September 06, 2012 3:23 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: McKibbon's folly

Dear Members of the Asheville City Council,

It should be a no-brainer that if only 13% of Asheville's taxpayers prefer a hotel on City land adjoining the Basilica of St. Lawrence, then City Council is not representing its constituents if they vote for the latest McKibbon-Kessler boondoggle to hit the drawing board. I simply cannot understand why City Council members, duly elected by Asheville City residents, do not simply follow the Will of the People.

I have written to all of you before, at one time or another, regarding the fallacy of kneeling down to Mammon when it comes to protecting one of Asheville's treasures. The argument that the City "can't afford" a park in front of the Basilica is fallacious. Grass and trees are cheap compared to the cost of building a hotel on that spot. Council Members should look to what's good for our community as a whole, not just what's good for some wealthy investors.

So please, Esther Mannheim, Gordon Smith, Chris Pelly, and Marc Hunt. Think of the legacy you will be leaving if you vote for another hotel requiring huge expenditures that will impact City taxpayers--just like the millions of dollars that the City had to sink into the foundation of "Aloft" -- the high-flying venture that really benefited only the vulture capitalists. Please, Jan Davis, don't let personal differences with other Council Members blind you to the reality of turning Downtown Asheville into a concrete jungle instead of wide, green spaces. And finally, please Mayor Bellamy, do what your constituents expect of you in leading City Council to some *rapprochement* between PARC and the Catholic Diocese so that our children and our children's children can enjoy a leisurely walk in the park. It goes without saying that visitors to our Fair City will enjoy that, as well.

Sincerely,

Leonard S. Carrier
26 Stonebridge Drive
Asheville, NC 28805

Ben Fulmer

From: Rita Livezey <rdlive@charter.net> on behalf of Rita Livezey
Sent: Thursday, September 06, 2012 9:52 AM
To: Chris Pelly
Cc: Elaine Lite; Very Rev. Wilbur N. Thomas, V.F.
Subject: The Will of the Majority

Hi Chris,

I am reaching out to you one last time to urge you to vote against the McKibbon RFP on September 11. We believe, based on emails to the city, signatures gathered, letters to the editor, and the poll Cecil showed at the 8/14 council meeting, that there is **overwhelming public opposition** to a hotel on the Haywood site. I realize that Jan Davis claimed the poll was invalid because of "leading questions," but Elaine Lite of the PARC PAC shared with me the actual questions used in the poll. There were three questions, only one of which dealt with the Haywood St. property. Here it is:

The first question is about the city-owned land across from the Basilica of St. Lawrence. Some people favor a hotel, others selling the land to the church for their development, and others favor a public park.

If you favor the McKibbon Hotel, please press 1

If you favor selling the land to the Diocese of Charlotte, press 2

If you favor a public park, press 3

If you have no opinion, press 4

Does this sound like a leading question to you?

As you may know, the people polled were from a phone list of "all Asheville voters who cast ballots in two of the last three City elections. That's 8,713 consistently engaged voters: Unaffiliated, Republican, and Democrat." As you probably also know, the results showed only 13% favoring the hotel.

I understand an academic claimed the poll was invalid because it used land line phone numbers instead of land line and cell numbers. However, those demographics (land line users tending to be more conservative) would skew results in favor of a hotel. According to the poll, 78% oppose the hotel. If the poll had included cell numbers, one would expect that majority to be even larger.

With numbers that overwhelming, it seems clear that **a vote for the hotel is a vote against the will of the majority**. The PARC PAC and the Basilica stand in complete solidarity on this, and feel the City is trying to ram this through despite majority opposition. We sincerely hope you will vote against the hotel.

Kind regards,
Rita

Rita Livezey
Social Justice Commissioner | Roman Catholic Parish of the Basilica of St. Lawrence | Asheville, NC | 828.299.0668

Ben Fulmer

From: Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> on behalf of Leonard Carrier
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2012 2:54 PM
To: Gordon Smith
Cc: Jan Davis;Chris Pelly;cecil@braveulysses.com;Terry Bellamy;Esther Manheimer;marchunt@avlcouncil.com
Subject: Re: Basilica

Nonsense, Gordon. First of all, there are not "many who feel differently." That's ungrammatical. You should have said that they feel *different* about the matter. But as a former academician, I offer you my considered opinion that the PARC poll was extremely reliable. Apparently, you are being duped, my friend. Judging from your reply, I think I might even appreciate Asheville more than you do.

Sincerely,

Leonard S. Carrier, PhD
Emeritus Professor of Philosophy
University of Miami, FL
26 Stonebridge Drive
Asheville, NC 28805

----- Original Message -----

From: [Gordon Smith](#)
To: [Leonard Carrier](#)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2012 8:06 AM
Subject: Re: Basilica

Thanks again, Mr. Carrier. While I understand that many people feel the way you do, please understand that there are also many who feel differently. The PARC poll was not, in my opinion and in the opinion of academicians, a reliable one. I will continue to work towards the best solution, and I appreciate your care for the city.

Gordon

On Tue, Aug 28, 2012 at 2:57 PM, Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> wrote:
Dear Mr. Smith,

Thank you for your reply. I feel that I must remind you that Asheville is on the cusp of having a really great Downtown area--or else falling prey to developers who simply want to make their money and run. I'm not running, Mr. Smith. I am a City taxpayer, and I believe that when 78% of Ashevilleans do NOT want another hotel near their most treasured landmark, then their wishes should be honored.

Why don't you show a little creativity, in the way that the City of Greenville, SC did? Greenville made the most of its natural setting and created a wonderful area for its citizens to enjoy, and also to attract tourism.

We already have Hotel Indigo close to the Basilica, and we have Aloft at the other end of town; plus we have the Royal Bohemian in Biltmore Village. Across the Smoky Park Bridge we also have the wonderful Crowne Plaza Resort and Spa. So we already have the wherewithal to accommodate

tourists. What we need are attractions to draw them here. if you can't see that, then you are not serving the interests of most of my fellow Ashevilleans.

Here are some concrete recommendations designed to meet your worries about the City's not having enough resources to do what PARC has recommended: (1) Fire the City Manager. He is being reactive, rather than pro-active; (2) Approach large corporations the way Greenville did, to partner with the City; (3) Listen to your constituency and not to your wallet. Do those things and you'll get to "the promised land." Fail to do them and you will leave a legacy of failure for all of us.

Sincerely,

Leonard S. Carrier
26 Stonebridge Drive
Asheville, NC 28805

----- Original Message -----

From: [Gordon Smith](#)

To: [Leonard Carrier](#)

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2012 8:14 AM

Subject: Re: Basilica

Mr. Carrier,

Thank you for writing in. There are a lot of different opinions about how that parcel ought to be developed, and everyone wants something that Asheville can be proud of for generations to come. It's a notable location, and anything that happens there ought to complement surrounding uses, preserve the integrity of the Basilica, and comport with the Downtown Master Plan's Design Guidelines. The recently passed design guidelines will ensure sufficient setbacks and complementary building materials. Further, I expect City Council will urge any builder to go above and beyond those guidelines since this is a marquis location for the citizens of Asheville.

Any design that comes forward will need to have a sufficient open space to allow for a buffer between the proposed building and the Basilica. The open space will also invite foot traffic from Haywood Street and from the Grove Arcade to turn the corner and admire that architectural gem. In order for this to happen, it will require the voluntary cooperation of the Basilica for the land. It will also require a broad financial partnership, because the City of Asheville simply can not afford to build and maintain another downtown park on its own. The City just took on maintenance of Pack Square Park, and there are several other park areas in and around downtown that we are currently struggling to maintain due to budgetary pressures. We are working to create a series of French Broad River Parks as well that incorporate multimodal transportation options. While I very much enjoy our parks, I must also be responsible with taxpayer dollars and recognize that there are a lot of goals we've been asked by the voters to achieve.

I am looking forward to learning more about the proposals and working with Council members to ensure responsible building on the site. The proposals I've seen so far are all shorter than the nearby historic apartment buildings.

I hope this is helpful. Thank you again for being an engaged member of our community.

Gordon Smith

On Mon, Aug 27, 2012 at 8:23 PM, Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> wrote:

Dear Members of City Council,

Do you really represent the taxpaying citizens of Asheville? It's hard to say. One thing I do know, which is that only 13% of your electorate favor building a hotel on the City-owned property adjoining St. Lawrence Basilica. That means that 87% favor something else. That 87% is divided between the PARC proposal of a green space, and the Catholic Church offer, which would also protect Guastavino's master work and our most famous landmark.

I find the solution to be a simple one. Why doesn't City Council ditch the offer of McKibbin and Kessler? Instead, negotiate a compromise between the Church and PARC. I can't imagine why anyone hasn't thought of this.

But, please, please, don't vacillate and conduct another study. Either do your business or get off the Council and make way for those who will look after those who elected you. Otherwise, you will be remembered for simply bleating like baby sheep--poor little lambs who have gone astray.

Sincerely,

Leonard S. Carrier
26 Stonebridge Dr.
Asheville 28805

Ben Fulmer

From: Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> on behalf of Leonard Carrier
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2012 8:23 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: Basilica

Dear Members of City Council,

Do you really represent the taxpaying citizens of Asheville? It's hard to say. One thing I do know, which is that only 13% of your electorate favor building a hotel on the City-owned property adjoining St. Lawrence Basilica. That means that 87% favor something else. That 87% is divided between the PARC proposal of a green space, and the Catholic Church offer, which would also protect Guastavino's master work and our most famous landmark.

I find the solution to be a simple one. Why doesn't City Council ditch the offer of McKibbin and Kessler? Instead, negotiate a compromise between the Church and PARC. I can't imagine why anyone hasn't thought of this.

But, please, please, don't vacillate and conduct another study. Either do your business or get off the Council and make way for those who will look after those who elected you. Otherwise, you will be remembered for simply bleating like baby sheep--poor little lambs who have gone astray.

Sincerely,

Leonard S. Carrier
26 Stonebridge Dr.
Asheville 28805

Ben Fulmer

From: Richard Cary <richard.cary@att.net> on behalf of Richard Cary
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2012 7:44 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: parc etc

Let's have a park. A green space. If we were to add a .05% tax on... whatever... for five years, or ten years, we'd pay ourselves for a lovely park, and much (public bathrooms?). We could have easily avoided the ugliness of "US Cellular..." had we been given the chance to raise the identicle funds ourselves. Duh. Even Republicans can see the sense in this kind of thinking, yes? Thank you in advance.

Richard Cary
37 Howard Street
AVL NC 28806

828-301-5779

Ben Fulmer

From: Christopher Pratt <christopher.jimmie.pratt@gmail.com> on behalf of Christopher Pratt
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2012 3:08 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC;Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce;North Asheville;Margaret Williams, Co-Managing Editor/News Editor;jboyle
Cc: Bud Hansbury;Dr. Christopher Pratt
Subject: The Basilica of St. Lawrence public forum Friday, 9-7-12 at the Renaissance Asheville Hotel 5-7 pm

The Basilica of St. Lawrence will hold a public forum on Friday, 9-7-12 at the Renaissance Asheville Hotel from 5-7 pm. Please try to attend and share this with friends and neighbors.

FYI, the McKibbin Group has misrepresented their project by showing a "park/piazza" (where'd they get that?) on Basilica owned property.

Hopefully all questions can be addressed at this event thus educating as many as possible before the public forum on Tuesday 9-11-12 at city council.

I hope you'll be able to attend and bring concerned friends.We will be having questions and answers at the end.

Also as many as possible to attend the city council meeting on Tuesday 9-11-12 will be greatly appreciated as well. Please also try to attend that meeting as well.

Thank you!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Bud Hansbury <budhansbury@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Aug 23, 2012 at 1:05 PM
Subject:
To: Chris Pratt <christopher.jimmie..pratt@gmail.com>

Dr. Pratt,

Thought I'd get you up to speed on the Haywood st. project. We are going to have a public forum on 9/7/12 at the Renaissance Ash. Hotel from 5-7 pm. to get the real story out to the public. The McKibbin Group misrepresented their project by showing a "park/piazza" (where'd they get that?) on Basilica owned property. Hopefully all questions can be addressed at this event thus educating as many as possible before the public forum on 9/11/12 at city council .

I hope you'll be able to attend and bring concerned friends.We will be having questions and answers at the end. As many as possible to attend the city council meeting is greatly appreciated as well.

Carpe diem!,
Bud

Ben Fulmer

From: Jim Stone <jimsto@yahoo.com> on behalf of Jim Stone
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2012 7:54 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: Do what the people of Asheville want.

Dear Council,

I respectfully urge you to read the PARC email. Please act according to the poll which shows what the majority of Ashevillians want. Sincerely, James Stone 647 Town Mountain Road Asheville 28804

Ben Fulmer

From: Tom Hayes <tehayes@charter.net> on behalf of Tom Hayes
Sent: Friday, August 17, 2012 10:38 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: Basilica Hotel

Council Members,

I want to express my support for the McKibbon proposal Option #2. Getting a deal with the Church to straighten Page is certainly going to be tricky but it is key to the concept in my mind. I don't support a park only option as expressed by PARC.

I do have some questions for the McKibbon proposal. Will McKibbon construct the hotel and plaza with their money? Who is responsible for damage to the Basilica if that is caused by construction? Who maintains the plaza after it is built? What are those costs annually? Will the City pay for the street work? Who will pay for the underground utilities if they need to be rerouted?

I know you have a big responsibility here to negotiate the best deal for all the parties involved. It has to work for everyone. The area will be revitalized because of this project and no longer be an eyesore. The Basilica and the Civic Center will be enhanced by this project.

Thanks.

Tom Hayes

Ben Fulmer

From: hauntedheadnc <hauntedheadnc@yahoo.com> on behalf of hauntedheadnc
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2012 8:33 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: McKibbon hotel proposal

Dear City Council members,

I'm writing to you today to express my wholehearted support for the Haywood Street hotel as currently proposed by the McKibbon group.

The fact of the matter is that sometimes growth is good, sometimes there are good places for growth, and while parks are nice -- not every single parcel of empty downtown property should become one. This last point is most salient in light of the fact that thanks to our state's Republican majority, it might as well be illegal now for a city to expand its borders. That means that any new tax revenue in the city of Asheville is going to have to come from growth and development inside the existing city limits -- and the hotel proposal is exactly that kind of growth. It would also be wise to consider the fact that Asheville is already enormously blessed with recreational facilities, passive green space, and park lands -- all of which have to be maintained as it is with taxpayer dollars. Furthermore, it would be prudent to consider that there are already large-scale recreation and park facilities, such as the development of Overlook Park, planned. In short, Asheville has enough park land for the moment and already has plans in place to provide more as the city grows.

As I understand it, Asheville does not have the money to build a new park, and maintaining its current park resources costs an enormous amount of money. To change this situation, such as a fairer distribution of hotel room taxes, would require action from a state government which has already well proven its antipathy to the city of Asheville through legislation that will remove the airport and WNC Agricultural Center from city control and would do the same to the city's water system. Clearly, we cannot count on the state to change anything that would even give Asheville the money to build a park on the Haywood Street location and even if the state were amenable to the idea, changing such laws would probably take years.

What this all means is that as nice as a park might be, there is no money to build one and there really isn't any pressing need for it. And that is why the parcel in question would be best suited for the kind of dense, multi-story development that already makes up the downtown area. We have heard in the media that to build the hotel would invite an Atlantan nightmare of overdevelopment, but that kind of fearmongering is unwarranted and distasteful. Downtown, arguably the most loved district in the city, is dense and it is urban and it will harm nothing there to invite more of the same sort of development that already makes up the area. Despite claims by PARC, this building is not a high-rise and even if it were, there is already one across the street and two more in sight of the proposed building site, so another high-rise would hardly be out of place or scale. The McKibbon group has presented us with an attractive design sensitive to nearby historic architecture, and has proven itself to be a good corporate citizen in other respects such as with its braille art and charity project at the Aloft Hotel.

In short, McKibbon has given us a great design that incorporates the very plaza the project's detractors demand, it has proven a commitment to Asheville, and the location is utterly perfect for this kind of well-designed urban development.

Please approve the hotel project.

Sincerely,

Austin Blythe

Ben Fulmer

From: Summer Rain <jsrain@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Summer Rain
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 5:06 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Cc: letters@citizen-times.com; letters@mountainx.com; PARC
Subject: Selling of our land once again

There is so little land left downtown that adding one more towering hotel is totally insane in my eyes. The terribly designed looming building going up across from The City Bakery is another example that City Council has shown they have little or no aesthetic training or judgement in making decisions that this very issue demands. And now to sell off one, if not the last strip, of empty land to another group, church or private person to have again a poorly designed structure built in what was a lovely charming and historical downtown that pulled in the only source of revenue, tourists, that downtown has is once again being endangered. Tourists don't need to be right in the heart of our once historical downtown to come and stay in a hotel. Selling to the church will also destroy this last piece of historical land.

Please use common sense stop this madness of selling off more of our HISTORICAL DOWNTOWN.

J.S.Rain

Ben Fulmer

From: MARNIE MIKELL <artdept@great-eastern-sun.com> on behalf of MARNIE MIKELL
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 12:43 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: Hotel Plan Near Basilica

As a resident of Asheville, I am writing to voice my objection to the proposed hotel plan for the city-owned property across from the Basilica of St. Lawrence. A recent poll conducted by PARC shows that most of those responding favor a public park on that location. It is open greenspace that would display the beautiful Basilica of St. Lawrence, and greenspace that would give a respite from the concrete and steel of the city. The hotel would make a lot of money for one developer. The park would create a memorable experience for Asheville residents and visitors alike.

Thank you for considering my message.

Marnie Mikell

Ben Fulmer

From: Gail Jolley <g9jolley@gmail.com> on behalf of Gail Jolley
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 11:03 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: No hotel in front of the Basilica

It seems that the results of PARC's telephone poll are clear: the people of Asheville do not want another hotel towering over the downtown area. Aloft Hotel is almost finished, and it is one of the ugliest buildings we have downtown next to the Indigo Hotel, which is just as ugly, but at least it's off on the edge of things. Why must we have only ugly tall buildings?

Gail Jolley

Ben Fulmer

From: Cecil Bothwell <cecil@braveulysses.com> on behalf of Cecil Bothwell
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2012 7:17 AM
To: councilgroup Group;Gary Jackson;Dawa Hitch
Subject: Asheville voters DO NOT want a hotel on Haywood property

For immediate release 8/11/12

What: Public opinion poll of Asheville voters concerning Haywood Street property

Who: Cecil Bothwell, PARCPAC and Voice Broadcasting Corp. (an automated polling company)

Contact: 828-713-8840

Here is the text used in the public opinion poll of Asheville voters:

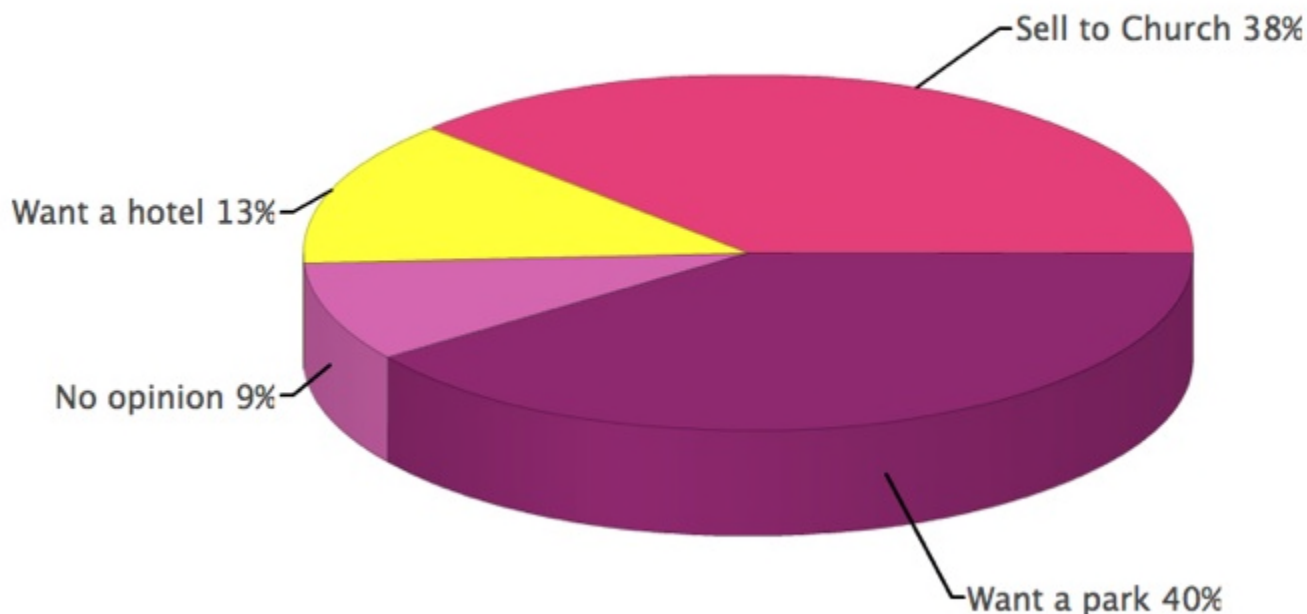
"The first question is about the city-owned land across from the Basilica of St. Lawrence. Some people favor a hotel, others selling the land to the church for their development, and others favor a public park.

If you favor the McKibbin Hotel, please press 1

If you favor selling the land to the Diocese of Charlotte, press 2

If you favor a public park, press 3

If you have no opinion, press 4"



A new poll released today shows that most Asheville voters do not want to see a hotel on the city-owned property across from the Civic Center.

PARC PAC obtained a phone list of all Asheville voters who cast ballots in at least two of the last three City elections. That list included 8,713 consistently engaged voters: Unaffiliated, Republican, Democrat. We employed an automated phone polling company to conduct the survey. 40 percent favored a public park, 35 percent want to sell the land to the Catholic church and 25 percent favor a hotel on the site (the rest indicated "no opinion.")



The poll was conducted after the *Citizen-Times*' big front-page story last Tuesday and McKibbin's public presentation of its plan. So even after all of our persuasion the developers must muster, the public still opposes a hotel in that location.

A seven story hotel looming over the Basilica came in dead last among those who answered the question.



The church has said that it would use the property for parking for now and would sell at a later date for development. This is their rendering of a four-story building and a paved patio.

Some people are under the mistaken impression that the church wants the property for greenspace but that is not the case.

I believe it is time to withdraw the defunct deal the City made with McKibbin back in 2008 (they defaulted on their contract to complete the project within 2-3 years). We need to rethink use of this space in line with citizen preferences.

-Cecil Bothwell
Asheville City Council

St. Lawrence Green would be a park where people are: going to and coming from the Civic Center, the Church, the Green Arcade, Pack Memorial Library, the Battery Park, and the Vanderbilt.



Ben Fulmer

From: Paula MacDonald <paula@mckibbonhotels.com> on behalf of Paula MacDonald
Sent: Monday, August 06, 2012 6:31 PM
To: Chris Pelly
Cc: Charlie Thomas; Laura Thomas
Subject: Re: John McKibbon - Meeting with PARC

Wonderful, thanks very much. Look forward to hearing from Charlie and Laura. Have a great evening.



Paula MacDonald | Director of Communications
McKibbon Hotel Management, Inc.
5315 Avion Park Drive, Suite 120 | Tampa, Florida 33607
p: 813.472.7390 | f: 813.241.2389 | c: 813.545.1009
| www.mckibbon.com | www.facebook.com/mckibbonhotels

From: Chris Pelly <chrispelly@avlcouncil.com>
Date: Monday, August 6, 2012 6:29 PM
To: Paula MacDonald <paula@mckibbonhotels.com>
Cc: Charlie Thomas <charlie@email.skyrunner.net>, Laura Thomas <purpletomorrow@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: John McKibbon - Meeting with PARC

Hello Ms. MacDonald,

I am forwarding your message to Charlie and Laura Thomas who are leaders of PARC.

I am pleased Mr. McKibbon is seeking a meeting with PARC leaders and am hopeful they are available to meet tomorrow.

Thank you,

Chris Pelly,
Asheville City Council

On Mon, Aug 6, 2012 at 6:00 PM, Paula MacDonald <paula@mckibbonhotels.com> wrote:
Good Evening Councilman Pelly,

I work with John McKibbon, and he asked that I get in touch with you. We are hoping to arrange a meeting with the leadership of PARC very soon, possibly tomorrow, if someone might be available, to go over McKibbon's new Haywood Street designs in a one-on-one meeting. John could be available for a meeting anytime between 10:30 and 2:00.

Who would be the best person to contact to accomplish this?

Thanks very much for your assistance.



Paula MacDonald | Director of Communications
McKibbon Hotel Management, Inc.
5315 Avion Park Drive, Suite 120 | Tampa, Florida 33607

Ben Fulmer

From: Paula MacDonald <paula@mckibbonhotels.com> on behalf of Paula MacDonald
Sent: Monday, August 06, 2012 6:01 PM
To: chrispelly@avlcouncil.com
Subject: John McKibbon - Meeting with PARC

Good Evening Councilman Pelly,

I work with John McKibbon, and he asked that I get in touch with you. We are hoping to arrange a meeting with the leadership of PARC very soon, possibly tomorrow, if someone might be available, to go over McKibbon's new Haywood Street designs in a one-on-one meeting. John could be available for a meeting anytime between 10:30 and 2:00.

Who would be the best person to contact to accomplish this?

Thanks very much for your assistance.



Paula MacDonald | Director of Communications
McKibbon Hotel Management, Inc.
5315 Avion Park Drive, Suite 120 | Tampa, Florida 33607
p: 813.472.7390 | f: 813.241.2389 | c: 813.545.1009
| www.mckibbon.com | www.facebook.com/mckibbonhotels

Ben Fulmer

From: Rita Livezey <rdlive@charter.net> on behalf of Rita Livezey
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2012 4:11 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov; Elaine Lite
Cc: 'Maggie Burleson'; John Boyle
Subject: FW: McKibbon and Basilica
Attachments: 5 24 2012 ltr from W Louis Bissette Jr re- The Basilica of St Lawrence Project.pdf

Madam Mayor, Vice Mayor, Members of the City Council, and Members of PARC,

The email below, in response to Paula MacDonald of the McKibbon Group, clarifies the Basilica's position on the Haywood St. property issue. We feel the recent press release by McKibbon referring to "meetings with the Basilica" is misleading as implying some sort of collaboration between McKibbon and the Basilica that clearly does not exist. We have received a number of calls from people who are outraged, assuming from the statement that we were moving forward in a collaborative relationship with the McKibbon Group. Hopefully this will put those rumors to rest.

Very sincerely,

Rita Livezey
Social Justice Commissioner | Roman Catholic Parish of the Basilica of St. Lawrence | Asheville, NC

View Proposed St. Lawrence Plaza
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0A5NGEW3Gc>

Sign Petition Supporting St. Lawrence Plaza
<http://www.change.org/petitions/city-council-of-asheville-north-carolina-negotiate-to-sell-property-opposite-basilica-to-diocese-of-charlotte>

From: MMMLLC [mailto:MMMLInvestments@charter.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 01, 2012 9:10 PM
To: paula@mckibbonhotels.com
Cc: 'Rita Livezey'; 'Bud Hansbury'
Subject: McKibbon and Basilica

Dear Ms. MacDonald,
Letter further forwarded to Pastor/Rector Fr. Wilbur Thomas, Bud Hansbury and Rita Livezey.

I appreciate your communication to the Basilica and the communication letter from John McKibbon to the Basilica and Bishop.

I am in receipt of both. Our Pastor/Rector, the Very Rev. Fr. Wilbur Thomas, informed me that he was planning to respond to John McKibbon's letter directly.

These past few weeks have been a very busy schedule for our Pastor..

I am the senior advisor for the real estate interest surrounding the Basilica of St. Lawrence and was appointed that position by our Pastor/Rector Fr. Wilbur Thomas. I also communicate with the Diocese on matters regarding our proposed acquisition of the Haywood Site. I also serve as member of the Parish Pastoral Council that report on these matters to the council and Pastor.

RE: 2007 RFQ

Though we appreciate your enthusiasm regarding your hopes on the 2007 RFQ, along with the marketing of your meeting on August 7th, some of the information you have been given is misrepresented. Bud Hansbury as Operation Director of the Basilica and Matt Mores (myself) have not met with any McKibbon representatives for almost five years. Though

John McKibbon was very considerate, the results coming out of that meeting and drawings we saw were not in line with anything the Basilica would approve. In March 2012 I had only one meeting with ADC that was very successful. This ended with receiving their support to help with designs of our plaza and they agreed to support, at that time, the Basilica having private state statute rights to the Haywood site development. The next day the director of ADC called me to apologize that he had to reverse their decision to support us and that he was informed by certain city staff not to get ADC involved with the Basilica “because this is too hot of an issue”.

RE: Basilica offer to purchase:

The Bishop on behalf of the Basilica presented an offer to purchase the Haywood site January 17, 2012. At that time we were also lead to believe the 2007 RFQ was no longer valid or had expired. The city requested we present this offer at City Council on January 10, 2012. The offer was presented and received with no objections and was further directed to be presented to the Planning and Economic Development (PED) the following Tuesday, January 17. It was not until this meeting on January 17th that we were stunned that city staff was directing the members of City Council at PED to a resurrection of a five year old 2007 RFQ.

RE: Meetings with John McKibbon (no other meetings were approved)

On behalf of the Basilica, I made two attempts to meet with John McKibbon for a private one on one meeting. The first time was through an associate Dennis Pearson in January 2012. The second time was through our attorney in March 2012. A private meeting was never considered or accepted by John McKibbon.

RE: Basilica has a committed developer (No other relationship today will be approved)

At the request of city staff and certain city council members, we were asked to deliver a qualified developer for the St. Lawrence Plaza before we could be considered for private negotiations and private development rights. This has now been addressed with the announcement and commitment of Richard Kessler, who we feel comes very qualified with a strong historical construction background in almost all his projects. This type of construction coincides with what we vision for the property fronting the Basilica.

Richard Kessler and John McKibbon also met by phone to confirm the arrangement of this engagement with the Basilica on July 6th.

RE: Basilica's Firm Direction: May 24th 2012 letter is in the public record.

Though some misguided meetings may have occurred because of the request of certain city staff to have these meetings, as of the May 24th letter, this is the only direction approved by the Basilica.

Please see the attached letter that went to the city on May 24, 2012. This letter was written following a lengthy meeting between Fr. Wilbur Thomas and counsel and written at the direction of Fr. Wilbur Thomas. This is the only defined direction that should be followed in regards to the Basilica. There were no other authorized meetings of engagement that should have been occurring before this letter and definitely not after this May 24th date.

Brief Defined Points:

- The Basilica does not support a hotel on this site.
- The Basilica is requesting private development rights and believes that the state statute for historical relevance, NCGS.160a-266, is written to protect this exact situation and carries more significance than an RFQ.
- The Basilica is the most qualified to protect its interest with construction around the 103 year old structure. We do not believe any developer should be allowed to take that liability risk without the Basilica signing off and controlling construction parameters.
- At the request of the city to deliver a developer before being considered for private negotiations under state statute, the Basilica will deliver Richard Kessler as a partner once these private rights are granted.

I apologize, but I see no grounds at this point to recognize the 2007 RFQ as relevant to today's economy and feasibility for city conveying city own property, nor will we support allowing a hotel on this site working against the other private hotel groups. The only direction we approve is spelled out in the May 24th letter. This communication was further defined with the city over the past week.

I am sure you can understand how your invite for August 7 as written is very misleading to our constituents and advocate support.

I will be in and out of my office until August 7th with limited email, but if additional information is required, both Bud Hansbury and Rita Livezey are qualified to respond.

Sincerely,
Matt Mores

Also attached is a response from Rita Livezey, who along with carrying one of the most important positions at the Basilica, also manages communication of the web site, which is the Basilica's platform for setting the correct direction.

Ms. MacDonald,

Unfortunately it is not merely my opinion that the quote is misleading. While it may have been literally accurate that there were some meetings attended in common, we have received a number of calls from people who are outraged, assuming from the statement that we were moving forward in a collaborative relationship with the McKibbon Group.

Very sincerely,
Rita Livezey

From: Paula MacDonald [<mailto:paula@mckibbonhotels.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 01, 2012 4:35 PM
To: rdlive@charter.net
Subject: McKibbon Hotel Group Haywood Site Meeting - August 7

Ms. Livezey,

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding our upcoming meeting on August 7 to present McKibbon's latest site renderings to the public. It is our sincere desire to include all members of the Asheville community in this important process, including interested friends and members of the St. Lawrence Basilica.

Regarding your opinion that the reference to meeting with the Basilica in Mr. McKibbon's quote is misleading and should be publicly retracted, I must respectfully disagree with you. McKibbon's development team has, in fact, met at least five times with Basilica representatives (with at least three of those meetings occurring in the last 60 days), along with the Asheville Design Center and representatives of the City. These meetings were attended by various representatives of the Basilica, including architect John Ellis, Basilica counsel Louis Bisette, and Basilica representatives Matt Mores and Bud Hansbury. Additionally, John McKibbon reached out personally to Father Thomas, Bishop Jugis and the St. Lawrence Parish Pastoral Council in a letter dated July 13, 2012, asking for a personal meeting to discuss the project and plans, with no response to his request. I believe that McKibbon Hotel Group has made a good faith effort to involve the Basilica in every step of the process to this point, and has consistently attempted to include the Basilica in design discussions.

I do hope that Basilica representatives will reconsider attending the meeting on August 7, and look forward to correspondence from Father Thomas. Thank you for providing me with an update regarding the management of content of the St. Lawrence Plaza website.



Paula MacDonald | Director of Communications
McKibbon Hotel Management, Inc.
5315 Avion Park Drive, Suite 120 | Tampa, Florida 33607
p: 813.472.7390 | f: 813.241.2389 | c: 813.545.1009

| www.mckibbon.com | www.facebook.com/mckibbonhotels

Ben Fulmer

From: Christopher Pratt <christopher.jimmie.pratt@gmail.com> on behalf of Christopher Pratt
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 9:03 PM
To: Maria Mason; Bud Hansbury; PARC; AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Cc: Carmen Ramos-Kennedy; Anne Fitzgerald Smith; Briggs Sherwood; Jane Whitman; Sue & Jim Donato; Bob Long -Musician; Will Teller -Musician; Thomas Nelson -Musician; Blaine Greenfield; Charlie Thomas; Allison Biddix; John Bascom -Musician; Alex Burch - Musician; Bill & Marleen Hutt; Frank Kirkland
Subject: Re: McKibbon Hotel Group Public Meeting - Haywood Street Project

Did the McKibbon group develop this plan "Through meetings with the Basilica" as this email states?

And when will the Kessler Group be given the same opportunity?

Chris

On Tue, Jul 31, 2012 at 5:46 PM, Maria Mason <mariamaso@gmail.com> wrote:
EXCELLENT, Dr. Pratt.
Hey, everyone: PASS THIS ON!!!
Respectfully yours,
Maria Mason

Begin forwarded message:

From: Christopher Pratt <christopher.jimmie.pratt@gmail.com>
Date: July 31, 2012 4:35:59 PM EDT
To: "Dr. Christopher Pratt" <christopher.jimmie.pratt@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: FW: McKibbon Hotel Group Public Meeting - Haywood Street Project

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Maggie Burleson** <MBurleson@ashevillenc.gov>
Date: Tue, Jul 31, 2012 at 3:04 PM
Subject: FW: McKibbon Hotel Group Public Meeting - Haywood Street Project
To: Cecil Bothwell <cecil@braveulysses.com>, Chris Pelly <chrispelly@avlcouncil.com>, Esther Manheimer <emanheimer@vwlawfirm.com>, Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com>, Jan Davis <jandavis@avlcouncil.com>, Marc Hunt <marchunt@avlcouncil.com>, Mayor Bellamy <mayorbellamy@avlcouncil.com>

City Council is invited to the following:

McKIBBON HOTEL GROUP TO PRESENT FIRST DESIGN DRAWINGS

FOR HAYWOOD STREET PROPERTY

Public invited to preview plans for mixed-use hotel, plaza/piazza, restaurant and retail development

(ASHEVILLE, NC –07/31/12) **McKibbon Hotel Group, Inc.** will present the first design drawings for their proposed development of the city-owned Haywood Street site, across the street from the Basilica of St. Lawrence and the U.S. Cellular Center on **Tuesday, August 7 at 5:30 p.m.** at the **U.S. Cellular Center Banquet Room, 2nd floor, 87 Haywood Street, Asheville.** The meeting is open to the public, and **doors will open at 5:00 p.m.** for seating and preview of site renderings.

“Through meetings with the Basilica, the Asheville Design Center and City representatives, we are prepared to develop a property that will enhance the neighborhood and complement the Basilica, which is such an important historic landmark for our city,” explained **John McKibbon**, Chairman of McKibbon Hotel Group. McKibbon will lead the 30-minute presentation, and will ask for public comment at the meeting’s conclusion.

In addition to the presentation of new site renderings, the meeting will include:

✍ McKibbon Company History, Previous Urban Projects and Company Involvement in Asheville Community – John McKibbon, Chairman

✍ Overview of the Haywood Project – Architects Buck Lindsay and Chad Roberson, Lindsay Pope Brayfield Clifford and Associates

✍ Precautions That Will Be Taken to Protect Surrounding Buildings During Construction – Jill Heimburg, PE, AMEC Environment & Infrastructure, Asheville, NC

About McKibbon Hotel Group, Inc./McKibbon Hotel Management, Inc.

McKibbon Hotel Group, Inc., based in Gainesville, Georgia, is a privately owned enterprise that has grown into an award-winning premier real estate developer and owner of nationally franchised hotel brands for Marriott, Hilton, Starwood and Hyatt hotels. McKibbon is proud to be a recognized leader for over 87 years in the hospitality industry, and McKibbon Hotel Management, Inc., based in Tampa, Florida, currently operates over 65 mid and upscale brands in 8 states throughout the Southeast. The company has a rich history and culture that promotes a family oriented environment, while holding true to its core values of honesty, integrity and loyalty. For more information, visit www.mckibbon.com.



Paula MacDonald | Director of Communications

McKibbon Hotel Management, Inc.

5315 Avion Park Drive, Suite 120 | Tampa, Florida 33607

p: [813.472.7390](tel:813.472.7390) | f: [813.241.2389](tel:813.241.2389) | c: [813.545.1009](tel:813.545.1009) | www.mckibbon.com | www.facebook.com/mckibbonhotels

|

Ben Fulmer

From: Ann Green <veganchik@hotmail.com> on behalf of Ann Green
Sent: Saturday, June 30, 2012 5:38 AM
To: City Council;PARC
Subject: McKibbon plan

Please listen to the citizens who elected you and make a green space in front of the Basilica instead of allowing one (not even local) company to build yet another hotel!

Thank you.

Ann Green

Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 8:13 AM
To: Cathy Early
Cc: City Council;PARC
Subject: Re: St Lawrence Green

Ms. Early,

I appreciate you writing in. There has been a lot of misinformation going around, and I'm glad for the opportunity to clarify the situation and my stance on it. It's been great to have so much interest and enthusiasm for seeing a good use and good design.

The short wrap-up in this: Nothing has been decided. McKibbon and the Basilica are in talks with the Asheville Design Center. There are several options available.

McKibbon hotel group was awarded rights to this property following a Request For Proposals (RFP) process, in which they were the sole applicant. The process was open to all bidders. I favored allowing that RFP to expire, but Council voted to extend it in 2010. The agreement is not complete in that there has not been a development agreement written and signed. This means that, even if Council decided to allow McKibbon to go ahead, there would be specific requirements for any building on the site.

The Basilica has made several offers, but there are, as of now, very few specifics attached to their offers. The Basilica and McKibbon representatives are working with the Asheville Design Center to determine what design might best preserve the integrity of the treasured Basilica and open up some public space on the site. I am looking forward to learning more about the outcome of these discussions.

As to a park, the city is not in a position to make that kind of ongoing investment. Having just taken on maintenance responsibilities for Pack Square Park, the city is stretched to the limit. While we're optimistic about seeing the end of this recession, we must be responsible with our expenditures. Parks are wonderful, but they have a cost and don't generate revenue.

A fourth option is to reissue the Request for Proposals in an effort to have a use for the site that respects the integrity of the Basilica, provides for some public space, and complements all of the surrounding properties. This is direction I'm leaning right now. This process would again be open to any entity that wanted to make a proposal. Council would determine the specific requirements for proposals.

I hope this is helpful information, and thank you again for the opportunity,

Gordon Smith

On Thu, Jun 28, 2012 at 3:53 PM, Cathy Early <cearly@plumdogfinancial.com> wrote:

I wholeheartedly support the Green area in front of St. Lawrence. That end of town is in desperate need of a face lift, plus it would be shame not to highlight and showcase a beautiful monument and building such as St Lawrence.

I hope City council can have a long term vision. The City of Asheville will continue to grow, and we should be cognizant of keeping some special areas of the City special, as the Green area in front of the church certainly would do.

Thank you.

Cathy Early

ID #58767

Mortgage Manager

PlumDog Financial

NMLS # 58590

p 828 274-1515

f 828 274-1514

c 828 242-7194

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PlumDog happily donates \$50 for every loan closed to Mission Children's Hospital.

Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 8:08 AM
To: Tracy Hildebrand
Cc: City Council;PARC
Subject: Re: Land across from Basilica

Ms. Hildebrand,

I appreciate you writing in. There has been a lot of misinformation going around, and I'm glad for the opportunity to clarify the situation and my stance on it. It's been great to have so much interest and enthusiasm for seeing a good use and good design.

The short wrap-up in this: Nothing has been decided. McKibbon and the Basilica are in talks with the Asheville Design Center. There are several options available.

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A fourth option is to reissue the Request for Proposals in an effort to have a use for the site that respects the integrity of the Basilica, provides for some public space, and complements all of the surrounding properties. This is direction I'm leaning right now. This process would again be open to any entity that wanted to make a proposal. Council would determine the specific requirements for proposals.

I hope this is helpful information, and thank you again for the opportunity,

Gordon Smith

On Thu, Jun 28, 2012 at 6:39 PM, Tracy Hildebrand <traceanna@bellsouth.net> wrote:

Dear City Council,

I urge you to reconsider the sale of the land across from Basilica to be developed into a hotel. Instead, I hope you will consider other options, including a greenway or selling the land to the Catholic church.

Thank you

Tracy Hildebrand

Ben Fulmer

From: Mike Walker <walkmex@yahoo.com> on behalf of Mike Walker
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 5:58 AM
To: City Council;PARC
Subject: St Lawrence Basilica "Park"

I strongly support establishing the land across from the Basilica as a green space. I am resident of 21 Battery Park and pay a lot of taxes to the city. Asheville could be a much better city than it is but it takes strong leadership & a vision to make it so. Please stand back and decide what you want Asheville to be and stop letting it evolve based on special interests.

Michael Walker
21 Battery Park Ave Suite 404

Ben Fulmer

From: Tracy Hildebrand <traceanna@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Tracy Hildebrand
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2012 6:39 PM
To: City Council;PARC
Subject: Land across from Basilica

Dear City Council,
I urge you to reconsider the sale of the land across from Basilica to be developed into a hotel. Instead, I hope you will consider other options, including a greenway or selling the land to the Catholic church.
Thank you
Tracy Hildebrand

Ben Fulmer

From: Tom Berner <tberner@charter.net> on behalf of Tom Berner
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2012 5:14 PM
To: City Council;PARC
Subject: land use

Please, please, a GREEN SPACE in front of the Basilica! Tom Berner, city resident, tax payer and voter. Thank you.

Ben Fulmer

From: Cathy Early <cearly@plumdogfinancial.com> on behalf of Cathy Early
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2012 3:53 PM
To: 'City Council'; 'PARC'
Subject: St Lawrence Green

I wholeheartedly support the Green area in front of St. Lawrence. That end of town is in desperate need of a face lift, plus it would be shame not to highlight and showcase a beautiful monument and building such as St Lawrence.

I hope City council can have a long term vision. The City of Asheville will continue to grow, and we should be cognizant of keeping some special areas of the City special, as the Green area in front of the church certainly would do.

Thank you.

Cathy Early

ID #58767

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Ben Fulmer

From: Susan Kokora <susankokora@charter.net> on behalf of Susan Kokora
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2012 2:17 PM
To: City Council;PARC
Subject: a park

Dear City Council,

I love the idea of a park across from the St. Lawrence Basilica.

Our beautiful city would do well do have more green areas both for tourists and residents.

A park would be an area of aesthetic beauty for our city. As our climate continues to warm, it would be a desired retreat for visitors.

I am traveling abroad this summer and I have found many of the parks in Europe to be stunning "draws" for people...areas of culture (ie. visiting musicians, bands, symphonies), places of relaxation to sit and relax, spots where nature can find a nook, ie. birds, squirrels, gardens, trees, etc. I would love to see Asheville provide more parks/green spaces downtown.

It would sadden me to see another parking deck and high rise across from the Basilica.

I appreciate the work you do for our city.

Susan Kokora & John Combs
19 Melrose Ave.
Asheville, NC 28804

Ben Fulmer

From: sandy jones <smilesandyj@gmail.com> on behalf of sandy jones
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2012 11:22 AM
To: City Council;PARC
Subject: PLEASE!

why must you close our city in with large looming hotels...that take away from the beauty and uniqueness of this city?

the aloft hotel....at that spot you could see the sunset over our mountains....now all you see is a tall building that blocks the reason people come here. to enjoy the outdoors.

I used to live near charlotte....and the people that visit here are always asking me why so many buildings are being built in asheville.... THEY DO NOT COME HERE FOR THE HOTELS! They like the outdoor venues, festivals, music, and outside cafes, art galleries, walking the streets and going into the unique stores. I have been told numerous times if asheville starts becoming like other bigger cities...where the streets are closed in by building after building....they will just stay home.

PLEASE LISTEN....we don't NEED another hotel...or high rise of any sort. This is my second letter to you.

Ben Fulmer

From: Cindi Sutherland <sutherlandc@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Cindi Sutherland
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2012 11:21 AM
To: City Council;PARC

Please do what is innately in accord with the beauty of the city!

Ben Fulmer

From: Richard Stiles <Richard.Stiles@ProsperaFinancial.com> on behalf of Richard Stiles
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2012 10:36 AM
To: City Council;PARC
Subject: St Lawrence

Mayor and City Council,

I'm responding in regards to the City's deliberations surrounding the public property in front of the St Lawrence Basilica. While I appreciate the economic impact a hotel would contribute to the tax base, I'm opposed to crowding the historic Basilica with just another commercial big box.

Possibly if the proposed development was historic in nature or of such unique design as to compliment the existing church property I might feel differently; however, McKibben's contribution to the City's "skyscape" on Biltmore Ave is visual proof that either the developer or the proposed development needs further review.

This reminds me of the 1980s effort to build a mall downtown. Too many in the leadership were convinced the mall was the answer when in fact we have learned that Asheville's success is derived from rebuilding upon our unique architectural inventory.

Guastavino's masterpiece must not be comprised! Treat it as a lode-stone and if a building is necessary, let it be complimentary and not a distraction.

Your consideration is appreciated,
Richard Stiles

Richard Stiles

Hansen Stiles & Associates
117 Cherry Street
Asheville, NC 28801
Phone (828)255-5227
Fax (828)505-4952

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Ben Fulmer

From: Robert Eaton Kelley <reatonkelley@charter.net> on behalf of Robert Eaton Kelley
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2012 7:12 AM
To: City Council;PARC
Subject: Create St. Lawrence Green!

Listen to the Citizenry: Create St. Lawrence Green!

Robert Kelley
28803

Ben Fulmer

From: Rachel Sternberg <rsternberg1@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Rachel Sternberg
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 5:14 PM
To: City Council;PARC
Subject: Land in front of St. Lawrence'

Dear Council Members~

I'm writing to **STRONGLY** urge you to reserve the land in front of the St. Lawrence Basilica for a **GREEN SPACE** - such as a park that would enhance downtown immeasurably, provide an inviting face to visitors, and serve **ALL** the people in the Asheville community.

We have enough hotels. We definitely do not need another, high priced hotel in the downtown area. But we have only Pritchard Park downtown and another green space to provide a place for rest would be the best use of that land. And, with the Basilica such a lovely and important feature of the Asheville landscape, it would be a crime to "hide it" behind a large building. The Basilica is a natural accompaniment to a beautiful green space.

Please do not let outside interests and corporate greed influence your decision. That land should be for **ALL** the **PEOPLE**.

Thank you for your consideration.
Rachel Sternberg

Ben Fulmer

From: S DUMONT <sarahdumont@bellsouth.net> on behalf of S DUMONT
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 5:10 PM
To: City Council;PARC
Subject: St Lawrence green space

Good Day,

I strongly urge you to earmark the space proposed for hotel/parking development as a green space park. This will greatly enhance the downtown Asheville area, serving residents as well as tourists. We have adequate hotel rooms in or near downtown, but are sadly lacking in beautiful natural areas for locals and visitors to relax and recreate in. Asheville needs this to keep attracting tourists.

Please listen to the wishes of those of us who love Asheville, pay taxes, and vote, and make the progressive choice to say yes to preserving and creating a nurturing and beautiful space for all Asheville to enjoy for many years to come.

Sincerely,
Sarah Dumont

Ben Fulmer

From: Ruby D. Moore <rubydhaliwal@yahoo.com> on behalf of Ruby D. Moore
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 2:26 PM
To: City Council;PARC
Subject: st. lawrence

Hello City Council,

I am writing to advocate that the area in front of the St. Lawrence Basilica not be sold for a hotel. I'm not sure that Asheville downtown needs another hotel and I definitely don't think so in that area.

Having just visited Greenville, SC last night, we were very impressed with the open areas in the downtown there. Inviting, clean, GREEN-I think that your foresight is necessary in making sure our city is a great place to live, work, and play for its citizens-this will automatically make it more appealing for tourists and their dollars.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,
Ruby Moore
North Asheville resident

Ben Fulmer

From: Mary Johnson <rmjohnson@gmail.com> on behalf of Mary Johnson
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 11:53 AM
To: City Council;PARC
Subject: Parks over pavement

You got it. I am for another park and want you to listen! Please hear the voices of the residents of Asheville. When we moved here in 1982 the city motto was COOL, GREEN ASHEVILLE. Mary and Randy Johnson

Sent from my iPhone

Ben Fulmer

From: Gurley <mfgurley@charter.net> on behalf of Gurley
Sent: Sunday, June 24, 2012 7:20 PM
To: City Council;PARC
Subject: St. Lawrence Green

Council Members,

I would like to add my name to the long list of Asheville citizens who appreciate our city green spaces. Setting aside public areas for enjoyment by residents and visitors is quite important. It is rare that the Council has the rare opportunity to make this important addition of a park in downtown Asheville. The location across from the beautiful Basilica of St. Lawrence could hardly be improved upon as a site in which we could all enjoy a restful moment.

Please consider carefully before letting this slip through our fingers.

Thank you for thinking of the future,
Marianne Gurley

Ben Fulmer

From: Lorraine Plaxico <lplaxico@charter.net> on behalf of Lorraine Plaxico
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 6:15 AM
To: 'City Council'; 'PARC'
Subject: park

PLEASE consider that Asheville is a tourist magnet because we are so unique, so unlike every other town. Great cities have great parks. Parks are destinations too. Look at Washington DC. New York. London. We really have very few downtown. The Basilica is our touch of Europe..please keep it that way!

Thank you,
Lorraine

Ben Fulmer

From: Carole Wilson <quietlykayaking@gmail.com> on behalf of Carole Wilson
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 6:57 PM
To: City Council;PARC
Subject: McKibben Project

Please City Council--look at the history of opposition to this McKibben project--and please think strongly about selling this land to the Basillica. We have enough sterile uncreative bldgs. like BB&T ruining the viewsheds. Not everything is about money, and people in Asheville aren't here for city life. I do not know anyone for this personally. Thanks, Carole Wilson

Ben Fulmer

From: Pat McKee <PMcKee@CarolinaEHS.com> on behalf of Pat McKee
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 12:05 PM
To: 'City Council'; 'PARC'
Subject: Basilica property

I urge you to vote against selling the property across from the St. Lawrence Basilica to McKibbin Properties. This land belongs to the citizens of Asheville and should be put to use for the benefit of all, not for the wealthiest among us. Another green space in this city would offer enjoyment to residents and to visitors.

Pat McKee
25 Brookwood Road
Asheville NC 28804

Ben Fulmer

From: Joe and Frances Sechler <f105driver@gmail.com> on behalf of Joe and Frances Sechler
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 11:45 AM
To: City Council , PARC
Subject: Oppose MccKibbon Project

I strongly oppose the MccKibbon project - the proposed hotel in front of the Basilica. Smart cities, especially those which rely primarily on tourists for revenue, establish and maintain beautiful parks and greenways. That is what we need in the subject vacant lot; no more concrete and high rises. There's plenty of lodging for tourists. We need to find them more places to sit in the shade and soak in the total ambiance of Asheville.

Hotel - no; park - yes

Joe Sechler

Ben Fulmer

From: Kathy Patrick <msclarkin@gmail.com> on behalf of Kathy Patrick
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 10:59 PM
To: City Council;PARC
Subject: greenway

I feel strongly that a greenway/park is the best way to use this property....what a beautiful addition to our wonderful city!

Ben Fulmer

From: Martha Wight <martha7b@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Martha Wight
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 9:40 PM
To: City Council;PARC
Subject: Park in front of St. Lawrence

A park makes the most sense, please use the land in front of the church wisely and think twice before voting for another high rise that detracts from our lovely city instead of adds to it. Eventually a high rise will become old and out of date, but a park will be everlasting green and easily loved by those downtown.

martha Wight
64 Willowbrook Road
Asheville, NC

Ben Fulmer

From: Lynn Eddy <Lynn.Eddy@charter.net> on behalf of Lynn Eddy
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 9:32 PM
To: 'City Council'; 'PARC'
Subject: Across from the Basilica

Please don't take away the charm of our city any more than has already been done. Certainly it's not all about tourists, but most of them don't seek out Asheville for its luxury hotels. The space across from the Basilica should be a beautiful park!

Lynn Eddy
25 Gardenwood Lane
Asheville, 28803

Ben Fulmer

From: Sara May <maybloomer@yahoo.com> on behalf of Sara May
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 6:20 PM
To: City Council;PARC
Subject: We need a park across from the Basilica, not another hotel

Dear Asheville City Council members,

Please heed the above message and act on it--do the right thing!

Thanks,
Sara May
38 Campground Road
Asheville, NC 28805

Ben Fulmer

From: marci@aquamystique.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 6:12 PM
To: City@aquamystique.com;PARC
Subject: St. Lawrence Basilica

I am horrified to find out that a hotel (!!!!!) might be built across from the basilica, destroying the look at and the look from this priceless piece of Asheville architectural history. We don't need another hotel downtown!!!

For God's sake, don't do this. Allow the church, which is paying good money, to beautify the space for the benefit of the city and all its residents and tourists.

Keep the basilica visible to everyone.

Sincerely,

Marcianne Miller
149 Beverly Rd.
Asheville, NC 28805
phone: 828-505-3185
email: marci@aquamystique.com

Ben Fulmer

From: Lew Gelfond <mail@lewelfond.com> on behalf of Lew Gelfond
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 4:53 PM
To: City Council;PARC
Subject: land in front of Basilica of St. Lawrence

Dear City Council Members - I am opposed to selling the parcel of land in front of the church to be used for a hotel. The church is a beautiful landmark, and the residents of Asheville would be better served if the parcel of land in front of it were developed as a park. Susan Jensen, 43 Vermont Court 28806

Ben Fulmer

From: Bill Maloney <maloneyw@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Bill Maloney
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 2:51 PM
To: 'City Council'; 'PARC'
Subject: Sell the land to the Basilica

To City Council Members:

I would like to see the City sell the land to the Basilica of St. Lawrence.

We have plenty of hotels and the occupancy is around 63%.

We have only One Historic Basilica.

Asheville is a Tourism City. People do not come here to see our hotels.

Invest in one more reason why people should visit us.

Selling the property to the Basilica is wise for tax dollars and it's a smart investment in the future of Asheville.

Sincerely,

Bill Maloney
President, Software Solutions of Asheville, Inc.
Custom Microsoft Database Applications
MCAS Microsoft Certified Application Specialist

Office: 828-258-1171
Cell: 828-230-0103
www.swsolution.com

Ben Fulmer

From: Michael Wechter <mswclu@att.net> on behalf of Michael Wechter
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 2:38 PM
To: City Council;PARC
Cc: mswclu@att.net
Subject: property accross from the Basilica

It's time that council listen to those it has been elected to represent. There are 2 hotels already within a block that are hardly bursting at the seams with occupancy! Why must this city consistently grant almost every developers wish list to the detriment of the residents? (McKibbon is already building another hotel on Biltmore, how many more are needed?)

Thank you,
Michael Wechter

Ben Fulmer

From: Lynn Morningstar <Lynn_Morningstar@ZuckerStar.net> on behalf of Lynn Morningstar
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 2:38 PM
To: City Council;PARC
Subject: NO HOTEL

NO HOTEL ACROSS FROM THE BASILICA IN ASHEVILLE NORTH CAROLINA.

Lynn Morningstar
209 White Pine
Asheville, NC 28805

Ben Fulmer

From: Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> on behalf of Leonard Carrier
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2012 3:30 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: PARC proposal

Dear Council Members,

As an Asheville City taxpayer, I support the plan of PARC to turn the land adjacent to the St. Lawrence Basilica into a green space. I am opposed to having another hotel built anywhere on this property.

Sincerely,

Leonard S. Carrier
26 Stonebridge Drive
Asheville, NC 28805-1464

Ben Fulmer

From: George Fleming <georgefleming6@yahoo.com> on behalf of George Fleming
Sent: Sunday, June 10, 2012 4:23 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;'PARC'
Subject: St, Lawrence Green

I have been amazed that the City has been planning on going ahead with selling the land in front of St. Lawrence and the Civic Center. This is a very, very important decision that requires citizen input as it is selling off one of the last pieces of undeveloped downtown land. Especially when St Lawrence offered a better offer and their proposal provides a much needed green space...and we don't need more hotel rooms.

Bigger and more is the default mantra of an unconscious community and economic system!

Thank you.

George Fleming

Ben Fulmer

From: Marc Hunt <marchunt@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Marc Hunt
Sent: Friday, June 08, 2012 8:33 AM
To: 'Cecil Bothwell'; 'Charlie Thomas'
Cc: 'Gordon Smith'; 'Susan Griffin'; AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov; 'Peter Alberice'; 'Lou Bissette'; 'David Brown'; 'Asheville Grown Business Alliance'; 'Steve Frabitore'; 'Larry Harris'; 'Kim MacQueen'; 'Chuck Pickering'; 'Carol Schneidewind'; 'George Saenger'; 'Stephanie Swepson-Twitty'; 'Pat Whalen'
Subject: RE: Actual source...

Cecil

I believe you and I received an email from Maggie yesterday that included this:

This is a heads up on what will be posted on-line tomorrow. – PLEASE NOTE THREE MISSING ITEMS WHICH WILL BE POSTED ON-LINE TOMORROW : (New Belgium Brewery; BID resolution; and Moog Fest item).

Like you, I would love to have seen the draft resolution and ordinance earlier, but as you know, Bob Oast has been busier than ever lately.

Marc

From: Cecil Bothwell [mailto:cecil@braveulysses.com]
Sent: Friday, June 08, 2012 7:19 AM
To: Charlie Thomas
Cc: Gordon Smith; Susan Griffin; AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov; Peter Alberice; Lou Bissette; David Brown; Asheville Grown Business Alliance; Steve Frabitore; Larry Harris; Kim MacQueen; Chuck Pickering; Carol Schneidewind; George Saenger; Stephanie Swepson-Twitty; Pat Whalen
Subject: Re: Actual source...

I find it somewhat disturbing that the "documents" provided to Council, concerning the BID, in advance of the June 12 meeting, amount to a PowerPoint gloss.
No ordinance. No specifics. Just P.R.

-C

On Jun 7, 2012, at 10:03 PM, Charlie Thomas wrote:

All,

I've asked repeatedly for the actual proposal being made to Council and still have not received it, so like everyone else, I rely on news reports and what BID advocates say.

Here we are just five days from the Council meeting and we still don't have the proposal.

Are you really going to vote on a proposal that most people have not seen?

Charlie

On Jun 7, 2012, at 5:03 PM, Gordon Smith wrote:

I'm sure everyone is interested in seeing the most accurate information being disseminated, so people can make truly informed choices. Anything less wouldn't serve the people of Asheville. Here's hoping we can all keep our heads screwed on straight and have the most honest, rational conversation possible about the choices facing us. Many people depend on PARC for news and advocacy, and I'd hope that the group will endeavor to present an accurate representation with the latest facts. It's also my hope that BID proponents will understand that many people are just now tuning into the conversation about the plan, and it will require renewed, patient communication efforts to bring them up to speed on what's actually being proposed.

Gordon

On Thu, Jun 7, 2012 at 4:28 PM, Charlie Thomas <charlie@email.skyrunner.net> wrote:
Hi Susan,

Thanks for writing.

We got our information from your very own spokesman.

Joe Minicozzi said that the BID was modeled on the CVB, and that the BID, advertising in Buncombe County, would do for downtown what the CVB does nationwide for Asheville.

Joe said that advertising and street events would take most of the budget.

Joe also said that only 1/3 of the BID budget would be from the tax.

Furthermore, Joe said the BID would have a contract with the city that prevented any future possible reduction in services.

He was selling the BID to downtown businesses, and it worked. Most at the meeting were happy with it.

So it seems that your problem is not with us, it is with Joe.

Cheers,
Charlie

On Jun 7, 2012, at 12:50 PM, Susan Griffin wrote:

This is one of the most irresponsible mailings I have seen regarding the proposed BID. Had anyone contacted me or any other member of the Interim Board who actually has facts, this piece would never have been circulated. All the information seems to be taken from last year's open forums, which were held to educate the public about what BIDs *can* do, and what they do in other cities. In those forums we emphatically stated that there was no one way to do a BID, and any BID here would uniquely express the needs of Asheville, under the direction of the property owners and other stakeholders contributing to the BID. The Interim Board, made up of such property owners, was selected in January 2012 to come up with a specific proposal for downtown

Asheville. This mailing doesn't reflect their proposal, which will be presented to Council on June 12, but instead is filled with misinformation.

1. A BID is not modeled after the CVB. BIDs are a well-established and proven management tool, with over 1000 throughout the country and 50 in North Carolina alone. They are non-profit corporations set up to provide services the city can or will not provide. The money comes from property owners in the district, and is distributed by a Board responsible and responsive to, and in fact, made up of, those property owners, with provisions for other stakeholder input as well. The scope of programs and services to be provided are clearly laid out in the proposal. Although the proposal calls for the initial Board to be selected by the Interim Board, those members will have terms of 1-, 2-, or 3-years, with expected elections to replace the initial board on staggered terms. This ensures that the two and one-half years of research and institutional knowledge about BIDs will be carried forward as the services begin, but allows for elections going forward. The annual meetings will be open to all.
2. The proposed assessment will raise \$500k of the \$800k budget, much higher than the 1/3 stated below. Even so, the \$800k is a goal figure; we are still negotiating with the City and County on their contributions. Should the BID pass, our guaranteed budget will be about \$630k, enough to fully fund the Clean and Safe program and begin work on the advocacy program.
3. The proposal does not include any suggestion of a marketing or event function. In fact, only two programs are addressed in the proposal: a Clean and Safe function, and an Advocacy function. The Asheville Downtown Association recently decided to focus on Marketing and Events, and hired an Executive Director with experience in these areas. Their decision to draw back from an advocacy role was made in anticipation of a BID being implemented, which would take over that aspect. The BID would coordinate with the ADA as a downtown partner, but there is no provision in the BID proposal for any sort of marketing or event function.
4. The BID will provide specified services (the Clean and Safe program) regardless of city budgetary changes. By law, the services provided by a BID must *supplement* those already provided by the City. NC statutes also mandate that the city can not reduce the service level to a BID unless services are reduced city-wide. If the city reduces services across the board, they can also reduce services downtown. What the BID guarantees is that there will be a consistent, sustainable organization focused on the needs of downtown property owners, no matter what happens with City Council.
5. Downtown is used more heavily than any other area of the City. We have more tourists, more business, more people here every day. The city already provides a higher level of services here, but it is not enough to ensure that everyone who comes here has a great experience. We need a higher standard of cleanliness, and we property owners are willing to pay for that service ourselves. Of course property owners benefit as: more use = more sales = better environment to start businesses = more amenities for residents = more residential growth = more property and sales tax generated = **MORE MONEY TO BE SPREAD AMONG ALL CITY AND COUNTY RESIDENTS**. This is the only proposal on the table that doesn't simply ask for a piece of the pie, it makes the pie bigger to benefit all Buncombe country residents. We're not pitting downtown against the rest of the city; exactly the opposite. Instead of petitioning the city to give us a bigger share of the budget, we're offering to take on \$600k+ of those extra services ourselves. Most cities view the implementation of a BID as a gift, allowing them to better distribute services city-wide while leveraging existing services within the district.

The charge to the Downtown Management Committee, expressed in the proposal by the Interim Board, was to create an action plan for Strategy 7 of the Downtown Master Plan, managing downtown Asheville. Our goals, as set out in that document, include the following:

- Maintain the distinctive character and unique attributes that are so much a part of what makes Asheville Asheville

- Ensure that the Downtown is always clean, safe and green
- Empower Downtown property and business owners, residents, major employers and other key stakeholders to collaborate in making decisions and investments that support mutual Downtown interests

We are convinced that the proposed BID is the best way to carry out those directives.

Susan Griffin, Chair
Downtown Management Committee

6/6/12

What's wrong with the BID?

The biggest problem with the proposed Business Improvement District (BID) is that ***an unelected board would collect tax money and spend it as they wish.***

If this sounds familiar, that's because it is.

It's modeled on the much-criticised Convention and Visitors Bureau, which collects the hotel room tax and spends it on peeling signs and direct payments to zipline companies and nightclubs.

Like the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the new BID would replace the government function of spending tax money, in this case an additional property tax of seven cents per hundred downtown.

Organizers of the BID told business owners that the new tax would pay only one-third of the BID budget. One third would come from the City and County, and one third from grants. At one early meeting, when a property owner objected to a tax increase, another advised him to shut up, saying: "You're paying a nickel and getting fifteen cents."

That was then. Now that the BID is coming before Council, there's no more talk of "Pay a nickel, get fifteen cents." Now it's, "We just want to tax ourselves."

During the first BID organizing meetings, advocates said money would mainly be used to advertise downtown and to fund more street festivals. That pitch was successful with many downtown merchants.

But downtown residents would also have to pay the new tax (and many of them are not eager for more beer festivals). When they raised objections, organizers for the BID started saying that most of the money is going to the "Clean and Safe" program.

One of the most unusual aspects of the proposal has flown under the radar and received almost no attention.

That's the contract between the new BID and the City specifying that current city services downtown *cannot be reduced*.

In the words of the BID folks, "It does not matter who's on Council or who wins elections, services to downtown will stay the same." In the BID world, elections are irrelevant.

So in some future recession, services might be reduced to other parts of the city, **but not to downtown.**

If you live in Kenilworth or West Asheville, your services might be reduced, but not downtown where the merchants would have a contract with the city.

If the proposal passes, some future City Council might well have to cut services to schools or in the neighborhoods, but would be contractually bound to keep services downtown funded at the same level. **Is that fair?**

Democracy matters. Elections matter. Corporations shouldn't decide how tax dollars are spent. Downtown is part of Asheville, not a separate entity that needs its own treasury.

Asheville is one city, one entity. We don't need the divisions that the BID would create, pitting one area against another.

Susan Griffin
susanfgriffin@gmail.com

Ben Fulmer

From: Ted <digbygroove@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Ted
Sent: Friday, June 08, 2012 8:00 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: Park or developed

I want to go on record and express my desires that council leave the land undeveloped, and used as a public park

Ted williams

West Asheville

Ben Fulmer

From: Marcell Williams <mwnc31@aol.com> on behalf of Marcell Williams
Sent: Friday, June 08, 2012 6:58 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC <ashevilleparc@gmail.com>
Subject: Basilica of St. Lawrence

I am writing to express my concern regarding the vacant lot across from the church. For the life of me I can't understand why the city don't sell the lot to the church. All we need is another hotel/motel in the downtown district. It is so crowded now that I hardly go down town anymore and this would be one more reason to stay away. The lot would make a great place for a park and it would connect the church and the grove arcade area. It would be a great place for people to stop and relax for a few minutes as they enjoy our town. Seems \$ is the deciding factor in everything that is done nowadays. Please let the people decide the fate of the lot. Let "us" the people decide. Thank you for your time. Carolyn R. Williams. 20 Sedgefield Road, Candler, NC 28715 (yes, I'm live in the city limits)

Ben Fulmer

From: Chas Fitzgerald <cfitz@WilBowUSA.com> on behalf of Chas Fitzgerald
Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2012 11:28 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: City property across from Basilica

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

No doubt you are feeling the groundswell of opposition to selling the city-owned property to McKibbin for a highrise hotel.

I have no issues with utilizing downtown property for redevelopment, and the more intensely and efficiently land is utilized downtown to make use of the existing infrastructure and walkability is good planning.

However, one must remember that the land is owned by tax dollars of the citizens and the citizens are voicing their concerns and objections to this proposal.

The Basilica is one of downtown's landmarks and attractions to tourists of all faiths who are interested in its unique self supporting tile dome. Does the City not benefit from tourism?

You have the chance as stewards of the public investment to enhance public spaces for citizens and tourists by improving a portion of the property to be a plaza for the convention center that affords breathing space in front of the church and serves to protect the historic structure from structural damage that major construction could cause directly across the street.

Furthermore, to continue to honor a contract when the developer has been in technical default on the purchase contract for literally years is suspect. Any other seller would have terminated the option or the contract long ago. The property needs to be put out to the market for proposal and let the citizens have input as to the best proposal, with the City requiring or retaining land for a public plaza.

Respectfully,

Chas Fitzgerald

Ben Fulmer

From: JJ Kitt <jjkitt@yahoo.com> on behalf of JJ Kitt
Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2012 10:42 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: Green space

The thought of another high-rise hotel in downtown Asheville is absurd. Especially given the location that you're considering across from the church. Listen to the voices of the majority of the people in the community who strongly oppose this hotel. Our tax money, our decision!

Joseph Kitt

Sent from my iPhone

Ben Fulmer

From: John Huie <John@JohnHuie.com> on behalf of John Huie
Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2012 9:15 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: Keep the space green!

TO: City Council
FROM: John Huie, Citizen

Turn the space across from the Basilica into the GREEN SPACE it must be!

It will add to the uniqueness of downtown Asheville.

Just do it!

John Huie
Asheville, NC



John C. Huie, Ph. D.

Educational Consultant

Professional Member, Independent Educational Consultants Association
Therapeutic Residential/Wilderness and Boarding School Placements

Guiding Families To Settings Where Children Can Thrive

1333 Merrimon Avenue
Asheville, NC 28804
828 252 8062 – Asheville Office
828 989 9100 – Charlotte Office
828 225 1702 - FAX

John@johnhuie.com
<http://www.johnhuie.blogspot.com>



Ben Fulmer

From: Mark Hansman <gushansman@aol.com> on behalf of Mark Hansman
Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2012 4:19 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: Land across bassillica

You have no right to sell this land to your greedy cooperate friends, you don't own it, the tax payers do. Why don't you stop your underhanded back room deals city council is like Taminy hall. Think of the people for once

Sent from my iPhone

Ben Fulmer

From: Tyler Martin <tyler4abundance@gmail.com> on behalf of Tyler Martin
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 10:54 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: SAVE OUR TOWN

My daddy taught me to learn from my mistakes. Please, be careful about the property in front of Civic Center/St. Lawrence /Libary/Grove Arcade.

STAPLES..... You struggled to get the size of that billboard reduced, after initially allowing it to be put up.

US CELLULAR.... You are breaking city sign regulations, after receiving a few bucks from another corporation.

McKIBBEN..... You know that a park will be a blessing, for us and all tourists, and this is the reason we voted you into office - assets for all.

Tyler Martin
134 Skyview Drive
Asheville

Ben Fulmer

From: Harry Woggon <hakw@charter.net> on behalf of Harry Woggon
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 4:45 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: PLEASE A PARK NEXT TO THE BASICILA OF ST. LAWRENCE

Please have a park next to the Basicilla of St. Lawrence. They have offered money for the space We have enough already of hotels downtown.

Let the people add to the funds from the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, even if it is but a small amount, it will show our solidarity with the the Spiritual aspects of life and the world.

We need Green Space and trees for all our citizens.

Thank you

Harry and Genelda Woggon

118 Macon Ave, Asheville

Ben Fulmer

From: Vicki Rowe-Currence <rowecurrence@gmail.com> on behalf of Vicki Rowe-Currence
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 4:01 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: Basilica Green

I live at 38 Woodcrest Road in the city and I want a Basilica green, not a hotel built in that space across from the basilica and Civic Center

Vicki Rowe-Currence
828-252-7880

Ben Fulmer

From: SMITH CRAIG T <smithcraigt@gmail.com> on behalf of SMITH CRAIG T
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 1:06 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: Let's have a park.

A park at the Basilica would serve Asheville as a very positive space forever. The city should be very demanding as to what is built on the site if the land is sold to the church. The Basilica should come up with much more and attractive plan than they have presented to date.

Sent from my iPhone

Ben Fulmer

From: k4noff@charter.net
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 1:04 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: St. Lawerence

Please, No hotel in front of St. Lawrence Church. Make a park for all to enjoy.
Kathy Kelly
Asheville, NC 28805

Ben Fulmer

From: Margaret Foxx <foxxjim@charter.net> on behalf of Margaret Foxx
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 12:45 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: green space vs. high rise

When tourists visit they are looking to see what the establishment of Asheville value. The older the cities visited, the more the treasure of the old becomes evident. In Rochester, NY there is a beautiful park in front of St Mary's Church. There is a monument to George Washington, shade, benches and a refuge for office workers downtown. Savannah GA's main attraction is its parks, shade and benches .

We have the Basilica - by the same architect as the Grand Central Station in NYC! It is beyond common sense that a high rise hotel is even being considered for that space. What we have to do is get rid of the cement and make a park worthy of Asheville. A monument to Thomas Wolfe perhaps, or a reference to the TB sanitoriums we were once famous for, Robert E. Lee and the school he founded here. Be real!

Margaret Mary Z. Foxx

Ben Fulmer

From: bentcreek <bentcreek@ioa.com> on behalf of bentcreek
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 12:40 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;'PARC'
Subject: re bid

I was contacted by PARC and agree with them. "It's modeled on the much-criticised Convention and Visitors Bureau, which collects the hotel room tax and spends it on peeling signs and direct payments to zipline companies and nightclubs." As a business that pays the hotel room tax I am quite disappointed in how the money is spent. When there is tax money being spent there needs to be some one in charge of spending that money that must answer to the tax payer and voter. I would recommend we find a better way to fund for downtown clean ups. Forget more festivals.

Jodee & Doug Sellers



Bent Creek Lodge

Website: www.bentcreeknc.com
Email: bentcreek@ioa.com
Phone: 1-877-231-6574 toll free

Ben Fulmer

From: FRED FLAXMAN <fflaxman@frontier.com> on behalf of FRED FLAXMAN
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 4:47 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Cc: PARC
Subject: A park in front of the Bascilica

A tree-shaded public park in front of the Basilica of St. Lawrence, using land already owned by the City of Asheville for the purpose, would seem to be a non-brainer for those who want to improve the appearance, functionality, and joyful daily use of downtown. Please support this idea for the future benefit of this great little city!

Fred Flaxman

Author of [*Sixty Slices of Life ... on Wry: The Private Life of a Public Broadcaster*](#),

winner of the 2011 Pinnacle Book Award for memoir.

Rave reviews at [Amazon.com](#), [Rhapsody in Books](#), [Reading at the Beach](#), [BookPleasures.com](#), [The Book Nook](#), and [Radio World](#).

Editor of [*The Timeless Tales of Reginald Bretnor*](#).

Producer/Presenter of [*Compact Discoveries*](#).

36 Pickens Lane,
Weaverville, NC 28787-9321 - telephone:
828-645-8580

www.fredflaxman.com
www.sixtyslices.com
www.compactdiscoveries.com
www.bretnor.com
fredflaxman.wordpress.com/

Ben Fulmer

From: Ellen Clarke <ellengclarke@gmail.com> on behalf of Ellen Clarke
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 12:39 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: Support St Lawrence Green

Asheville City Council:

Please vigorously support community-wide efforts to create a green space in front of St Lawrence Basilica. We do not need more hotels in downtown Asheville.

Thanks,

Ellen Clarke and John Byrd

24 Howland Rd
28804

Sent from my iPhone

Ben Fulmer

From: Jeanne Charters <jcharters@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Jeanne Charters
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 12:17 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: The Basilica

Dear Asheville City Council members,

Please, I implore you to not sell the space in front of the Basilica to the McKibbon chain. In doing so, I believe you are not only sullyng a great tourism draw in our city, but that you are also damaging your own credibility as a group.

The Old Tripp Restaurant location is close to downtown and would make a great hotel location.

Jeanne Restivo

Ben Fulmer

From: Frank Coney <fcms1982@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Frank Coney
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 11:54 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;'PARC'
Subject: Proposed McKibben Purchase

I urge all those on City Council to approve the proposed purchase of the lot in front of St Lawrence as proposed by the Church. We do not need yet another giant building, particularly a hotel in that location. Can't anyone on Council look at the choice which would benefit most of the citizens of Asheville for perpetuity rather than a choice which will benefit an out of state corporation? A green space in that area would enhance the beauty of the area and serve as a draw for residents and tourists alike. The Church has made a generous offer to the City. I request you approve their offer. If you are intent on building yet another hotel, consider the area on south Coxe Avenue or Buxton Street.

Thank you for considering this request.

Frank D. Coney

Ben Fulmer

From: Tony Cecil <forcruzur@aol.com> on behalf of Tony Cecil
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 11:44 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: Land across from the Basilica.

Hi everybody.As an ex real estate dev.(I did 37 Hiawassee motel to condo's) I would think the city would be better served to make something for everyone to use and enjoy.thanks Tony Cecil

Sent from my iPad

Ben Fulmer

From: Catherine Faherty <catina@main.nc.us> on behalf of Catherine Faherty
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 8:55 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: Basilica of St. Lawrence area

To Members of Asheville City Council,

PLEASE DO NOT sell our land to McKibbon, hotel chain. We NEED a beautiful green space there! For all, tourists and locals alike to share, enjoy. Please do not sell it!! Please make a green space!

Thank you
Catherine Faherty
Resident and downtown worker since 1984

Ben Fulmer

From: Marie Moore <smoore1934@gmail.com> on behalf of Marie Moore
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 7:13 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: land across from the Basilica

Dear Members of the City Council,

Please don't let the City's need for money overcome the best long range plan for the citizens of Asheville. A park would add so much to that part of the City. No, it wouldn't bring a lot of money but it would invite people to spend in other ways.

Please don't ok the plan for a hotel.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Marie S. Moore, Asheville

Ben Fulmer

From: Tom Donohue <dono3356@me.com> on behalf of Tom Donohue
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 1:48 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: Land

The city has enough hotels,let the church use the land for a park.

Sent from my iPhone

Ben Fulmer

From: cody b. hughey <dancerbeez@gmail.com> on behalf of cody b. hughey
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 1:29 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: Greenspace at the Basilica

Hello decision makers,

In my opinion as an Asheville resident of 15 years, I believe that having a beautiful green space in front of the Basilica is the best move for the city. There's no refuge in downtown for a respite in the summer months--and Pritchard Park is filled with concrete. Let's keep that section and make it green! What beauty that would be in that spot near the Civic Center and connecting the library, the Grove Arcade and the other walking areas around there.

Blessings,

Cody Hughey
West Asheville Resident

Ben Fulmer

From: Esther Cartwright - AvL <ecartwright@avltech.com> on behalf of Esther Cartwright - AvL
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 11:12 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: Park not Hotel

Please do not sell the lot across from the Basilica to a developer and instead turn it into a green space we can all use and enjoy.

Kind Regards,
Esther Cartwright

Ben Fulmer

From: Cicada Brokaw <tub65966@temple.edu> on behalf of Cicada
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 1:47 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: It is Time enough already

It is time enough already for City council to permanently ditch plans to build on the site across from the Basilica and to convert this area to a park, to some green space. Green space is sorely needed near the Civic center and across from the Basilica. The amount of concrete and asphalt in this area chokes the area. Please step up to the plate and do something visionary! Place this park into a plan for our city's future!

Sincerely,

Harold Cicada Brokaw Dennis

Ben Fulmer

From: C. Walgate <cwalgate@bellsouth.net> on behalf of C. Walgate
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 12:02 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: FW: St. Lawrence Green Space

From: C. Walgate [mailto:cwalgate@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 11:58 AM
To: 'AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov'; 'PARC'
Subject: St. Lawrence Green Space

As a city taxpayer for over 40 years, I am appalled at council's decision for the property across from St. Lawrence. Do I need to remind you that you are making a decision about taxpayer owner property, and the majority of friends and neighbors want a green space not another monster that blocks the views like Biltmore Ave. A few more building additions like the Biltmore Ave construction and who wants to walk the streets of Asheville. What are you thinking? You will have your luxury hotels and no occupants. You are elected to work for your constituents not corporate executives. Please think long term and what is best for the majority of our citizens and not the privileged few.

Cathy Walgate

Ben Fulmer

From: Amy Renigar <amyrenigar@gmail.com> on behalf of Amy Renigar
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 7:15 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: Please make St. Lawrence GREEN

Dear City Council,

I am asking that you please use the area in front of St. Lawrence Basilica to create a community green space. What makes Asheville attractive to tourists is that it isn't a BIG city. Both local residents and tourists LOVE Pritchard Park, and to have a space with an even more beautiful view would attract even more people.

I realize it all comes down to money, but I know there is a way to work with the public to raise funds needed to make the green space. If you can turn down the big bucks offered from a corporation in support of your citizens, then we can pull together and make the space green.

Regards,
Amy Renigar
Weaverville, NC

Ben Fulmer

From: Stanley Corwin <colnstash@att.net> on behalf of Stanley Corwin
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 9:04 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: Land use infront of the Basilica

Please not another luxury hotel --Two have recently been built in the downtown area. Please go with the option presented by St. Lawrence.
Colette Corwin

Ben Fulmer

From: bwweather <bwweather@bellsouth.net> on behalf of bwweather
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 3:24 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: property across from the basilica

Dear City Council members,

I implore you to not sell the property across from the basilica to the McKibbon hotel people. Building a hotel on this site would be a terrible idea. The city already has two new hotels (including the one going up on Biltmore Ave.) in the downtown area and does not need another one. Please look at the pictures of a proposed park and imagine what a wonderful asset that would be to Asheville. We citizens have already voiced our strong opposition to erecting a large building on this site--please listen to us.

Sincerely,

Barbara Weatherall
10 Trappers Run Dr.
Asheville NC 28805

Ben Fulmer

From: Cheryl Orengo <ctorengo@gmail.com> on behalf of Cheryl Orengo
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 10:46 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;+PARC+
Subject: Land next to Basilica

Dear Council Members,

I agree with Parc with the situation of park versus another high rise hotel in downtown Asheville next to the Basilica. The park gets my vote! We now have enough new structures in Asheville that look like boxes with windows. The beautiful architecture of Asheville is now laden with modern high rise box structures that are taking away from the beauty of Asheville and the mountains. People come to Asheville's downtown because it is beautiful and vibrant so we need to preserve what we have left by adding another park area, not another boxey hotel next to a beautiful, historic building like the Basilica. It appears as if the people of Asheville own the area next to the Basilica so please listen to Ashevilleans not a corporate hotel chain!

Yours respectfully, Cheryl Orengo

--

PEACE - It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart. (unknown)

Cheryl Thomas Orengo, BS, ICCE, CD(DONA), PCD(DONA)
Phone- 828-258-3327
www.peacefulbeginning.org

Ben Fulmer

From: moonspirit48@bellsouth.net
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 9:16 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: Make St. Lawrence GREEN

The citizens of this city clearly DO NOT WANT a high rise put in front of the church. Turning this space into a park is an ideal solution for this land purchased with TAXPAYERS' MONEY...not yours!

Kindly, Kathleen

Ben Fulmer

From: Ann Bury <annbur@charter.net> on behalf of Ann Bury
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 8:23 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: City property

To Asheville City Council Members:

I think the space across the street from the Basilica should be used as a park which all residents and tourists can enjoy. It should have shade trees and benches in it where people can have a place to rest, reflect or read about the attractions nearby--the Grove Arcade, the Basilica, the Library, and the former Thomas Wolfe Auditorium.

Let's not have another hotel in the downtown area. That would only serve a few people from out-of-town, and the park will serve residents as well as tourists.

Ann Bury
230 Lovely Lane, Asheville, NC 28803

Ben Fulmer

From: Bill Crownover <billcrownover@gmail.com> on behalf of billcrownover@bellsouth.net
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:00 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: Property near St. Lawrence Cathedral

I am totally opposed to the sale of the property across from St. Lawrence Cathedral to McKibbin or any other developer since I believe that we need a nice, small green space in that part of town. Please slow down and think more about beauty and less about tax dollars.

I have lived in Asheville for 60+ years, born and raised in the local schools and currently live in east Asheville. We love our great city and downtown and we hope you will think quality over quantity when it comes to major decisions like this.

Thank you,

Bill and Barbara Crownover
8 Pine Spring Drive
Asheville, NC 28805

Ben Fulmer

From: Butch Giusto <bgiusto@radiitechnologies.com> on behalf of Butch Giusto
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 10:04 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;'PARC'
Subject: Basillica Hotel Sellout

Why reproduce the mistakes of most cities that lose their green space to developers? Why add even more traffic and congestion to an already congested downtown?

Who bebfits from this project? Certainly it is not the citizens of Asheville.

Butch Giusto
President



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800.207.1839 Asheville office
828.333.0005 cell
866.309.0196 Fax
bgiusto@radiitechnologies.com

Ben Fulmer

From: Alfred Lyons <alfredlyons@yahoo.com> on behalf of Alfred Lyons
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 2:59 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: Park in front of Basilica

Dear members of Asheville council,

Please do not sell the land to a hotel. Please consider a park in front of the Basilica. I am a city resident and voter.

Thank you,

Alfred Lyons
708 New Haw Creek Rd
Asheville, NC 28805

Sent from my iPhone

Ben Fulmer

From: Elaine Lite <info@mvalliance.net> on behalf of Elaine Lite
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 12:03 PM
To: Terry Bellamy;Jan Davis;Esther Manheimer;Cecil Bothwell;Gordon Smith;Marc Hunt;Chris Pelly
Subject: MVA Water Forum - Monday, Feb. 20
Attachments: WATER-2012 Forum Invite.doc
Importance: High



MOUNTAIN VOICES ALLIANCE
PRESERVING LANDS AND NEIGHBORHOODS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

February 15, 2012

Dear Elected Official,

Mountain Voices Alliance cordially invites you to attend a water forum/discussion, *The Unanswered Questions: Where Do We Go From Here*, on Monday, February 20, from 7-9 p.m. at Jubilee!, 46 Wall St. in downtown Asheville. Doors will open at 6:30. Questions and public comment will follow the panel presentation.

The event is an educational forum designed to explore the issues and options being evaluated by the legislative water study committee in Raleigh and its potential impact on the community.

Supporting organizations and individuals include: Asheville Brewers Alliance, Asheville Downtown Association, Asheville GreenWorks, Asheville PARC, Clean Water for NC, Coalition of Asheville Neighborhoods (CAN), Lynch Graphics, RiverLink, WENOCA Sierra Club, WNC Alliance, West Asheville Watch, Councilman Cecil Bothwell, Councilman Chris Pelly, Councilman Gordon Smith, and Buncombe County Commissioner Holly Jones.

Thank you for considering our invitation. This is a critical issue for us all and we hope you will consider attending.

Sincerely,

Elaine Lite, Chair
Mountain Voices Alliance
info@mvalliance.net
828-273-1781

Ben Fulmer

From: jennifer@valuescentre.com
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 5:05 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov; AshevillePARC@gmail.com
Subject: Construction near Basilica of St. Lawrence

Dear City Leaders,

In a recent message from Asheville PARC, the following concern was expressed about constructing a high rise hotel across the street from the Basilica of St. Lawrence:

"Many worry that construction of a hotel so close to the church could damage it. The church has one of the world's largest unsupported elliptical domes, and at age 103, heavy construction nearby risks damage to the structure."

I must say this touched a nerve for me. In 2002, St Peter's Catholic Church in Charlotte lost its Alter Fresco due to nearby construction. The work of art had been created by Asheville-resident and NC-native son Ben Long.

Personally, I am in favor of the church having a set back building and plaza or the city having a park at the location. I am not against high rises in general, but I am for the preservation of our irreplaceable, historic buildings.

Benjamin F. Long came to Charlotte to create a fresco behind the main altar of St. Peter's Catholic Church at 507 South Tryon St. The magnificent wall inspired great admiration among art lovers in the city, and led to further commissions.

The city of Charlotte is built on granite. Therefore, the construction on both sides of the church required dynamite to be used. All the vibrations from dynamite and jackhammers due to the construction shook the foundation which caused the windows to break and was responsible for the fresco falling at St. Peter's Catholic Church.

See related story here:

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1454&dat=20020222&id=wA1PAAAAIBAJ&sjid=Uh8EAAAAIBAJ&pg=5653.1376678>

Thank you,

Jenny Quinn

Ben Fulmer

From: Rita Livezey <rdlive@charter.net> on behalf of Rita Livezey
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 1:06 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov; letters@citizen-times.com
Subject: City Considers Land Sale

From: "PARC" <ashevilleparc@gmail.com>
Date: February 8, 2012 9:15:16 AM EST
Subject: City Considers Land Sale
Reply-To: "PARC" <ashevilleparc@gmail.com>



City Land Sale?

Wednesday, February 8, 2012



Satellite View of the Basilica of St. Lawrence

If the McKibbon Group gets its way, this view of the Basilica of St. Lawrence might soon be your best way to see it.

McKibbon wants to buy several City-owned properties in front of the Basilica to build a high-rise hotel, potentially blocking sight lines between several public buildings – Pack Memorial Library, the Vanderbilt, the Basilica, the Civic Center, the Battery Park Hotel, and the Grove Arcade.

Many worry that construction of a hotel so close to the church could damage it. The church has one of the world's largest unsupported elliptical domes, and at age 103, heavy construction nearby risks damage to the structure.

But Council has another reasonable option.

The Church itself has offered to buy the property, with a plan to immediately use the area for parking and later build a smaller building, set back from the church with a public plaza in front.

So there are actually three proposals for the land:

1. A high-rise hotel. Cities lose their local character quickly when the corporate giants come to town. (We already will have the new sign for the U.S. Cellular Center);

2. The Church's set-back building, with a plaza; or

3. A city park, pictured below.

Please email City Council and let them know your thoughts on this!

Thanks,
from the folks at PARC.

[Video from three years ago when a builder wanted to put a high rise in front of the Basilica](#)



A City Park?

[Click here to email City Council and the Citizen-Times, please!](#)

PARC • PO Box 4093 • Asheville, NC 28805

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Ben Fulmer

From: Mark Sligh <marksligh@yahoo.com> on behalf of Mark Sligh
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 10:09 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: Sale of City land near Basilica

I support the proposal to sell City-owned properties near the Basilica to the McKibbon Group to build a hotel. The land sale will benefit the taxpayers financially, as will the downtown investment by the McKibbon Group. It sounds like this proposal will also create much-needed jobs. It would be irresponsible not to consider such suggestions. The proposal should be monitored closely to insure that the hotel design fits in as well as possible with existing structures nearby. PARC's early involvement suggests that it will be.

Ben Fulmer

From: Sharon Willen <sharonwillen@gmail.com> on behalf of Sharon Willen
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 4:57 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov; letters@citizen-times.com
Subject: a parc not a parking lot

Please make a decision in favor of the church's offer to purchase the land across from Basilica St. Lawrence rather than the offer from the hotel developer. This area, so close to the Civic Center, the Grove Arcade, Historic Montford, and other notable city features should be developed as a beautiful park attracting visitors much as Pack Place does on the other side of town.

Sharon

Ben Fulmer

From: Cecil Bothwell <cecil@braveulysses.com> on behalf of Cecil Bothwell
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 4:53 PM
To: Marc Hunt
Cc: Jan Davis; Gary Jackson; Dawa Hitch; Bob Oast; 'Sam Powers'; councilgroup
Subject: Re: ACT Op-Ed

As a reminder for those who might get confused by the alphabet soup, I am treasurer of PARC PAC, not of PARC.

I do not participate in decisions made by PARC or in the issuance of newsletters from PARC.

-C

<http://bothwell2012.com>

@cecilbothwell

<http://www.facebook.com/cecilbothwell>

text: 72727 cecil

On Feb 6, 2012, at 4:44 PM, Marc Hunt wrote:

Jan

Regarding your ACT Op-Ed suggestion, Jim Buchanan has tentatively agreed to give it space on Thurs or Fri this week, so I will prepare and submit it right away. As others on Council have no-doubt noticed, PARC put out their mass email piece on it today. Again, I am writing this as my position and being careful to describe it as an official position of the City or anyone else.

Marc

Ben Fulmer

From: Marc Hunt <marchunt@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Marc Hunt
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 4:44 PM
To: Jan Davis
Cc: Gary jackson;Dawa Hitch;Bob Oast;'Sam Powers';councilgroup
Subject: ACT Op-Ed

Jan

Regarding your ACT Op-Ed suggestion, Jim Buchanan has tentatively agreed to give it space on Thurs or Fri this week, so I will prepare and submit it right away. As others on Council have no-doubt noticed, PARC put out their mass email piece on it today. Again, I am writing this as my position and being careful to describe it as an official position of the City or anyone else.

Marc

Ben Fulmer

From: Whitney Smith de Vargas <wsmith@biltmore.com> on behalf of Whitney Smith de Vargas
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:54 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov; letters@citizen-times.com
Subject: Re: City Considers Land Sale

I would say either let the Basilica have it or have the park. Either one will work well for that area and will not pose a threat to the church. We have a bunch of hotels already, I think that there is probably a better area for a hotel somewhere else that is close to downtown instead.

Whitney Smith de Vargas

Corporate Coordinator
Biltmore Inspirations & Biltmore For Your Home
1 N. Pack Square
Asheville, NC 28801
Phone: 828.225.6778
Fax: 828.225.6744



Please consider the environment before printing this email.



City Land Sale?

Monday, February 6, 2012





Satellite View of the Basilica of St. Lawrence

If the McKibbin Group gets its way, this view of the Basilica of St. Lawrence might soon be your best way to see it.

McKibbin wants to buy several City-owned properties in front of the Basilica to build a high-rise hotel, potentially blocking sight lines between several public buildings – Pack Memorial Library, the Vanderbilt, the Basilica, the Civic Center, the Battery Park Hotel, and the Grove Arcade.

Many worry that construction of a hotel so close to the church could damage it. The church has one of the world's largest unsupported elliptical domes, and at age 103, heavy construction nearby risks damage to the structure.

But Council has another reasonable option.

The Church itself has offered to buy the property, with a plan to immediately use the area for parking and later build a smaller building, set back from the church with a public plaza in front.

So there are actually three proposals for the land:

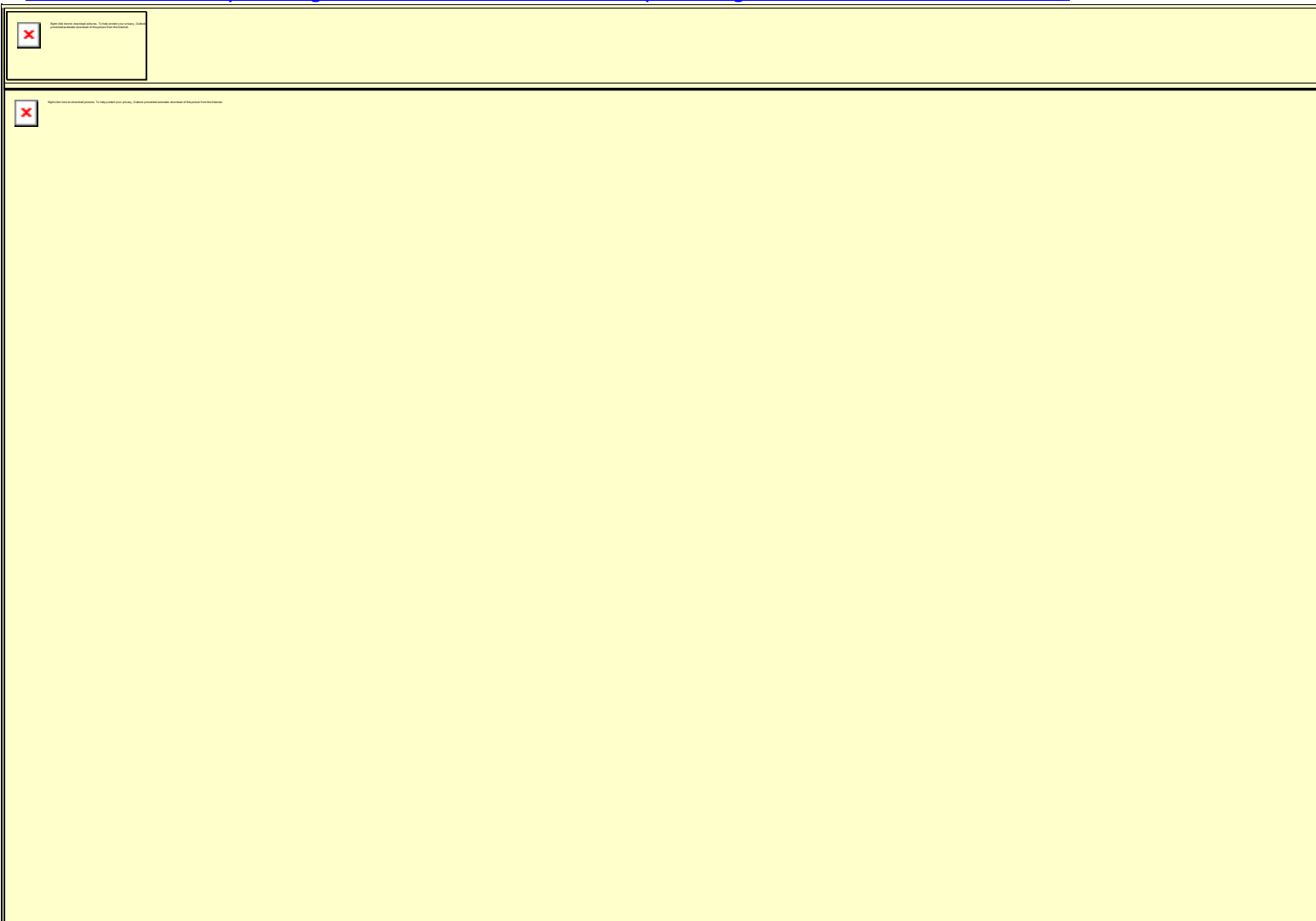
1. A high-rise hotel. Cities lose their local character quickly when the corporate giants come to town. (This new hotel would be just across the street from this new sign: U.S. Cellular Center);
2. The Church's set-back building, with a plaza; or
3. A city park, pictured below.

Check out the video below from the last time a developer tried to build on that spot.

Please email City Council and let them know your thoughts on this!



Thanks,
from the folks at PARC.

[Video from three years ago when a builder wanted to put a high rise in front of the Basilica](#)



A City Park?

[Click here to email City Council and the Citizen-Times, please!](#)

 <small>Make sure to include your name, address, and phone number. We will not share your information with anyone else.</small>	
 <small>Make sure to include your name, address, and phone number. We will not share your information with anyone else.</small>	

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