

Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 8:58 PM
To: cherie morris
Subject: Re: Pit of Despair

Thanks for writing in, Cherie. The good news is that City Council unanimously approved a Task Force to identify how to move forward with the site. That Task Force is returning its findings, after a year-long intensive examination of the site and its possibilities/challenges. It's my understanding that the Task Force is recommending a combination of passive civic space, active civic space, and some commercial elements. I look forward to hearing their presentation on Tuesday.

Thanks for your input,

Gordon Smith

On Mon, Mar 27, 2017 at 8:27 PM cherie morris <11011fa@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Council members,

I know PARC will be presenting at the meeting tomorrow. I am unable to attend but I would like to voice my preference for a park or at very minimum a mixed use venue that includes a decent sized park space. Thanks for considering this.

Cherie Morris
46 Short Street
Asheville

Ben Fulmer

From: cherie morris <l1011fa@gmail.com> on behalf of cherie morris
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 8:27 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: Pit of Despair

Dear Council members,

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Cherie Morris
46 Short Street
Asheville

Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 2:25 PM
To: Mark DeVerges
Subject: Re: In support of Haywood Street task force suggestion of a business incubator on the site, an apartment building, and retail space, as well as some green areas

Thanks for writing in. The good news is that City Council unanimously approved a Task Force to identify how to move forward with the site. That Task Force is returning its findings, after a year-long intensive examination of the site and its possibilities/challenges. It's my understanding that the Task Force is recommending a combination of passive civic space, active civic space, and some commercial elements. I look forward to hearing their presentation on Tuesday.

Thanks for your input,

Gordon Smith

On Mon, Mar 27, 2017 at 1:03 PM, Mark DeVerges <mark@deverges.com> wrote:

Dear Council,

I am very much in support of the Haywood Street task force. They were active in hearing from all member's of the community. The PARC group seems manipulating their report and ignoring another large contingent of individuals that believe in an 'AND' strategy... that this parcel is well suited for engaging development AND a public park aspect.

Please follow the task force's recommendations. Else, a special interest PARC will run afoul of a well processed and thoughtful group comprised of many differing community members.

Truly,

Mark DeVerges

Mark DeVerges | 828-423-9484 Cell

Ben Fulmer

From: Mark DeVerges <mark@deverges.com> on behalf of Mark DeVerges
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 1:03 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: In support of Haywood Street task force suggestion of a business incubator on the site, an apartment building, and retail space, as well as some green areas

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Mark DeVerges

Mark DeVerges | 828-423-9484 Cell

Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 8:43 AM
To: johndavidshort@gmail.com
Subject: Re: PARC

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Thanks for your input,

Gordon Smith

On Mon, Mar 27, 2017 at 8:42 AM, <johndavidshort@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Council Members,

MAKE IT A TEMPORARY PARK WITH A SHORT LEASE IF YOU WISH TO PRESERVE THE OPTION TO DEVELOP IN THE FUTURE.

But please listen to the voters that live and work downtown and build a park to take a bit a stain off Pritchard Park. It been 14 years folks, do something for the people that make Asheville so popular with developers.

Thanks,

JD Short
828-380-4667 johndavidshort@gmail.com

Ben Fulmer

From: johndavidshort@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 8:42 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: PARC

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JD Short
828-380-4667 johndavidshort@gmail.com

Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 8:41 AM
To: Jill Scobie
Subject: Re: green space on Haywood

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Thanks for your input,

Gordon Smith

On Mon, Mar 27, 2017 at 8:36 AM, Jill Scobie <jill@scobie.net> wrote:

Hello City Council members,

I was a city resident from 1995 through 2004. Now I live in Buncombe County but still like to frequent downtown. My 87 year old mother lives in Asheville and I try to spend time with her 4-5 times a week.

I was not a signer of the PARC ad asking you to decide in favor of green space on Haywood across from Pack library and the Basilica, but I would like to add my voice to those who did sign.

It is not a simple task to bring my mother downtown due to her limited ability to walk great distances, uphill, on uneven surfaces, etc. so I do so infrequently and for very specific reasons. She likes the yarn shops at the Arcade and on Wall St, the bead shop on Lexington, the Diana Wortham Theatre and a few scattered restaurants. If there were a green space near the library, it would be easy to park, visit the library and enjoy sitting in the park, maybe picnicking. She loves to watch humanity stroll by.

A park, rather than more buildings, in this location will benefit the physical and mental health of Asheville residents and make our city an even more inviting place for tourists to visit and to entice businesses to locate their new office here. Everyone states quality of life when they list their reasons for wanting to live in Asheville. Let's try to keep focusing on that!

Thank you,

Jill Scobie
248 John Tate Dr
Fletcher, NC 28732

--

The ideals which have lighted my way, and time after time have given me new courage to face life cheerfully, have been Kindness, Beauty, and Truth. -Albert Einstein, physicist, Nobel laureate (14 Mar 1879-1955)

Ben Fulmer

From: Jill Scobie <jill@scobie.net> on behalf of Jill Scobie
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 8:36 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: green space on Haywood

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Ben Fulmer

From: Julie Mayfield <julievmayfield@gmail.com> on behalf of Julie Mayfield
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 8:27 AM
To: Gordon Smith;Gwen Wisler
Subject: Fwd: Green Space

FYI.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "PARC" <ashevilleparc+gmail.com@mnbc.com>
Date: March 27, 2017 at 8:00:10 AM EDT
To: <julievmayfield@gmail.com>
Subject: Green Space
Reply-To: "PARC" <ashevilleparc@gmail.com>

[View as Web Page](#) [Subscribe](#)



Green Space

On March 11, 2008, residents placed a full page ad in the Citizen-Times. Over 2000 citizens signed the ad, and paid for it.

It read, "**We believe the the city-owned property in the St. Lawrence area should become green space.**"



Report on the proposed plan. The report will be presented to the City Council for their review.

Since 2005, residents have requested a park there. Council has refused, time and time again. The Haywood Street task force will report to City Council tomorrow night -- and then it's up to Council to make a final decision.

The draft report from the task force calls for **a business incubator on the site, an apartment building, and retail space**, as well as some green areas.

This is a small site. Proposing non-park uses on the site makes even less space available for the trees, paths, and benches that most of us want.

The continual insistence from business to build on this site, with parallel demands from residents that it be a park, has paralyzed City Council.

And so, this unattractive site just sits, and has sat ...*for 14 years.*

Will this be the Council that finally represents Asheville's residents, instead of the developers?

The task force will present their report to City Council this Tuesday, March 28th, at 5PM. Please attend if you can.

[You can also email City Council here.](#)



We still have yard signs. If you want one, just reply to this with your name and address, and we'll drop one in your yard.

—The Folks at PARC



PARC • PO Box 8052 • Asheville, NC 28814



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[Powered by MyNewsletterBuilder](#)



Ben Fulmer

From: Dave Nutter <dnutter@aol.com> on behalf of Dave Nutter
Sent: Friday, July 01, 2016 7:59 AM
To: magammidown@mac.com;t2903@aol.com;dianadavidson25@gmail.com;chris@ashevilledesigncenter.org;djohnson12@icloud.com;alan.mcguinn@arca-design.com;tania.mccamy@gmail.com;ksarvadi01@gmail.com;grodland@icloud.com;stevendouglaswinter@gmail.com;rhaizlip@haizlipstudio.com;bertsandphoebe@aol.com;dnutter@aol.com;jon.creighton@buncombecounty.org;michael@mcdonougharchitect.com;budhansbury@yahoo.com;meghan@ashevilledowntown.org;geronimoowen@gmail.com;ruth@grovecarade.com;cball@ashevillenc.gov;usanandrew1965@charter.net;rsimmons@ashevillenc.gov;aglines@ashevillenc.gov;spowers@ashevillenc.gov;pwinn@pps.org;ekent@pps.org;jtferree@me.com;Dean@realtyworldmarketplace.com;slrobb53@gmail.com;jay_fields@att.net;joel.storror@mcgillengineers.com;nreid@ashevillenc.gov;mountainsbeach@gmail.com;bgravelle@yahoo.com
Cc: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;gjackson@ashevillenc.gov;tokolichany@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: Haywood visioning: 3 logical development alternatives
Attachments: Haywood Page - 3 logical development alternatives 021116.docx

Dear Haywood Visioning Team:

I wanted to share with you a summary I prepared earlier this year on logical development alternatives for the site.

In it, I attempted for the moment to put aside all passion for the site, whether positive or negative, and endeavored to use Aristotelian logic with objectivity.

I believe that logic and rationality are half the story, only half, but half counts.

I hope you find something of value in it.

Have a Happy Fourth!

Best,

Dave

David G. Nutter, AICP, Principal, Retired
Member, American Institute of Certified Planners
Nutter Associates, Community Planners & Development Professionals
169 Flint Street,
Asheville, North Carolina 28801 USA
Tel 828-505-8242 Cell: 828-279-1820
For large files: google drop-box

Ben Fulmer

From: Christopher Pratt <chrispdoc1@gmail.com> on behalf of Christopher Pratt
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 9:27 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC;Asheville;Margaret Williams, Co-Managing Editor/News Editor;jboyle;Bruce Hazzard
Subject: Please support the 25 mph speed limit, thank you. <http://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2016/06/29/25-mph-citywide-asheville-eyes-lower-limits/86512062/>

Please support the 25 mph speed limit, thank you.

<http://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2016/06/29/25-mph-citywide-asheville-eyes-lower-limits/86512062/>

Ben Fulmer

From: Christopher Pratt <chrispd1@gmail.com> on behalf of Christopher Pratt
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2016 11:18 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Cc: PARC;jboyle;Asheville;Esther Manheimer;GwenWisler@avlcouncil.com
Subject: Asheville man gets prison in pedestrian death

Wish this never happened, but it did and wish Asheville and the APD would patrol more in North Asheville and control traffic speed, and post lower speed limits all over here, including Norwood Park, in the hope of keeping it from happening again. Slow down Asheville, please.

<http://wlos.com/news/local/asheville-man-sentenced-to-prison-for-pedestrian-fatality>

Asheville man gets prison in pedestrian death

BY JON OSTENDORFF FRIDAY, JUNE 3RD 2016

WLOS — ASHEVILLE, N.C. -- A man who was speeding through a north Asheville neighborhood and hit and killed a year-old woman is guilty of involuntary manslaughter.

District attorney Todd Williams said a jury in Buncombe County convicted Maximilian Alexander today.

ADVERTISING

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Police say Virginia Senechal was **walking on the sidewalk along Kimberly** Avenue in 2014 when Alexander's car jumped the curb and hit her.

She was walking home from the Beaver Lake Bird Sanctuary where she volunteered for the local Audubon society.

Data from his car's computer showed he was going 65 miles per hour before he lost control.

The speed of impact with Senechal was estimated to be 45 miles per hour.

The posted speed limit for Kimberly avenue is 25 miles per hour.

The jury also convicted Alexander of misdemeanor death by motor vehicle.

A judge sentenced him to 13-to-25 months in prison.

In partial response to Senechal's death, in the Grove Park/Sunset Mountain neighborhood the city started a program aimed at getting drivers to slow down.

The Neighborhood Pace Car Program asks volunteers to sign a pledge to respect the speed limit, obey traffic laws and watch out for pedestrians, Williams said. It started June 1, 2015,

"This case tragically emphasizes that speed limits aren't recommendations and are to be obeyed at all times to protect from injury and tragic loss of life," Williams said in a statement. "My hope is that a strong message will be sent to drive that driving is a privilege and there are dire consequences for failing to obey the law."

From: Christopher Pratt <chrispd1@gmail.com> on behalf of Christopher Pratt
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2016 8:20 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Cc: jboyle; Jimmie Cochran Pratt; Holly Jones; Gwen Wisler@avlcouncil.com; Esther Manheimer; Terry.VanDuyn@ncleg.net; Asheville; North Asheville; PARC
Subject: International Association of Chiefs of Police Honors Gloucester, MA Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative and the Gloucester ANGEL Initiative

• Gloucester police initiatives recognized

•

Posted May. 19, 2016 at 3:42 PM

• SALEM

Gloucester police Chief Leonard Campanello and John Rosenthal, co-founders of the Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative, announced that both P.A.A.R.I. and the Gloucester ANGEL Initiative were included in the latest International Association of Chiefs of Police report, titled “Addressing 21st Century Drug Issues: Law Enforcement’s Leadership Role.”

The report, which the IACP releases for its members worldwide, addresses law enforcement’s role in the opioid crisis currently sweeping the nation, suggesting that the most effective practices include identifying opioid addicts and diverting them to treatment programs.

The IACP then points to the Gloucester ANGEL Initiative, the first treatment diversion plan of its kind in the country. The report calls the initiative “a police approach that was based on human caring and addressing and solving the core addiction problem versus short-term punitive actions.” It then summarizes the program’s three-pronged approach to recovery: the department facilitates treatment, provides nasal Narcan to those who cannot afford it and works toward new state legislation relating to drug enforcement and treatment.

“The IACP is the worldwide standard for police professionals and being included in their report as a model in how law enforcement can be effective in dealing with the opioid crisis is a great legitimization of the Gloucester Program and PAARI’s mission,” Campanello said. “The voice of law enforcement has the ability to end the stigma of the disease of addiction and has an obligation to do so. While we recognize the need to continue to take action against those who deal misery and death on our streets, we must equally acknowledge that all those suffering from addiction are victims of the illicit drug trade and the overprescribing of pain medications. They should not be further hurt by arrest or incarceration. Immediate and sustainable care for every person suffering from addiction is the goal, and we intend on continuing to do everything we can to support that goal.”

Rosenthal said, “The Gloucester Police Angel Program is saving lives every day, and it’s replicable in every community struggling with the epidemic of opioid addiction.”

Rosenthal continued, “P.A.A.R.I. now has over 100 police department and 250 treatment center partners across the United States. We’ve created a national model for law enforcement to be a much needed entry point into treatment and it’s great to be recognized by the IACP.”

The IACP is a dynamic organization that serves as the professional voice of law enforcement, addressing cutting edge issues confronting law enforcement through advocacy, programs and research, as well as training and other professional services.

News Feed



Gloucester Police Department (Official)

June 1 at 12:01pm ·

Angel Initiative Update from Chief Campanello:

I must have written this out 10 times...and thrown it away 10 times. Instead..I'll just start writing what I'm feeling and see where it goes. It's one year to the day that we started the Angel Initiative here in Gloucester, Massachusetts. We could not possibly have known then what would happen and I don't even know how to express my gratitude to all of you for the support you have given us. Our officers read your inspiring remarks and it keeps us fighting. Will a simple thank you be enough? Never. We have achieved nothing but honoring the responsibility we had to the community of Gloucester. But you all....you have used us in law enforcement to strengthen your message nationwide and we gladly stand with you. No stigma. Addiction is a disease not a crime. Treat, don't arrest. The war on drugs is over. No longer punchlines, but becoming policy. Smart policy. Community inspired policing policy, compassionate policy and criminal justice policy.

- 450 in treatment in Gloucester in 1 year with no stigma, no arrest, no solicitation of information. With advocacy, with dignity. With support for the family. With cooperation from so many entities in treatment.

- 120 police departments in 28 states doing the same thing...thousands more being placed into treatment, pre-arrest, professionally, compassionately. More police joining DAILY. Saying ENOUGH!! Federal law enforcement becoming involved to say Addiction is a Disease and Treatment is the first option for law enforcement.

- 300 treatment centers in over 30 states stepping up,...saying "bring us those who can't afford or don't have the resources".

- Transportation companies saying, "we will take them".

- Creation of PAARI, the Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative, paariusa.org. Facilitating all of the above and engaging legislators daily, getting bills introduced and support from the government. Forming partnerships with insurance companies and private business. Extending the hand to those who will help, holding accountable those who won't.

- Reducing crime, costs, fatal overdoses, increasing widespread, universal usage of Narcan among public safety and people everywhere. Encouraging the building of IMMEDIATE and SUSTAINABLE care systems when someone comes and says "I Need Help!". Immediate and sustainable care. It's no dream.

- Insisting that those making policy listen to the ADDICTION RECOVERY COMMUNITY!!!! You guys know what you're doing! You are going to create THE prevention model for the next generation. I am positive of it.

- Law enforcement's lending its voice to yours has reduced apathy and stigma. And we want to continue to build trust. We're here, and not faltering. We add everyday. The doubters in June of 2015 are now believers. Law Enforcement is an agent of help in this crisis, not of incarceration for an illness.

- Those with addiction disease are victims of the international drug trade. And victims of an entity whose legal products kill more Americans every year than every terrorist organization on the face of the Earth combined. Big Pharma. You chose not to engage and bury your head in the sand. There's still time. Step it up. The time for honoring yourself with profits is nearing an end.

I can't imagine that I could ever end this update and could go on and on. The journey of meeting with so many of you has been and continues to be inspiring. We're here for the long haul. Lots of work done. Lots to be done. I'll leave you with two thoughts.

First, On behalf of the Gloucester Police Department and all of the law enforcement agencies who have joined with us against this disease and the stigma that goes with it....We Are Sorry. We are sorry we are late to understanding it. We are sorry if any of your loved ones or you were treated with anything less than professionalism, dignity, respect and compassion. But we are here now, and the calvary isn't going anywhere. Second, I want to share with you a short exchange between myself and Steve, our very first intake. Steve sent me a photo last week from Fenway Park. He was enjoying a Red Sox game with his Dad. He said he loves his life and nothing would be possible without the Angel Program. He holds a good job. He's a year clean and sober. Hope. Every life is worth it. Stay with us on this and we will continue to bring you more exciting news and advancements on this disease. Best to everyone. We LOVE our Angels!

To our persons still suffering from addiction. Come in. Please. When your'e ready. Not for your family or anyone else but for you. You're worth it. And we can't wait to see what you do with a new life. You can do it. While you breathe, there is nothing that cannot be undone, or forgiven or reconconciled. We are here.

Thank you to all. We are so very proud and humbled to have been a small part of the last year and to have found new purpose in commitment to this work.

Please share. Lets spread the word again.

Chief C.

- <https://www.facebook.com/GloucesterPoliceDepartment/?fref=nf>

-

Ben Fulmer

From: Steve Rasmussen <stevenrasmussen@gmail.com> on behalf of Steve Rasmussen
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2016 2:08 PM
To: Dave Nutter
Cc: cecilbothwell@gmail.com; AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov; mary@maryweberdesign.com; IThomas@stewartinc.com; ric.hardlee@live.com; gjackson@ashevillenc.gov; rsimmons@ashevillenc.gov; lcrown@ashevillenc.gov; emory22@charter.net; mecheverry@ashevillenc.gov; cball@ashevillenc.gov; tokolichany@asheville.nc.gov; marcusbarksdale@yahoo.com; pwall@ashevillenc.gov; MTaylor@stewartinc.com
Subject: Re: Beaucatcher Greenway in re select pervious surfacing

I didn't mean to disparage Iona's or any other landscaping consultant's expertise. But experts in any field are like doctors -- always get a second opinion, preferably from a specialist, because no one doctor knows all the latest treatments for every condition. You don't start composing your obituary just because the first doctor you consult says they can't help you.

-- Steve R.

On 4/14/16, Dave Nutter <dnutter@aol.com> wrote:

> I've always been thrilled to be able to consult with experts,
> especially really good ones like Iona Thomas of Stewart.

>

>

> Best,

>

>

> Dave

>

>

>

> David G. Nutter, AICP, Principal, Retired Member, American Planning

> Association

> Nutter Associates, Community Planners & Development Professionals

> 169 Flint Street,

> Asheville, North Carolina 28801 USA

> Tel 828-505-8242 Cell: 828-279-1820

> For large files: google drop-box

>

>

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>

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

> From: Cecil Bothwell <cecilbothwell@gmail.com>

> To: Steve Rasmussen <stevenrasmussen@gmail.com>

> Cc: Mary Weber <mary@maryweberdesign.com>; Iona Thomas

> <IThomas@stewartinc.com>; Richard Lee <ric.hardlee@live.com>; Dave

> Nutter <dnutter@aol.com>; AshevilleNCCouncil

> <AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov>;

> Gary Jackson <gjackson@ashevillenc.gov>; rsimmons

> <rsimmons@ashevillenc.gov>; lcrown <lcrown@ashevillenc.gov>; emory22
 > <emory22@charter.net>; mecheverry <mecheverry@ashevillenc.gov>; Cathy
 > Ball <cball@ashevillenc.gov>; tokolichany
 > <tokolichany@ashevillenc.gov>; marcusbarksdale
 > <marcusbarksdale@yahoo.com>; pwall <pwall@ashevillenc.gov>; Michael
 > Taylor <MTaylor@stewartinc.com>
 > Sent: Thu, Apr 14, 2016 5:22 pm
 > Subject: Re: Beaucatcher Greenway in re select pervious surfacing
 >
 >
 > Yeah. Actually consult experts.
 > -c
 >
 >
 > On Apr 14, 2016, at 4:23 PM, Steve Rasmussen
 > <stevenrasmussen@gmail.com>
 > wrote:
 >
 >
 > I would point out that the cost of maintaining a few stretches of
 > pervious pavement needs to be compared to the cost of repairing slides
 > and collapses due to stormwater runoff from an inappropriately sited impervious pavement.
 > Also, this is an evolving technology and there are numerous kinds of
 > pervious pavement nowadays, surely with varying maintenance requirements.
 >
 >
 > This is a larger city problem, and it would be prudent to use this
 > opportunity to explore these options. Our entire region is very
 > vulnerable to erosion in these days of climate change and its fierce
 > downpours -- yet we are continuing to increase the problem by
 > approving acres of new asphalt roads and parking lots that require
 > elaborate runoff catchment and filtering (when we even require that).
 > We are prevented by current state politics from reducing our erosion
 > risk by expanding our steep-slope ordinance, and if the legislature
 > has its way with a bill it's currently considering, we won't even be
 > able to keep the wimpy stream buffers that Council barely managed to pass a few years ago over stiff opposition from
 > "property-rights"
 > lobbyists.
 >
 >
 > We shouldn't decide whether customized pervious pavement is viable
 > based on what we've heard or what one single landscaping designer says
 > -- certainly not on what Parks & Rec considers too much extra work,
 > considering how much time I see them keeping city-maintained lawns
 > mowed to a nub when it's a far better stormwater practice to mow less often and let them grow to about 4"
 > long.
 >
 >
 > We have a Stormwater department, and we have a nationally respected
 > hub of stormwater research and expertise practically next door at NC
 > State. Why not commission our stormwater staff to collaborate with NC
 > State researchers (they'll work with us for free) in exploring and

> testing various pervious options? At the very least, publicizing such
 > an effort would help draw attention to this problem and help generate
 > public, developer, and landscaper support for better regulations and practices.
 >
 >
 > -- Steve Rasmussen
 > City-owned Parking Lot Runoff Recipient
 >
 >
 >
 > On Thu, Apr 14, 2016 at 8:12 AM, Mary Weber <mary@maryweberdesign.com>
 > wrote:
 >
 > Another option people often mention is crushed granite fines but they
 > are also high maintenance and wash off easily on sloped sites. I've
 > also heard they're not really all that pervious..
 >
 >
 >
 > MARY WEBER, PLA, ASLA
 >
 > Mary Weber Landscape Architecture
 >
 > Tel: 828-281-3153
 > maryweberdesign.com
 >
 >
 >
 >
 >
 > On Thu, Apr 14, 2016 at 8:06 AM, Iona Thomas <IThomas@stewartinc.com>
 > wrote:
 >
 >
 > Hi all – The City would need to allocate additional maintenance
 > attention if a paver solution is desired. Cecil is correct that the
 > interstices will fill and cease to drain properly if not regularly
 > maintained. I would also be concerned with a wide scale application
 > due to freeze and thaw behavior of pavers. The pavers would likely
 > become very uneven over time even if properly installed. We have
 > proposed the pervious pavers at the handicap area because it is small
 > and can easily be maintained. Please let me know if I can provide
 > further information. -Iona
 >
 >
 > Iona L. Thomas, AICP | Bicycle & Pedestrian Practice Manager Direct
 > 919.866.4762 STEWART STRONGER BY DESIGN Visit us at www.stewartinc.com
 >
 >
 >
 > From: Cecil Bothwell [mailto:cecilbothwell@gmail.com]
 > Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 8:01 AM

> To: Richard Lee <ric.hardlee@live.com>
> Cc: Dave Nutter <dnutter@aol.com>; AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;
> Gary Jackson <gjackson@ashevillenc.gov>; rsimmons@ashevillenc.gov;
> lcrown@ashevillenc.gov; emory22@charter.net;
> mecheverry@ashevillenc.gov; Cathy Ball <cball@ashevillenc.gov>;
> tokolichany@ashevillenc.gov; mary@maryweberdesign.com;
> marcusbarksdale@yahoo.com; pwall@ashevillenc.gov; Iona Thomas
> <IThomas@stewartinc.com>; Steve Rasmussen <stevenrasmussen@gmail.com>
> Subject: Re: Beaucatcher Greenway in re select pervious surfacing
>
>
>
> I've been told that pervious pavers, porous asphalt, pervious concrete
> are all high maintenance in areas where there is considerable leaf
> litter. Even if you sweep regularly the ground up bits gradually fill
> the pores/interstices, etc.
>
> -c
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> On Apr 13, 2016, at 9:10 PM, Richard Lee <ric.hardlee@live.com> wrote:
>
>
>
>
> I imagine the designer would say pervious pavers don't reduce runoff
> very much more than asphalt. Or so I've heard.
>
>
>
> Rich
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> ----- Original message -----
>

> From: Dave Nutter <dnutter@aol.com>
 >
 > Date: 4/13/16 10:49 AM (GMT-05:00)
 >
 > To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov,gjackson@ashevillenc.gov,
 > rsimmons@ashevillenc.gov, lcrown@ashevillenc.gov,emory22@charter.net,
 > mecheverry@ashevillenc.gov,
 > cball@ashevillenc.gov,tokolichany@ashevillenc.gov,
 > mary@maryweberdesign.com, ric.hardlee@live.com
 >
 > Cc: marcusbarksdale@yahoo.com,pwall@ashevillenc.gov,
 > ithomas@stewartinc.com, stevenocrasmussen@gmail.com
 >
 > Subject: Beaucatcher Greenway in re select pervious surfacing
 >
 >
 >
 > At last night's dynamic nod, most welcome, to the Beaucatcher
 > Greenway, I spoke with Steve Rasmussen of PARC on the topic of pervious surfacing.
 >
 >
 >
 > Steve mentioned a customized rather than a one size fits all approach.
 >
 >
 >
 > We came away wondering whether it might be possible to turn to
 > pervious surfacing for those limited number of points on the greenway
 > most vulnerable to the greatest runoff that could be hazardous.
 >
 >
 >
 > I make this as a suggestion, subject to engineering feasibility,
 > possibly worth exploring.
 >
 >
 >
 > Best,
 >
 >
 >
 > Dave
 >
 >
 >
 > David G. Nutter, AICP, Principal, Retired Member, American Planning
 > Association Nutter Associates, Community Planners & Development
 > Professionals
 > 169 Flint Street,
 > Asheville, North Carolina 28801 USA
 > Tel 828-505-8242 Cell: 828-279-1820
 > For large files: google drop-box

[illegible]

Ben Fulmer

From: Dave Nutter <dnutter@aol.com> on behalf of Dave Nutter
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 10:48 AM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;gjackson@ashevillenc.gov;rsimmons@ashevillenc.gov;lcrown@ashevillenc.gov;emory22@charter.net;mecheverry@ashevillenc.gov;cball@ashevillenc.gov;tokolichany@asheville.nc.gov;mary@maryweberdesign.com;ric.hardlee@live.com
Cc: marcusbarksdale@yahoo.com;pwall@ashevillenc.gov;ithomas@stewartinc.com;stevencrasmussen@gmail.com
Subject: Beaucatcher Greenway in re select pervious surfacing

At last night's dynamic nod, most welcome, to the Beaucatcher Greenway, I spoke with Steve Rasmussen of PARC on the topic of pervious surfacing.

Steve mentioned a customized rather than a one size fits all approach.

We came away wondering whether it might be possible to turn to pervious surfacing for those limited number of points on the greenway most vulnerable to the greatest runoff that could be hazardous.

I make this as a suggestion, subject to engineering feasibility, possibly worth exploring.

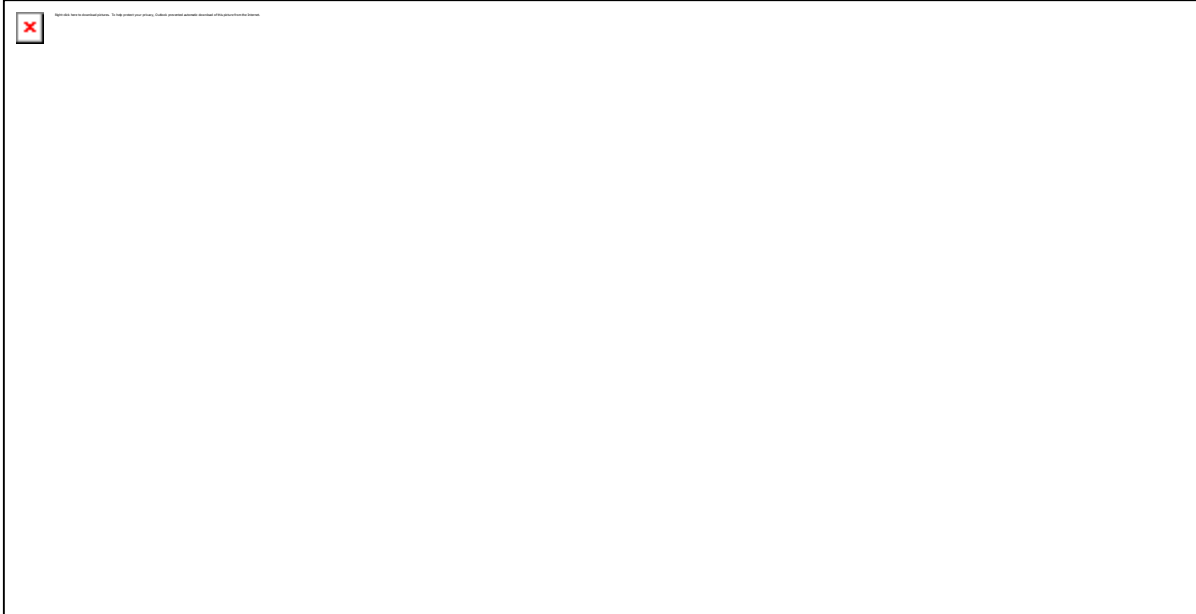
Best,

Dave

David G. Nutter, AICP, Principal, Retired
Member, American Planning Association
Nutter Associates, Community Planners & Development Professionals
169 Flint Street,
Asheville, North Carolina 28801 USA
Tel 828-505-8242 Cell: 828-279-1820
For large files: google drop-box

Ben Fulmer

From: Cecil Bothwell <cecil@cecilbothwell.com> on behalf of Cecil Bothwell
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 8:24 AM
To: GordonSmith@avlcouncil.com
Subject: Election, St. Lawrence Green & Chickens!



Vote, Donate, Feed the Birds!

My picks in the Democratic Primary - Buncombe

Pres. Bernie Sanders
U.S. Senate Chris Rey (Endorsed Sanders)
Gov. Roy Cooper
Lt. Gov. Ronald Newton or Holly Jones
Atty Gen. Josh Stein (Endorsed Sanders)
Sec. Of Labor Charles Meeker
Supt. Of Public Instruction June Atkinson
NC Treas. Ron Elmer (Endorsed Sanders)
Bunc. Bd. Of Comm. 1 Jasmine Beach-Ferrara
Bunc. Bd. Of Comm. 2 Larry Dodson

Oppose Bond
(I actually voted for the Bond when I voted early, but wish I could change my vote now.)

Fundraising for St. Lawrence Green!

Time to raise money for the design process! City Council has hired the Asheville Design Center to facilitate the design process, and appropriated **\$15,000**.

The Asheville Downtown Association has kicked in **\$5000**.

Friends of St. Lawrence Green and Asheville PARC have promised **\$5000**.

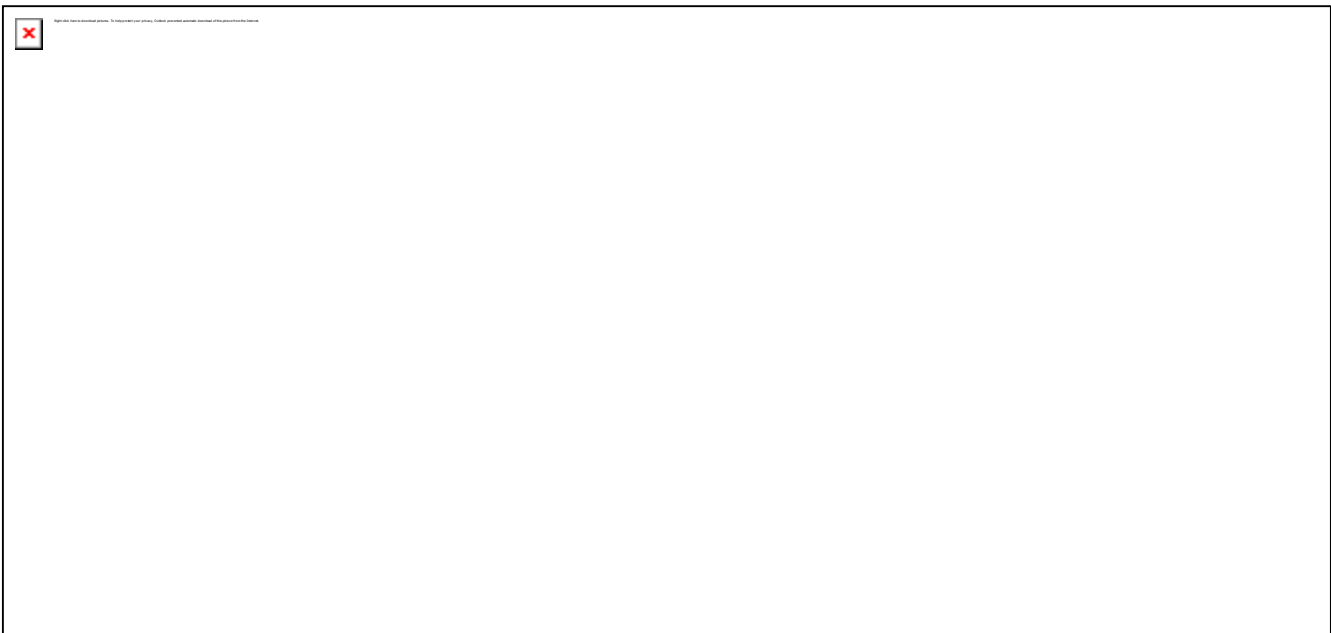
[Click here to donate.](#)

Or send checks to: Asheville PARC, POB 1877, Asheville, NC 28802

Chickens coming to Urban Orchard Cidery!

My chicken paintings will be on display at Urban Orchard Cidery by the end of March. Drop in for a flight of interesting hard ciders and to commune with the birds! 210 Haywood Rd. 28806

I call this one "Chicken Caucus" (oil on canvas, 16" x 20")



Bothwell for Buncombe | POB 1877 | Asheville, NC 28802 | <http://cecilbothwell.com>

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Ben Fulmer

From: Jaime Matthews <JMatthews@ashevillenc.gov> on behalf of Jaime Matthews
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 11:59 AM
To: Esther Manheimer;Christopher Pratt;Lakota R. Denton
Cc: Cecil Bothwell;councilgroup;John Boyle - Contact;Dawa Hitch;james@minicklaw.com;Gary Jackson;Cathy Ball;PARC
Subject: RE: Re:

Hi All,

Please see below a brief overview of initiatives the City has run in the last 12 months with regard to pedestrian and traffic safety. If you have any other question or want more information, please let me know.

Thanks,
Jaime

Jaime Matthews
Business Services Manager
City Manager's Office
City of Asheville, North Carolina
828-232-4541
jmatthews@ashevillenc.gov

1. **PACE Car Program** – a collaborative effort between CoA and Grove Park/Sunset Mountain Neighborhood.

Here is a quick blurb from our story back in April:

“All of us are bringing information from our own expertise to make sure we have a well-rounded effort,” says Community Resource Officer Todd Brigman. Using data from road traffic tests, the APD will be able to target specific times and trouble spots, as well as offer a visible deterrent to speeding. The Transportation Department, through the [Road Safety Review Team](#), can also offer reengineering of crosswalks and intersections or [traffic calming devices](#).

But not all areas are appropriate for traffic calming measures, and the APD cannot be everywhere at once, so strategies like education and awareness efforts need to come into play. And that's how neighbors can make an impact...

Ideas for education outreach include yard signs, neighborhood outreach and a neighborhood speed accountability program where neighbors sign pledges to comply with the speed limit. A sticker campaign could further spread the word.

FULL STORY: Neighborhood and City collaborate to reduce speeding (April 2, 2015)
<http://coablog.ashevillenc.gov/2015/04/neighbors-and-city-collaborate-to-reduce-speeding/>

2. **Watch For Me** – there was an education component on pedestrian, bicycle and motorist safety followed by focused enforcement.

There was a citywide **reduction of 27% in pedestrian and bicycle related crashes** in comparison to the same time period average for 2010-2014.

Asheville's pedestrian, bicycle crashes lower during City's Watch for Me campaign (January 11, 2016)

<http://coablog.ashevillenc.gov/2016/01/ashevilles-pedestrian-bicycle-crashes-lower-during-citys-watch-for-me-campaign/>

From: esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com [mailto:esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com]

Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 10:49 AM

To: Christopher Pratt <chrispd1@gmail.com>; Lakota R. Denton <lakota@minicklaw.com>

Cc: Cecil Bothwell <cecilbothwell@gmail.com>; councilgroup <AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov>; John Boyle - Contact <jboyle@citizen-times.com>; Dawa Hitch <DHitch@ashevillenc.gov>; james@minicklaw.com; Gary Jackson <GJackson@ashevillenc.gov>; Cathy Ball <cball@ashevillenc.gov>; PARC <ashevilleparc@gmail.com>; Jaime Matthews <JMatthews@ashevillenc.gov>

Subject: RE: Re:

I see the problem. Jaime, can you send out the information on the Watch For Me campaign to everyone? When I sent it out, it was garbled.

Thank you,
Esther

Esther Manheimer
Mayor, City of Asheville
P.O. Box 7148
Asheville, NC 28802
70 Court Plaza
Asheville, NC 28801
828-259-5600
828-231-8016
esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com

From: [Christopher Pratt](#)

Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2016 10:30 AM

To: [Lakota R. Denton](#)

Cc: [Esther Manheimer](#); [Cecil Bothwell](#); AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov; [jboyle](#); [Dawa Hitch](#); james@minicklaw.com; [Gary Jackson](#); [Cathy Ball](#); [PARC](#)

Subject: Re:

Nor can I, not sure why.

On Thu, Feb 4, 2016 at 10:11 AM, Lakota R. Denton <lakota@minicklaw.com> wrote:

I can't read this email, it looks encrypted.

--

Lakota R. Denton
Attorney
Minick Law, P.C.
[828-333-5024](tel:828-333-5024)

On February 4, 2016 at 10:06:50 AM, esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com (esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com) wrote:

lakota@minicklaw.com" <lakota@minicklaw.com>

From: <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>

Subject:

=?utf-8?Q?RE:_=E2=80=9CSLOW_DOWN_ASHEVILLE=E2=80=9D_-

_Local_law_firm_laun?=-

=?utf-8?Q?ches_driving_speed_reduction_sign_campaign.?=-

Date: Thu, 4 Feb 2016 10:06:48 -0500

Importance: normal

X-Priority: 3

In-Reply-To: <F3FBFA2F-F4DF-426C-84FC-0C7169C806DB@gmail.com>

References:

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<F3FBFA2F-F4DF-426C-84FC-0C7169C806DB@gmail.com>

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In addition, the city=E2=80=99s partnership with DOT in the =E2=80=9CWatch =
for Me=E2=80=9D campaign saw great success. Here=E2=80=99s some informatio=
n about that. See below. But traffic and pedestrian safety remains a high=
priority. Many of the streets in Asheville are under DOT control, requiri=
ng a close working relationship with DOT to address safety concerns. The n=
ew sidewalks down Hendersonville Road are good example of the results of th=
at partnership.

Asheville=E2=80=99s pedestrian, bicycle crashes lower during City=E2=80=99s=
Watch for Me campaign

The City of Asheville=E2=80=99s 2015 Watch for Me NC campaign, which ran fr=
om September to November, saw a citywide reduction of 27% in pedestrian- an=
d bicycle-related crashes in comparison to the same time period average for=
2010-2014.

=C2=A0

This is the first year the City of Asheville has participated in the=C2=A0W=
atch for Me NC campaign. The statewide initiative, run through the NC Depar=
tment of Transportation, aims to reduce pedestrian and bicycle injuries and=
deaths through a comprehensive and targeted approach of public education a=
nd police enforcement.

Asheville=E2=80=99s campaign, which kicked off Aug. 4, focused on educating=
motorists and pedestrians on laws through the month of August and began mo=
torist-focused enforcement on Sept. 1.

=C2=A0

Enforcement focused on heavily used pedestrian areas of Asheville such as d=

owntown, Biltmore Village, Merrimon Avenue and West Asheville. Throughout the three-month period the Asheville Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit conducted 10 operations focused on enforcing pedestrian related laws to motorists. These operations resulted in 49 charges. In addition, the Downtown Unit conducted multiple operations during this time frame focusing on major pedestrian intersections, such as those surrounding Pritchard Park.

Our department's primary focus is to ensure that all citizens and visitors to the City of Asheville are safe," said Asheville Police Chief Tammy Hooper. "There are a number of areas throughout Asheville that experience very high pedestrian foot traffic. From 2010 to 2014 we had an average of 37 pedestrian-involved wrecks per year; in calendar year 2015 we experienced 27. Obviously, the goal is zero, but this is a substantial and very positive reduction. We hope to continue the downward trend through various efforts which include participating in campaigns such as Watch for Me."

The City of Asheville would like to thank community partners who assisted in the program:

- UNC Asheville Police Department
- AB Tech Community College
- Asheville City Schools
- Active Routes to School
- Buncombe County District Attorney's Office
- Mountain Area Health Education Center
- Blue Ridge Bicycle Club
- Asheville on Bikes
- WNC Bicycle Dealer's Association
- Asheville Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force
- City of Asheville Multimodal Commission
- City of Asheville Neighborhood Advisory Committee

Esther Manheimer
Mayor, City of Asheville
P.O. Box 7148
Asheville, NC 28802
70 Court Plaza
Asheville, NC 28801
[828-259-5600](tel:828-259-5600)
[828-231-8016](tel:828-231-8016)
esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com

From: Cecil Bothwell
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2016 11:56 AM
To: Christopher Pratt
Cc: AshevilleNCCouncil@asheville.nc.gov; PARC; jboyle
Subject: Re: CSLOW DOWN ASHEVILLE - Local law firm launches driving speed reduction sign campaign.

The City of Asheville currently has a "slow down" campaign going. The PACE CAR program was initiated last year in partnership with the Grove Park/Sunset Mountain Neighborhood Association. It replicates similar programs in other cities which enlist local residents who pledge to drive at the speed limit and then receive a sticker identifying their cars as Pace Cars. Enforcement was also stepped up in the neighborhood.

This follows on continuous Council action regarding traffic calming in the City. (See [this link](#) for a 2014 update on the issue.)

I haven't seen an evaluation of the success or failure of the program at this point, but I think it's clear that the City of Asheville is working on this matter.

-c
=C2=A0

On Feb 2, 2016, at 7:08 PM, Christopher Pratt <chrispdoc1@gmail.com> wrote:

"SLOW DOWN ASHEVILLE" - Local law firm launches driving speed reduction sign campaign.

-- There you go Asheville, our City Council won't and APD doesn't have enough officers so can't take action to control traffic so we get signs paid for by local law firms. How's that working for you?

Local law firm launches driving speed reduction sign campaign

Posted on February 1, 2016 by Able Allen - sign-project_redo-300x225
Press release from Minick Law:

We are proud to be launching "SLOW DOWN ASHEVILLE"; a public safety campaign designed to help motorists drive safely on Asheville's busy and narrow roadways. Co-sponsored by N.C. Farm Bureau and Fast Signs of Asheville, Minick Law will be distributing FREE "SLOW DOWN ASHEVILLE" yard signs to residents and businesses, to serve as a reminder to Asheville motorists to drive with appropriate caution on our city streets.

Asheville, N.C. holds the unfortunate title for the highest number of pedestrian injuries in the state, per capita. The city's vibrant growth brings with it more challenges to pedestrian and bicycle safety, as our roads get more and more congested, and side streets become thoroughfares for drivers looking for shortcuts.

This project hits especially close to home for us at Minick Law, as many of our attorneys and staff members live in Asheville's particularly congested neighborhoods, with young children and pets. Watching motorists zoom past our homes every day, we decided that we needed to do what we could to help address and bring much needed awareness to an important local issue.

Minick Law=Es Asheville Personal Injury Attorney Lakota Denton handles a variety of serious pedestrian and bicycle accidents in Asheville, and as he puts it: "Unfortunately, I've seen some really sad and terrible things happen to pedestrians and bicyclists when drivers are going too fast and not paying attention. We need to drive like our own children and pets live on the street we're driving on."

Beginning on Wednesday February 10th, You can stop by the following locations to pick up your free SLOW DOWN ASHEVILLE yard sign for your home or business:

Minick Law 30 Orchard St. Asheville, NC 28801

NC Farm Bureau 41 Chamberlain Dr. Asheville, NC 28806

High 5 Coffee 190 Broadway #102 Asheville, NC 28801

High 5 Coffee 13 Rankin Ave. Asheville, NC 28801

Edna's of Asheville 870 Merrimon Ave. Asheville, NC 28801

Edna's At The River 219 Amboy Rd. Asheville, NC 28806

Biscuit Head 733 Haywood Rd. Asheville, NC 28806

Biscuit Head 417 Biltmore Ave 4F Asheville, NC 28801

(More locations TBD)

Want to be a distribution point for SLOW DOWN ASHEVILLE yard signs? Drop us an email:

Thank you for doing your part to keep our community safe.

<https://mountainx.com/blogwire/local-law...>

--_1ED182D0-9B17-4EE0-A189-21A50C8C84F4_

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{font-family:"Cambria Math";
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font-family:"Calibri",sans-serif;}
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color:blue;
text-decoration:underline;}
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color:#954F72;
text-decoration:underline;}
.MsoChpDefault
{mso-style-type:export-only;}
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{mso-list-id:310184560;
mso-list-template-ids:506489840;}
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mso-level-tab-stop:1.0in;
mso-level-number-position:left;
text-indent:-.25in;
mso-ansi-font-size:10.0pt;
font-family:Symbol;}

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mso-level-text:\F0B7;
mso-level-tab-stop:1.5in;
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text-indent:-.25in;
mso-ansi-font-size:10.0pt;
font-family:Symbol;}
@list l0:level4
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mso-level-tab-stop:2.0in;
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font-family:Symbol;}

ol

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ul

{margin-bottom:0in;}

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Enforcement focused on heavily used pedestrian areas of Asheville such as downtown, Biltmore Village, Merrimon Avenue and West Asheville. Throughout the three-month period the Asheville Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit conducted 10 operations = focused on enforcing pedestrian related laws to motorists. These operations resulted in 49 charges. In addition, the Downtown Unit conducted multiple operations during this time frame focusing on major pedestrian intersections, such as those surrounding Pritchard Park.

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The City of Asheville would like to thank community partners who assisted in the program:

UNC Asheville Police Department

AB Tech Community College

Asheville City Schools

Active Routes to School

Buncombe County District Attorney=E2=80=99s Office

Mountain Area Health Education Center

Blue Ridge = Bicycle Club

Asheville on Bikes

WNC Bicycle = Dealer=E2=80=99s Association

Asheville Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force

City of Asheville Multimodal Commission

City of Asheville Neighborhood Advisory Committee

**Esther Manheimer
Mayor, City of Asheville
P.O. Box 7148
Asheville, NC 28802
70 Court Plaza
Asheville, NC 28801
[828-259-5600](tel:828-259-5600)
[828-231-8016](tel:828-231-8016)
esthermanheimer@avlouncil.com**

From: Cecil Bothwell <cecilbothwell@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2016 11:56 AM

To: Christopher Pratt <crispdoc1@gmail.com>

Cc: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov <AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov>; AshevillePARC@gmail.com <AshevillePARC@gmail.com>; JBoyle@citizen-times.com <jboyle@citizen-times.com>

Subject: Re: ASHEVILLE - Local law firm launches driving speed reduction sign = campaign.

The City of Asheville currently has a slow down campaign going. The PACE CAR program was initiated last year in partnership with the Grove Park/Sunset Mountain Neighborhood Association. It replicates similar programs in other cities which enlist local residents who pledge to drive the speed limit and then receive a sticker identifying their cars as Pace Cars. Enforcement was also stepped up in the neighborhood.

This follows on continuous Council action regarding traffic calming in the City. (See http://www.ashevillenc.gov/Portals/0/city-documents/transportationengineering/traffic_engineering/Rev_Traffic_Calming_Policy_06-13-14.pdf) this link for a 2014 update on the issue.)

I haven't seen an evaluation of the success or failure of the program at this point, but I think it's clear that the City of Asheville is working on this matter.

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Times New Roman", serif>=

<o:p></o:p></p></div><div><p class=3DMsoNormal> <o:p></o:p></p><div><p class=3DMsoNormal><o:p> </o:p></p><div><blockquote style=3D'margin-top:5.0pt;margin-bottom:5.0pt'><div><p class=3DMsoNormal>On Feb 2, 2016, =

at 7:08 PM, Christopher Pratt c=

hrispdoc1@gmail.com> wrote:<o:p></o:p></p></div><p class=3DMsoNormal><span style=3D'font-size:12.0pt;font-family:"Times New Roman", serif=

><o:p> </o:p></p><div><div><p class=3DMsoNormal>=E2=80=

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-- There you go Asheville, our City Council won't and APD doesn't have enough officers so can't take action to control traffic so we get signs paid for by local law firms. How's that working =

for you?

Local law firm launches driving speed reduction sign campaign

Posted on February 1, 2016 by Able Allen - sign-project_redo-300x225
Press release from Minick Law:

We=

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<=

Minick Law=E2=80=99s Asheville Personal Injury Attorney Lakota Denton handles a variety of serious pedestrian and bicycle accidents in Asheville, and as he puts it: =E2=80=9CUnfortunately, I=E2=80=99ve seen some really sad=

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28801

NC Farm Bureau =E2=80=93 41 Chamberlain Dr. Asheville, NC =

C 28806

High 5 Coffee =E2=80=93 190 Broadway #102 Asheville, NC =

C 28801

High 5 Coffee =E2=80=93 13 Rankin Ave. Asheville, NC 2=

8801

Edna=E2=80=99s of Asheville =E2=80=93 870 Merrimon Ave. Asheville, NC 28801

Edna=E2=80=99s At The River =E2=80=93 219 Ambrosy Rd. Asheville, NC 28806

Biscuit Head =E2=80=93 733 Haywood Rd. Asheville, NC 28806

Biscuit Head =E2=80=93 417 Biltmore =

Ave 4F Asheville, NC 28801 (More locations TBD) Want to be a distribution point for SLOW DOWN ASHEVILLE yard signs? Drop us an email Thank you for doing your part to keep our community safe.

<https://mountainx.com/blogwire/local-law-firm-launches-driving-speed-reduction-sign-campaign/>

--_1ED182D0-9B17-4EE0-A189-21A50C8C84F4_--

Ben Fulmer

From: Christopher Pratt <chrispd1@gmail.com> on behalf of Christopher Pratt
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 10:31 AM
To: Lakota R. Denton
Cc: Esther Manheimer; Cecil Bothwell; AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;jboyle;Dawa Hitch;james@minicklaw.com; Gary Jackson; Cathy Ball; PARC
Subject: Re:

Nor can I, not sure why.

On Thu, Feb 4, 2016 at 10:11 AM, Lakota R. Denton <lakota@minicklaw.com> wrote:
I can't read this email, it looks encrypted.

--
Lakota R. Denton
Attorney
Minick Law, P.C.
[828-333-5024](tel:828-333-5024)

On February 4, 2016 at 10:06:50 AM, esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com (esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com) wrote:

lakota@minicklaw.com" <lakota@minicklaw.com>
From: <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>
Subject:
=?utf-8?Q?RE:_=E2=80=9CSLOW_DOWN_ASHEVILLE=E2=80=9D_-
_Local_law_firm_laun?=
=?utf-8?Q?ches_driving_speed_reduction_sign_campaign.?=
Date: Thu, 4 Feb 2016 10:06:48 -0500
Importance: normal
X-Priority: 3
In-Reply-To: <F3FBFA2F-F4DF-426C-84FC-0C7169C806DB@gmail.com>
References:
<CAOVtmQ8JyFgwFPfhFefysfQP8ni2u4t3YYUWN3XpFeHFDmiZVg@mail.gmail.com>
<F3FBFA2F-F4DF-426C-84FC-0C7169C806DB@gmail.com>
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In addition, the city=E2=80=99s partnership with DOT in the =E2=80=9CWatch =
for Me=E2=80=9D campaign saw great success. Here=E2=80=99s some informatio=
n about that. See below. But traffic and pedestrian safety remains a high=
priority. Many of the streets in Asheville are under DOT control, requiri=

ng a close working relationship with DOT to address safety concerns. The new sidewalks down Hendersonville Road are good example of the results of that partnership.

Asheville's pedestrian, bicycle crashes lower during City's Watch for Me campaign

The City of Asheville's 2015 Watch for Me NC campaign, which ran from September to November, saw a citywide reduction of 27% in pedestrian- and bicycle-related crashes in comparison to the same time period average for 2010-2014.

What

This is the first year the City of Asheville has participated in the Watch for Me NC campaign. The statewide initiative, run through the NC Department of Transportation, aims to reduce pedestrian and bicycle injuries and deaths through a comprehensive and targeted approach of public education and police enforcement.

Asheville's campaign, which kicked off Aug. 4, focused on educating motorists and pedestrians on laws through the month of August and began motorist-focused enforcement on Sept. 1.

What

Enforcement focused on heavily used pedestrian areas of Asheville such as downtown, Biltmore Village, Merrimon Avenue and West Asheville. Throughout the three-month period the Asheville Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit conducted 10 operations focused on enforcing pedestrian related laws to motorists. These operations resulted in 49 charges. In addition, the Downtown Unit conducted multiple operations during this time frame focusing on major pedestrian intersections, such as those surrounding Pritchard Park.

What

Our department's primary focus is to ensure that all citizens and visitors to the City of Asheville are safe," said Asheville Police Chief Tammy Hooper. "There are a number of areas throughout Asheville that experience very high pedestrian foot traffic. From 2010 to 2014 we had an average of 37 pedestrian-involved wrecks per year; in calendar year 2015 we experienced 27. Obviously, the goal is zero, but this is a substantial and very positive reduction. We hope to continue the downward trend through various efforts which include participating in campaigns such as Watch for Me."

What

The City of Asheville would like to thank community partners who assisted in the program:

UNC Asheville Police Department

AB Tech Community College

Asheville City Schools

Active Routes to School

Buncombe County District Attorney's Office

Mountain Area Health Education Center

Blue Ridge Bicycle Club

Asheville on Bikes

WNC Bicycle Dealer's Association

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=E2=80=A2 City of Asheville Multimodal Commission
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=C2=A0

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Posted on February 1, 2016 by Able Allen - sign-project_redo-300x225=C2=A0
Press release from Minick Law:=C2=A0

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(More locations TBD)

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Thank you for doing your part to keep our community safe.=C2=A0

<https://mountainx.com/blogwire/local-law...>

--_1ED182D0-9B17-4EE0-A189-21A50C8C84F4_

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@font-face
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/* Style Definitions */
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mso-level-tab-stop:4.5in;
mso-level-number-position:left;
text-indent:-.25in;
mso-ansi-font-size:10.0pt;
font-family:Symbol;}
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{ margin-bottom:0in;}
ul
{ margin-bottom:0in;}

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--_1ED182D0-9B17-4EE0-A189-21A50C8C84F4_--

Ben Fulmer

From: Gary Jackson <GJackson@ashevillenc.gov> on behalf of Gary Jackson
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 10:30 AM
To: Dawa Hitch
Cc: councilgroup
Subject: Re: "SLOW DOWN ASHEVILLE" - Local law firm launches driving speed reduction sign campaign.

Great news. Passing along.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 4, 2016, at 10:20 AM, Dawa Hitch <DHitch@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

Hi Gary,

This is actually good news! It's encouraging and what staff has hoped would take root. The sustainable solution to slowing down speeding in neighborhoods is to have the community buy in and feel ownership over the solution. Over the last 12 months there have been 2 initiatives. Before I move into those, know that we will find a way to plug the City's efforts into the grassroots efforts Minick outlines in their press release. Earlier this week, Marsha scheduled a meeting with APD, Transportation and CAPE to do just that.

Here are the initiatives we've run in the last 12 months:

1. **PACE Car Program** – a collaborative effort between CoA and Grove Park/Sunset Mountain Neighborhood. This program is similar to what Minick Law is doing.

Here is a quick blurb from our story back in April:

"All of us are bringing information from our own expertise to make sure we have a well-rounded effort," says Community Resource Officer Todd Brigman. Using data from road traffic tests, the APD will be able to target specific times and trouble spots, as well as offer a visible deterrent to speeding. The Transportation Department, through the [Road Safety Review Team](#), can also offer reengineering of crosswalks and intersections or [traffic calming devices](#).

But not all areas are appropriate for traffic calming measures, and the APD cannot be everywhere at once, so strategies like education and awareness efforts need to come into play. And that's how neighbors can make an impact...

Ideas for education outreach include yard signs, neighborhood outreach and a neighborhood speed accountability program where neighbors sign pledges to comply with the speed limit. A sticker campaign could further spread the word.

FULL STORY: Neighborhood and City collaborate to reduce speeding (April 2, 2015)
<http://coablog.ashevillenc.gov/2015/04/neighbors-and-city-collaborate-to-reduce-speeding/>

2. **Watch For Me** – there was an education component on pedestrian, bicycle and motorist safety followed by focused enforcement.

There was a citywide **reduction of 27% in pedestrian and bicycle related crashes** in comparison to the same time period average for 2010-2014.

Asheville's pedestrian, bicycle crashes lower during City's Watch for Me campaign (January 11, 2016)

<http://coablog.ashevollenc.gov/2016/01/ashevilles-pedestrian-bicycle-crashes-lower-during-citys-watch-for-me-campaign/>

From: Gary Jackson
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 5:28 PM
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Cc: Cathy Ball; Paul Fetherston; Dawa Hitch; Ken Putnam; Tammy Hooper
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Thx for forwarding.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 2, 2016, at 7:42 PM, Esther Manheimer <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov>
From: Christopher Pratt <chrisspdcl@gmail.com>
Date: February 2, 2016 at 7:08:56 PM EST
To: <AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov>, PARC
<AshevillePARC@gmail.com>
Cc: jboyle <JBoyle@citizen-times.com>, Christopher Pratt
<chrisspdcl@gmail.com>
Subject: "SLOW DOWN ASHEVILLE" - Local law firm launches driving speed reduction sign campaign.

"SLOW DOWN ASHEVILLE" - Local law firm launches driving speed reduction sign campaign.

-- There you go Asheville, our City Council won't and APD doesn't have enough officers so can't take action to control traffic so we get signs paid for by local law firms. How's that working for you?

Local law firm launches driving speed reduction sign campaign

Posted on February 1, 2016 by Able Allen - sign-project_redo-300x225

Press release from Minick Law:

We are proud to be launching “SLOW DOWN ASHEVILLE”; a public safety campaign designed to help motorists drive safely on Asheville’s busy and narrow roadways. Co-sponsored by N.C. Farm Bureau and FastSigns of Asheville, Minick Law will be distributing FREE “SLOW DOWN ASHEVILLE” yard signs to residents and businesses, to serve as a reminder to Asheville motorists to drive with appropriate caution on our city streets.

Asheville, N.C. holds the unfortunate title for the highest number of pedestrian injuries in the state, per capita. The city’s vibrant growth brings with it more challenges to pedestrian and bicycle safety, as our roads get more and more congested, and side streets become thoroughfares for drivers looking for shortcuts.

This project hits especially close to home for us at Minick Law, as many of our attorneys and staff members live in Asheville’s particularly congested neighborhoods, with young children and pets. Watching motorists zoom past our homes every day, we decided that we needed to do what we could to help address and bring much needed awareness to an important local issue.

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Beginning on Wednesday February 10th, You can stop by the following locations to pick up your free SLOW DOWN ASHEVILLE yard sign for your home or business:

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NC Farm Bureau – 41 Chamberlain Dr. Asheville, NC 28806

High 5 Coffee – 190 Broadway #102 Asheville, NC 28801

High 5 Coffee – 13 Rankin Ave. Asheville, NC 28801

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Biscuit Head – 733 Haywood Rd. Asheville, NC 28806

Biscuit Head – 417 Biltmore Ave 4F Asheville, NC 28801

(More locations TBD)

Want to be a distribution point for SLOW DOWN ASHEVILLE yard signs? Drop us an email

Thank you for doing your part to keep our community safe.

<https://mountainx.com/blogwire/local-law...>

Ben Fulmer

From: esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 10:07 AM
To: Cecil Bothwell; Christopher Pratt
Cc: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov; PARC;jboyle; Gary Jackson; Dawa Hitch; Cathy Ball;james@minicklaw.com

lakota@minicklaw.com" <lakota@minicklaw.com>

From: <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>

Subject:

=?utf-8?Q?RE:_E2=80=9CSLOW_DOWN_ASHEVILLE=E2=80=9D_-_Local_law_firm_laun?=>

=?utf-8?Q?ches_driving_speed_reduction_sign_campaign.?=>

Date: Thu, 4 Feb 2016 10:06:48 -0500

Importance: normal

X-Priority: 3

In-Reply-To: <F3FBFA2F-F4DF-426C-84FC-0C7169C806DB@gmail.com>

References:

<CAOVTmQ8JyFgwFPfhFefysfQP8ni2u4t3YYUWN3XpFeHFDmiZVg@mail.gmail.com>

<F3FBFA2F-F4DF-426C-84FC-0C7169C806DB@gmail.com>

Content-Type: multipart/alternative;

boundary="_1ED182D0-9B17-4EE0-A189-21A50C8C84F4_"

--_1ED182D0-9B17-4EE0-A189-21A50C8C84F4_

Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="utf-8"

In addition, the city=E2=80=99s partnership with DOT in the =E2=80=9CWatch = for Me=E2=80=9D campaign saw great success. Here=E2=80=99s some informatio= n about that. See below. But traffic and pedestrian safety remains a high= priority. Many of the streets in Asheville are under DOT control, requiri= ng a close working relationship with DOT to address safety concerns. The n= ew sidewalks down Hendersonville Road are good example of the results of th= at partnership.

Asheville=E2=80=99s pedestrian, bicycle crashes lower during City=E2=80=99s= Watch for Me campaign The City of Asheville=E2=80=99s 2015 Watch for Me NC campaign, which ran fr= om September to November, saw a citywide reduction of 27% in pedestrian- an= d bicycle-related crashes in comparison to the same time period average for= 2010-2014.

=C2=A0

This is the first year the City of Asheville has participated in the=C2=A0W= atch for Me NC campaign. The statewide initiative, run through the NC Depar= tment of Transportation, aims to reduce pedestrian and bicycle injuries and= deaths through a comprehensive and targeted approach of public education a= nd police enforcement.

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=C2=A0

Enforcement focused on heavily used pedestrian areas of Asheville such as d= owntown, Biltmore Village, Merrimon Avenue and West Asheville. Throughout t= he three-month period the Asheville Police Department=E2=80=99s Traffic Saf= ety Unit conducted 10 operations focused on enforcing pedestrian related la= ws to motorists. These operations resulted in 49 charges. In addition, the = Downtown Unit conducted multiple operations during this time frame focusing= on major pedestrian intersections, such as those surrounding Pritchard Par= k.

=C2=A0

Our department's primary focus is to ensure that all citizens and visitors to the City of Asheville are safe," said Asheville Police Chief Tammy Hooper. "There are a number of areas throughout Asheville that experience very high pedestrian foot traffic. From 2010 to 2014 we had an average of 37 pedestrian-involved wrecks per year; in calendar year 2015 we experienced 27. Obviously, the goal is zero, but this is a substantial and very positive reduction. We hope to continue the downward trend through various efforts which include participating in campaigns such as Watch for Me."

The City of Asheville would like to thank community partners who assisted in the program:

- UNC Asheville Police Department
- AB Tech Community College
- Asheville City Schools
- Active Routes to School
- Buncombe County District Attorney's Office
- Mountain Area Health Education Center
- Blue Ridge Bicycle Club
- Asheville on Bikes
- WNC Bicycle Dealer's Association
- Asheville Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force
- City of Asheville Multimodal Commission
- City of Asheville Neighborhood Advisory Committee

Esther Manheimer
Mayor, City of Asheville
P.O. Box 7148
Asheville, NC 28802
70 Court Plaza
Asheville, NC 28801
828-259-5600
828-231-8016
esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com

From: Cecil Bothwell
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2016 11:56 AM
To: Christopher Pratt
Cc: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov; PARC; jboyle
Subject: Re: SLOW DOWN ASHEVILLE - Local law firm launches driving speed reduction sign campaign.

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-C

=C2=A0

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--_1ED182D0-9B17-4EE0-A189-21A50C8C84F4_

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Content-Type: text/html; charset="utf-8"

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@font-face
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/* Style Definitions */
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    mso-ansi-font-size:10.0pt;
    font-family:Symbol;}
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    mso-level-text:\F0B7;

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mso-level-number-position:left;
text-indent:-.25in;
mso-ansi-font-size:10.0pt;
font-family:Symbol;}

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mso-level-text:\F0B7;
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text-indent:-.25in;
mso-ansi-font-size:10.0pt;
font-family:Symbol;}

@list l0:level8

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text-indent:-.25in;
mso-ansi-font-size:10.0pt;
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@list l0:level9

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font-family:Symbol;}

ol

{margin-bottom:0in;}

ul

{margin-bottom:0in;}

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-->cla=

ss=3DWordSection1><p class=3DMsoNormal>In ad= dition, the city=E2=80=99s
partnership with DOT in the =E2=80=9CWatch for Me=E2=80=9D
campaign saw great suc=

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class=3DMsoNormal><o:p> </o:p></p><p class=3DMsoNormal
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an></p><p class=3DMsoNormal

an>style=3D'margin-bottom:7.5pt;line-height:15.0pt=

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=

[illegible]

City of Asheville Multimodal Commission

Asheville Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force

City of Asheville Neighborhood Advisory Committee

Esther Manheimer
Mayor, City of Asheville
P.O. Box 7148
Asheville, NC 28802
Court Plaza
Asheville, NC 28801
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828-231-8016
esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com

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<https://mountainx.com/blogwire/local-law...>

Ben Fulmer

From: Dave Nutter <dnutter@aol.com> on behalf of Dave Nutter
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2016 7:35 AM
To: GordonSmith@avlcouncil.com
Subject: Fwd: Haywood/Page development
Attachments: Haywood - Page - 3 logical development alternatives 012016.pdf

Gordon:

I am continuing to try to make an objective analysis of the situation, choices and potentials involved in the development of the controversial city-owned parcels at Haywood and Page in an effort to involve reason. My update is attached.

I would like to keep moving on this as the public engagement process takes place.

No need to respond unless you wish to, but I thought you should know what I am doing.

I believe there can be a very good outcome to this but that a little Aristotle along the way might possibly help.

Best,

Dave

David G. Nutter, AICP, Principal, Retired
Nutter Associates, Community Planners & Development Professionals
169 Flint Street,
Asheville, North Carolina 28801 USA
Tel 828-505-8242 Cell: 828-279-1820
For large files: google drop-box

Ben Fulmer

From: David Nutter <dnutter@aol.com> on behalf of David Nutter
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2016 9:26 AM
To: Gordon Smith;Gwen Wisler;Cecil Bothwell;Brian Haynes;Keith Young;Esther Manheimer;Julie Mayfield
Cc: Gary Jackson
Subject: Fwd: 68-76 Haywood Street redevelopment parcels - 3 logical development alternatives

Gordon:

Yes, that's fine. See below.

Best,

Dave

David G. Nutter, AICP, Retired
Principal,
Nutter Associates, Community Planners & Development Professionals
169 Flint Street
Asheville, NC. 28801
Tel. 828-505-8242
Cell 828-279-1820
Email dnutter@aol.com
For large attachments: Google Drop Box

Begin forwarded message:

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com>
Date: January 7, 2016 at 9:19:52 AM EST
To: Dave Nutter <dnutter@aol.com>
Subject: Re: 68-76 Haywood Street redevelopment parcels - 3 logical development alternatives

Thank you, Dave. Would you be willing to share this with Councilman Bothwell, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Young, and Vice Mayor Wisler?

Gordon

On Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 11:00 AM, Dave Nutter <dnutter@aol.com> wrote:
Gordon:

It seems to me that there are 3 logical alternatives for deciding on the destiny of the 68-76 Haywood Street city-owned redevelopment parcels.

These generally match the typical or classical pattern of alternatives laid out for environmental impact statements in the United States:

(1) a "Null" or "No Build" alternative in which activity is ceased and nothing is done. This would mean discontinuing effort to develop the site. The analysis of this alternative is an opportunity cost analysis of the costs of doing nothing. Essentially this alternative would continue the treatment of the site for the past 12 years for an undetermined period of years. This is a default alternative.

(2) a "Full Development" alternative to maximize the redevelopment of the site. In this case, I think this means public-private partnership redevelopment with a mixture of public and private uses along the lines of the earlier Asheville Design Center thinking. It includes the disposition of the parcels to a public-private partnership organization through a contract for sale or lease, at a price consistent with the "Surplus Government Property Auction to the Highest Bidder" policy in use, required public design guidelines, community participation and a private developer selection process which is transparent. This alternative has the greatest development complexity.

and

(3) a "Moderate Development" alternative in between (1) and (2). I think this matches the public open space approach which has been variously described in the "Guastavino Place" idea proposed by the Asheville Design Center and the "Saint Lawrence Green" campaign by PARC and several of the City Council candidates. This alternative has the greatest cost.

Best,

Dave

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For large files: google drop-box

Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2016 9:20 AM
To: Dave Nutter
Subject: Re: 68-76 Haywood Street redevelopment parcels - 3 logical development alternatives

Thank you, Dave. Would you be willing to share this with Councilman Bothwell, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Young, and Vice Mayor Wisler?

Gordon

On Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 11:00 AM, Dave Nutter <dnutter@aol.com> wrote:
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Nutter Associates, Community Planners & Development Professionals
169 Flint Street,

Asheville, North Carolina 28801 USA
Tel 828-505-8242 Cell: 828-279-1820
For large files: google drop-box

Ben Fulmer

From: Dave Nutter <dnutter@aol.com> on behalf of Dave Nutter
Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2016 11:01 AM
To: GordonSmith@avlcouncil.com
Subject: 68-76 Haywood Street redevelopment parcels - 3 logical development alternatives

Gordon:

It seems to me that there are 3 logical alternatives for deciding on the destiny of the 68-76 Haywood Street city-owned redevelopment parcels.

These generally match the typical or classical pattern of alternatives laid out for environmental impact statements in the United States:

(1) a "Null" or "No Build" alternative in which activity is ceased and nothing is done. This would mean discontinuing effort to develop the site. The analysis of this alternative is an opportunity cost analysis of the costs of doing nothing. Essentially this alternative would continue the treatment of the site for the past 12 years for an undetermined period of years. This is a default alternative.

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Best,

Dave

David G. Nutter, AICP, Principal, Retired
Nutter Associates, Community Planners & Development Professionals
169 Flint Street,
Asheville, North Carolina 28801 USA
Tel 828-505-8242 Cell: 828-279-1820
For large files: google drop-box

Ben Fulmer

From: Lael Gray <laelgray@yahoo.com> on behalf of Lael Gray
Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2015 7:33 AM
To: Julie Mayfield;Gwen Wisler;Esther Manheimer;Cecil Bothwell;Gordon Smith;Brownie Newman;brianhaynes@avlcouncil.com;keithyoung@avlcouncil.com
Subject: Fw: Montford and the I-26 Connector alternatives

FYI...

Lael Gray laelgray@yahoo.com

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Suzanne Devane <sdevane@hdresources.net>
To: 'Lael Gray' <laelgray@yahoo.com>; 'Rachel Stein' <nrachelstein@gmail.com>; montford@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 11:24 AM
Subject: Montford and the I-26 Connector alternatives

Hi All – A couple of observations and my understanding of the background on this.

- 1) The Burton Street Community united early on the I-26 Connector because they risk losing 35 homes to eminent domain under the 3 alternatives. They entered into what they refer to as a “formal partnership” with the Asheville Design Center to come up with alternatives other than the 3’s to preserve their community. As such, the ADC designs of 4 and 4B were drafted to protect that neighborhood’s concerns. <http://burtonstreet.org/neighborhood-plan/>
- 2) The staff and board at the ADC are a very talented and accomplished group of individuals ranging from landscape architects, to architects, to attorneys and artists. That being said, it doesn’t appear that any highway engineers were involved in developing the 4 and 4B alternatives. If there had been, I believe it would have been made clear years ago that there is very little that can be done to reduce the footprint of the two fly-overs and its related traffic noise and visual impacts. Eighty percent of the funding for this project will be coming from the USDOT to develop highway infrastructures. There are project requirements that come with that, so the idea that there can be some minimizing improvements once either of these options become the “preferred alternative” is close to nil. <http://ashevilledesigncenter.org/about/#board-of-directors>
- 3) As to why NCDOT officials seem to clueless about impacts on Montford, incompetence isn’t a rational reason. Any state DOT is in the business of doing environmental reviews as a consequence of their mission. So, there’s two alternative explanations. 1 – NCDOT knows full well the unstated consequences in Montford but chose not to highlight them because they had to clearance from the City of Asheville to move forward with the 4 alternatives due to the City’s interest in removing anything but local traffic from Bowen Bridge. Or 2 – NCDOT didn’t bother with the necessary analysis of the 4 alternatives because the \$100 million cost differential makes this a no go for the State (and feds).
- 4) I understand that the City’s position in supporting the 4 and 4B alternatives defaults to the 2002 planning that had as a City goal the removal of non-local traffic from Bowen Bridge. Conceptually, it’s a great idea. BUT, what has been offered to the City’s residents is a black hole alternative with the propose fly-overs. Without detailing how these fly-overs will look and fit into the overall surrounding communities, it is impossible for anyone to make an educated decision about whether the cost of removing non-local traffic from Bowen Bridge is worth it . As an example, I have a bad right knee. I’ve told my doctor I would like to relieve the pain without resorting to knee replacement surgery. He tells me that’s possible, and I’m excited. However, I later learn the solution is amputating that leg. Yes, I achieved my goal of avoiding knee replacement surgery, but the alternative was much worse. This is essentially what we have with the 4 alternatives.

5) Lael – I appreciate seeing the position piece that MNA adopted in 2009. However, if you compare the DEIS with that position piece, it is clear that the MNA goals have not been met with the 4 alternatives. For this reason, I would agree with Rachel that the MNA should take a position at this point that the City-endorsed alternatives are not in keeping with Montford's interests.

One of my hobbies since moving to Asheville is walking through Montford daily. I believe I've walked every single street in our neighborhood multiple times. I even know where my favorite cats and dogs live. Our neighborhood is an incredible gem filled with personality and individualism. We have a great level of diversity – both racial and economic. It's friendly, connected, and engaged. To me, it's the ideal American neighborhood! I can state without hesitation that the towering infrastructure projects will change the livability of our neighborhood into perpetuity. We will be cut off, the highway noise will be a constant, the visual impact and highway lighting on a curved fly-over will become the neighborhood's glaring visual landmark. I can't believe that any of us want to live with that result.

Best, Suzanne Devane

From: Lael Gray [mailto:laelgray@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 9:35 PM
To: Rachel Stein; Suzanne Devane
Subject: Re: [Montford] SUPPLEMENTAL COMMENTS ON NCDOT STIP PROJECT NO. I-2513 - SECTION B

Hi Rachel,

These are all great questions.

We spent a lot of time in 2009 giving tours to elected officials, along with people from other neighborhoods and people from the Asheville Design Center to show them the impacts of 4B on Montford. We also toured people from the DOT (right before they temporarily dropped the project due to lack of funding.) At that time the DOT was unaware of all of the new houses that had been built. A group of us went around taking pictures of new houses that weren't shown on their maps, and sent them all of that information. More houses have been built since then.

Last week I drove around with Heather Rayburn, who is a friend that is involved with PARC and who was posting on Facebook that people should tell the DOT to choose 4B. You may have seen her revised message to the community through PARC or the listserv.

I'm afraid the biggest challenge might be getting the activist community to understand why 4B is not what they think it is. I found it impossible to convince people that we should consider dropping the call to remove highway traffic from the Bowen Bridge. That seems to be one of the community's biggest causes. And many, many people, including me, oppose alternate 3 because of the impacts to the Burton Street neighborhood.

There is so much history with the project, and the DOT appears to be very frustrated with Asheville. But if they are reacting like they don't know about our concerns, it's either because they are playing dumb, or the individuals are new to the project. We have all been very clear with them, over and over, for a very long time.

What I can tell you is that Julie Mayfield is a great ally in all of this, and it was only when she came around to understanding how bad 4B was for Montford that we were able to then get others to listen to our concerns. Julie is more knowledgeable about this project than anyone I know, and she is not afraid to confront the DOT. I'm sure that it's only because of Julie that city council is endorsing 4 along with 4B - instead of just endorsing 4B. In my opinion, 4 is better for Montford than 4B - though still not good.

It probably wouldn't hurt to invite all of the current city council members to take a tour - Julie and Esther are already pretty aware. I may have talked to Gwen about this at one time, but I can't remember if she's had a chance to walk through the impacted areas.

What's so frustrating is that there seems to be no way to stop this thing from coming through our downtown and across the river. I have tried to bring this up, and nobody will have that conversation. Nobody. It's my understanding that the DOT will only conduct their final studies once they have decided on one of the plans, and that they will choose a plan this spring. Then we might be able to get them to make modifications.

I wish I had something more hopeful to contribute. It sounds like Suzanne has a good sense of some legal issues. I've copied her on this email, and I'm going to meet with her in a couple of weeks.

Let's stay in touch.

- Lael

Lael Gray laelgray@yahoo.com

From: Rachel Stein <nrachelstein@gmail.com>

To: Lael Gray <laelgray@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 8:38 PM

Subject: Re: [Montford] SUPPLEMENTAL COMMENTS ON NCDOT STIP PROJECT NO. I-2513 - SECTION B

Lael, thank you for this comment. I very much appreciate the old 2009 document that Montford presented. I agree that we don't want to pit neighborhoods against each other. But neither do I want our neighborhood to be sacrificed. I am concerned that City Council endorsed an option that does this, instead of asking the state to create better options that do less harm to all neighborhoods. Do you think this is a done deal?

I went to the public hearing and I sent in comments saying all of this. The DOT people to whom I spoke had no idea that there was so much new construction in Montford, or that we would find the raised highway to be a problem, or that sound was currently an issue.

Do you have any ideas about the best ways to proceed? I, personally, would like our neighborhood to protest the council decision. I'd love to invite city council members to tour the edges of Montford to see what a problem the highway already is and to understand the damages that will ensue.

Rachel

On Wed, Dec 16, 2015 at 8:31 PM, Lael Gray <laelgray@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi neighbors,

Just want to weigh in on this, as I - and many others in Montford, including Michael McDonough and David Patterson - have been working on the I-26 thing for a long time.

Without a doubt, alternate 3 has less of an impact on Montford than options 4 and 4B. AND, YES, this project risks pitting neighborhoods against each other regarding which of us will take the biggest hit. As a result, several years ago, a group of impacted neighborhoods was formed, called the I-26 ConnectUs Project. This group was largely convened by the organization now known as MountainTrue (formerly WNC Alliance).

At the time, MANY in Asheville were demanding that the DOT adopt alternate 4B as the community's preferred plan - and you will find that many still do, including a recent endorsement of 4B by the editorial board of the Citizen Times. It took a lot of work to help all of the other neighborhoods understand the devastating impact this would have on Montford. But it also became clear that Montford residents needed to work with the other neighborhoods to understand their needs as well.

The Montford Neighborhood Association did a lot of legwork in coming up with its position statement. Please take a look at the Montford position statement that was drawn up by a group of us and approved by the MNA in 2009. http://montford.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/I-26-Montford-Position-7_18.pdf

What you will notice is that the statement advocates for separation of highway and local traffic on the Bowen Bridge (formerly known as the Smoky Park Bridge), which is not included in alternate 3.

We are free to comment to the DOT regarding our own personal preference, but I want to be sure that everyone understands some of the history and why this is not as cut and dry as we'd like it to be.

The bottom line is that all of the plans being presented to us are too big and too damaging - regardless of where they land. And if we don't work together on this, the DOT will be less likely to hear our concerns clearly.

Lael Gray laelgray@yahoo.com

From: "Rachel Stein nrachelstein@gmail.com [Montford]" <Montford-noreply@yahoogroups.com>
To: montford.brian <montford.brian@wholefruit.org>
Cc: Suzanne Devane <sdevane@hdresources.net>; Montford@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 9:53 AM
Subject: Re: [Montford] SUPPLEMENTAL COMMENTS ON NCDOT STIP PROJECT NO. I-2513 - SECTION B

Dear all,

I realize that City Council has already voted to approve options 4 for this highway project--and these are the options that due most harm to Montford--in ways that Suzanne and Brian have spelled out very well. I find it alarming that Julie Mayfield led the discussion of this highway project, since she was a candidate who made it clear during the campaign that she has other agendas besides listening to city residents.

I wonder if it might do any good for our Montford community to make our concerns for our neighborhood known to the council in general and in particular to Cecil Bothwell, Keith Young, and Brian Haynes, who have made clear their intention to support the needs of city residents?

The current highway designs obviously pit the concerns of various neighborhoods against each other in a way that is not productive for our city. But I am very concerned to hear that in arguing for options 4, Julie Mayfield put the desires of Westgate businesses (including another new hotel) above the valid concerns of Montford residents for air and noise pollution and worse road egress in and out of our historic neighborhood.

At the public hearing for the highway options, the Mountain True representatives said to me that their organization was NOT taking a stance as to which options were best for Asheville. But clearly that organization, or at least Mayfield, did indeed take a stance that sacrifices Montford.

I agree with Suzanne and Brian that the current plans aren't right for Asheville and will create harm for city residents. Do we have any recourse?

Rachel

On Tue, Dec 15, 2015 at 11:05 PM, 'montford.brian' montford.brian@wholefruit.org [Montford] <Montford-noreply@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

For what it is worth, our opinions may not matter. I assume that the "upgrades" to westover drive drainage are all apart of the preparation for the I26 improvement and heard it has been stated as such by some of the workers. So, the project may already be underway, officially or unofficially.

The goals of this project can be accomplished in other ways. It appears some of the issues maybe directly related to mistakes made in the original layout and construction of 26/40/240.

Summary of thoughts on this project.

I propose everything stay exactly as it is for now.

I propose we scrap all the current proposals.

I propose looking into either

putting the "I26 connector" west of west asheville and bringing it in north of woodfin

or

putting the "i26 connector" underground by tunneling.

I believe the tunneling is the best option for Asheville. It has the least overall environmental impact and least loss of surface land.

I believe when you take EVERYTHING into CONSIDERATION, it is less expensive than any alternative proposed.

As many of you did, I went over to the meeting / viewing of this project and overheard and received consistent answers from the representatives for the project. "We" must decide on who gets hurt the most out of the project. The current road is in place because of what Asheville decided years ago. I would guess that most people are not happy with any of the proposed plans.

Some concerns.

1. **Property owner rights**, including the enjoyment and use of ones property irrelevant of what is done. The loss of enjoyment and use of ones property is an infringement of basic property ownership. Current noise and other pollution from the interstate are already too high and infringing and trespassing on private property.

2. **Local travel**. It is unacceptable that these interstates infringe on traveling rights and reduce the access of local communities. To make this clearer, when interstates are put in, they sever local roads. This requires one to drive around, sometimes miles, to get to what use to be a quiet couple of block walk. An example would be my assumption that Pearson Drive might have actually connected to Pearson Bridge Road before the interstate Severed that route. There are many examples in West Asheville where streets stop because of I240 and pick back up again on the other side. Does progress really require the reduction of local community and travel?

3. Loss of land and land use. The number of acres taken up by the interstate combined with the number of acres of reduced enjoyment and usability of land, further divides communities and businesses, and creates more traffic, as those displaced homes and businesses have to move further away from town.

4. Multiple Environmental issues. More rainwater runoff into the French Broad means more flooding downstream. More noise, RF, exhaust pollution means increased health issues for the plants, wildlife and people living around this community.

I believe the main purpose of this project is to "provide a link in the transportation system connecting a direct, multi-lane freeway facility meeting interstate standards from the Port of Charleston, S.C., to I-81 near Kingsport, Tenn." Why else does Asheville need more interstate than larger cities already have? Given most people want to separate local traffic from through traffic, why are we not looking at one of the following instead of moving Port traffic and Through Traffic into the middle of the city.

1. Did anyone see the map of this? Where the traffic is coming from and going to. It was stated they have this data and have looked at the cell phone gps records to know where everyone is coming from and going to.

2. A loop or alternative path which takes all this traffic out and around the center of town. It was stated that we, as Asheville, should decide who takes the hit, so why not the people further out?...

3. Better yet, why not solve so many issues with a different approach completely. Move the road underground. Tunneling technology continues to get better and the costs continue to come down.

Instead of displacing citizens and business, increasing traffic, increasing pollution, reducing the local ability to travel, reducing the quality and enjoyment of life... we could put in a better 'tunnel road' and solve these issues.

So, I propose we scrap these plans and put something good for Asheville, the environment, and the community in place. In the process, we should reverse damage done with the current roads in place. The interstate system is not an intrastate goal and routing interstate traffic through downtown makes ZERO SENSE for those that live there. THIS NEEDS TO BE SOLVED ANOTHER WAY!

On Dec 15, 2015, at 15_12_15-1:06 , 'Suzanne Devane' sdevane@hdresources.net [Montford] wrote:

Mr. Drew Joyner, PE
NCDOT Human Environment Section
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

December 15, 2015

VIA EMAIL

**RE: *ADDITIONAL* COMMENTS ON NCDOT STIP
PROJECT NO. I-2513 – SECTION B**

Dear Mr. Joyner:

While I have already submitted comments on the above-referenced matter, I am taking the liberty of submitting additional comments in the wake of the City of Asheville's recently passed resolution supporting the 4 and 4B Alternatives for Section B of the I-26 Connector Project. It is clear from that City resolution that the failure of NCDOT to evaluate the full environmental impacts of Section B of the project in the DEIS and spell them out for the public is already having a negative consequence. Simply put, the public and decision-makers are being forced to choose an alternative that will be further examined in the FEIS while having only a nominal understanding of how the 4 and 4B alternatives will impact the surrounding environment and its residents.

As I had mentioned in my initial comments dated December 1, 2015, the EIS process and surrounding case law have defined an environmental review process that requires agencies to consider "to the fullest extent possible" environmental consequences "in every recommendation or report on major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment." 42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(C). An EIS is meant to provide detailed discussion of significant environmental impacts and ***informs decision-makers and the public*** of the reasonable alternatives that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the quality of the human environment. This has not been the case in NCDOT's environmental review of the four Section B alternatives.

In addition to the failure to provide visualizations of the fly-overs that I had mentioned in my December 1 filing with NCDOT, the noise analysis completely neglected to examine the noise consequences of the two 4 Alternatives on Montford and Houston-Courtland before determining that there would be only "minimal" or "moderate" burdens on these neighborhoods. If one reviews the map for the project closest to Montford, one will see that on the Montford side of the fly-overs there was no noise study area indicated (purple with backslash grid.) Map: https://xfer.services.ncdot.gov/PDEA/Web/I26/I-2513_PHM_AERIAL_SECB_sht7.pdf

NCDOT's rationale for this omission is clearly stated at page 63 of Chapter 4 of the DEIS: "*The locations of noise study areas where noise barriers are reasonable and feasible are indicated below.*" Rather than examine the noise consequences of the two fly-overs (that will broadcast traffic noise over the surrounding communities (and include frequent incidents of wheel squeal that is likely to occur on such a tight arc) NCDOT chooses not to measure noise impacts because nothing can be done about them. Given that the DEIS states that these alternatives would cause a noise increase of between 0 dBA and 23 dBA (with only 10 dBA being a doubling of noise levels) this omission is absurd. As such, a supplemental DEIS on Section B must be provided before a "preferred alternative" moves forward for review in an FEIS.

As NCDOT well knows, major infrastructure projects of this type have profound impacts on neighborhoods. Initially, the public looks only at eminent domain takings in terms of how many people will lose homes or businesses. But, the noise impacts are often far more profound when it comes to overall community livability and property values. Given that the EIS process is meant to fully inform the public and decision-makers (i.e. the Asheville City Council) about the consequence of each alternative, omitting much of Montford and Houston-Courtland from the noise study areas because there are ramifications that can't be mitigated is highly deceptive and not in keeping with the purpose of an EIS process in the first place.

Being fully forthcoming about these noise impacts at this stage of the EIS process would benefit NCDOT and this project in the long-term, as the existing analysis failure leaves the Department open to legal challenge by opponents as the project progresses, and sets the Department up for failure in the Courts based on an “arbitrary and capricious” standard of review. An agency action is arbitrary and capricious if, for example, the agency has failed to follow procedure as required by law, see 5 U.S.C. § 706(2), or ***has entirely failed to consider an important aspect of the problem.*** In fact, this issue has been long-settled in relevant case law: an agency action would be arbitrary and capricious if the agency has relied on factors which “entirely failed to consider an important aspect of the problem.” *Motor Veh. Mfrs. Ass’n v. State Farm Ins.* 463 U.S. 29 (1983) citing *SEC v. Chenery Corp.*, 332 U. S. 194, 332 U. S. 196 (1947)

At this point, the EIS process has failed in providing adequate analysis of the noise implications of the 4 and 4B Alternatives. I respectfully request, once again, that the FEIS be deferred until a supplemental DEIS is provided that can address the broad array of deficiencies in examining the four Section B alternatives.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Devane
48 Houston Street
Asheville, NC 28801
sdevane@hdresources.net
[773.297.6835](tel:773.297.6835)

cc: Montford Neighborhood Association Listserv

Posted by: Rachel Stein <nrachelstein@gmail.com>

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Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmithasheville@gmail.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Sunday, October 04, 2015 4:34 PM
To: 1111peaceconcert@gmail.com;4cdchair@gmail.com;4meracts@bellsouth.net;68femail@gmail.com;a2mandel@gmail.com;ann salinger;Augusta Anne Anderson;amy;Aaron Sarver;aaron@equalitync.org;aaron@evergreenelectricalsolutions.com;aarondbb@yahoo.com;aarynjoyner@gmail.com;abarnes@wstransit.com;Abby Ronner;abeasle1@unca.edu;Amanda Fieldman;abigailriley@gmail.com;abmaxwell@embarqmail.com;abroughton@fifthelementfireprotection.com;Acarfoster@gmail.com;acoleman222@gmail.com;Acres1116@bellsouth.net;acsf@acsf.org;adam.fischer@greensboro-nc.gov;adamart1@hotmail.com;adamart@hotmail.com;adamryanleal@gmail.com;Adam Leal;adesormiers@gmail.com;adgarrett1@gmail.com;Adams Wood;Carl Adkins;admin@foundfilms.net;Andy;aeby@wavetransit.com;Alan Escovitz;aezekowitz@gmail.com;afawcett@unca.edu;afhuggins@suddenlink.net;Anne Fitten;ag789@bellsouth.net;agaskins@utk.edu;agent wu;alan glines;agwilson@triad.rr.com;alan berger;ahmad001@nc.rr.com;aimeeanneschmidt@yahoo.com;aja.fbfc@gmail.com;ajmitchellnc@yahoo.com;Alex Kirby;al.whitesides@asheville.k12.nc.us;Amy Lanou;albertburgess1@earthlink.net;Ada Lea Birnie;aldenjoyce@charter.net;alecroy@lecroyandwillcox.com;Alexandra Fisher;alg4@bellsouth.net;alicecoblentz@charter.net;alicia@kelemen-usa.com;Franklin Sides;alla@grlawpa.com;Allen Johnson;allenwtucker@bellsouth.net;Allison Bond;allison.sullivan@hotmail.com;Allison Smith;Allison Jordan;Allison Gaines;Meghan Rogers;Gibbie Harris;almcgehee@yahoo.com;alvinlong@att.net;alyce;amanda.fisher14@gmail.com;amanda@hbofa.org;amanning@mountainx.com;amazingsavings@bellsouth.net;amedavis@bellsouth.net;amhantz@gmail.com;amie@docbiddle.com;amontil@clemson.edu;amrothemich@gmail.com;amy.pitts@getyoufound.com;amy@golightlydesigns.com;amy@vandemusser.com;amybashinsky@gmail.com;Amy Huntsman;amyrenigar@gmail.com;amys@ahcabc.org;amysfans@yahoo.com;amyworthy@hotmail.com;ana.tenorio@townofcary.org;anconbldg@charter.net;andreamusick@hotmail.com;andreawcollins@live.com;Andrew Whalen;andrew61377@yahoo.com;andrew@conrad-industries.com;andrewmoskowitz@hotmail.com;Andrew Revere;andym@topfloorstudio.com;angela.wynes@highpointnc.gov;angelia.brown@durhamnc.gov;Angelica Our VOICE;angrybread@gmail.com;angseqsj@bellsouth.net;animaldocs@earthlink.net;Ann Franklin;anna.peitzman@gmail.com;Anna Van Z;annbaltz@hotmail.com;anne@annelalley.com;Anne Manner-McLarty;annedoc@earthlink.net;annieeager@ioa.com;anniebedd@yahoo.com;annjohnson1850@aol.com;answerequals42@gmail.com;anthony.schleupner@med.va.gov;anymedia@gmail.com;apjones@climateinteractive.org;apjones@sustainer.org;Anne Ponder;apopproject@gmail.com;april.easter@cooperriis.org;aprileaster@gmail.com;Lance McCord;aramibolick@hotmail.com;ard1984@gmail.com;areich@charter.net;ari@thenation.com;arianneweldon@mindspring.com;Addison Martin;Ashley Arrington;arsv164@aol.com;Art Mandler;artbynance@gmail.com;arthur gregory;Kitty Love;Amy Sawyer;ascwnc@aol.com;asheville100@earthfare.com;asheville105@earthfare.com;bountiful cities project;ashevillebednobreakfast@gmail.com;Bill Rhodes;ashevilmike@hotmail.com;city council;PARC;ashevilletom@gmail.com;ashevilletouchtherapy@yahoo.com;ashevillewbu

To:

@charterinternet.com;Ashley Cooper;ashley@valuescentre.com;Ashley_09211986@yahoo.com;Ernie Miller;AskAsheville@gmail.com;asneed@vwlawfirm.com;asrobinson@aol.com;asstminister@uuasheville.org;astearns@bellsouth.net;atb05@yahoo.com;Brian Peterson;Aubrey@madisonfarms.org;Audkanap@gmail.com;Augustcole@hotmail.com;AvaCallender@gmail.com;avanidancer@gmail.com;avann6@nc.rr.com;Amanda Van Roekel;Avery Book;avian thibault;avlbrent@aol.com;avonbrock@unitedwayabc.org;anne walch;awalker@dameronburginlaw.com;aweldon@unca.edu;Austin Fero;awny@charter.net;Ashley Wooten;ayres@appedon.com;b.dharma@me.com;bacon77@charter.net;bacynji@dnet.net;Kyle Jessup;bae9797@yahoo.com;Barbara A. Hodgson;Sarah Alice Wyndham;bandersonj@yahoo.com;banereal@bellsouth.net;banjoeyes01@att.net;barbara-ann@bahughes.com;barbara.marlowe@msj.org;barbara6@embarqmail.com;barbarakorb@yahoo.com;BarbaraMoore@TheDMO.org;Barber Melton;anonymoses hyperlincoln;basck102@aol.com;bateman83@bellsouth.net;BattleMorgan@AOL.Com;baughmanjf@yahoo.com;baxterdeck@charter.net;bb2wolfe;bbandzoe@charter.net;Bernard Carman;BBISHA@aol.com;bblackb1@charter.net;Barbara Blake;bbowers409@earthlink.net;joe adams;bbrazil@cobralawfirm.com;bbrendle1@yahoo.com;bbrownsmith@abtech.edu;Blake Butler;BBudd22608;Bryan Chambers;bclark80@nc.rr.com;bcsteele@gmail.com;Becky Davis;Becky Davis;bdunla3@searshc.com;beachpatti47@aol.com;bearly@plumdogfinancial.com;Debbie Bucklaew;beaverwyatt@bellsouth.net;becky.pitts@charter.net;becky.smith@mcdowell.k12.nc.us;Becky King;Ellen Frost;beecityusa@gmail.com;beemoe1@aol.com;Gabriel Guyton;bellectares@gmail.com;bellmarthac@bellsouth.net;ben.yoke@yahoo.com;ben@benbetsalel.com;ben@mellonaid.com;Frank Bloom;Barbara Benisch;benjahminross@gmail.com;bentleyandrews@gmail.com;bentpine300@aol.com;susa.jesus;Beth Trigg;Beth Gilman;bethheinberg@yahoo.com;Beth Maczka;Betsey Russell;betsywells@yahoo.com;betsyyny@hotmail.com;Bette Jackson;bettysvc@bellsouth.net;betty_chamb@msn.com;beukes3@yahoo.com;Burr Evans;bewellyall@bellsouth.net;bfaber.obamatn@gmail.com;Bill Fishburne;bflanders@gmail.com;Beth Gage;bgiusto@radiitechnologies.com;bghmcgee1@yahoo.com;bhardikay@yahoo.com;B Hascher;Bhbuie@aol.com;Barbara Henegar;bhilljon@hotmail.com;bholt66@triad.rr.com;bill.e.boeheim@usa.net;bill.gettys@gmail.com;bill.mcdow@wilmingtonnc.gov;Bill Russell;Bill Jones;bill@paleosun.com;Bille926@charter.net;billemartha@bellsouth.net;billerh@bellsouth.net;Bill Porter;Bill Russell;bill_pence@hotmail.com;birdfootridge@frontier.com;Barbara P. Jones;bken尼迪@wiseplanet.com;bknpp@charter.net;bksoutherland@yahoo.com;blackbirdroost@aol.com;blackorchidnyc_nc@yahoo.com;blairtowing@bellsouth.net;Blaise McMackin;blanchardlawfirm@att.net;blarson@unca.edu;bleaird@ci.charlotte.nc.us;bleech8982@aol.com;DeWayne Barton;DeWayne Barton;bluemts@bellsouth.net;blueridgeapus@gmail.com;Barb Mee;bmerchan@unca.edu;bmpanman@yahoo.com;bmundt@charter.net;CAN;boathemi an@gmail.com;bob.league@rockymountnc.gov;bob.rhinehart@charter.net;Bob Roberts;Bob Gale;bob@yougetwegive.com;bobbie.richardson@gmail.com;bobcumbie@gmail.com;Bob Falls;Bob Hanna;Bob Phillips;Fred Bonci;bonnys@earthlink.net;jill boniske;boomer@bigboomdesign.com;Boone Guyton;BoraArt@aol.com;boriffic@gmail.com;boriffic@yahoo.com;Michel Baudouin;bpatel@holidayinnbiltmore.com;Thomas Henry;brad@broo.com;Paul V;brande42@hotmail.com;Brandee

To: Boggs;brandon.edwards@systeloa.com;brandysbowman@gmail.com;Elizabeth Brazas;Brenda.Gregory@buncombecounty.org;brenda@clearpointmarketing.com;brendabbl@yahoo.com;brendahpollard@aol.com;brendan.greaves@ncdcr.gov;brent@oskarblues.com;brent@riverbendmalt.com;Brent Neal;Brett A McCall;brettnewman99@gmail.com;Brian Hopkins;briansarvis@yahoo.com;brianthomasmcmahan@yahoo.com;brigidburns@earthlink.net;brittanylippard@gmail.com;broberts@carofin.com;brooke@jondavidwine.com;brooksj@alumni.unc.edu;brooksjohnston@aol.com;brotherhug barlow;Dave Brown;Brownie Newman;bruce.peterson@bellsouth.net;Bruce Mulkey;brucerichardson@gmail.com;bryanceo@furniturestaplesinc.com;bsayer@wcqs.org;bsculthorp@arpnc.org;bsharp@mail2musician.com;bsharp1@carolina.rr.com;bsteele@asheville.gannett.com;Bruce Steele;Ben Teague;David Tilson;buddy.cox@ci.high-point.nc.us;buddyd@charter.net;buglit2004@yahoo.com;Young Dems of Buncombe County;Jake Quinn;bunnyjohns@yahoo.com;barkely@gmail.com;burtlight@aol.com;buscarino.john@gmail.com;buttermullins@innovoventuresoutheast.com;bvincamp@ashevillechamber.org;Byron Greiner;Byron Belzak;bzimmer@hotmail.com;Carolyn Shorkey;c21kathy@gmail.com;Tingle Alley;Catherine Alter;caburge@covestor.com;cahrles.conner@noc.com;Caleb Laieski;callie@mmsdelivers.com;callieoberry@yahoo.com;campaignhell@yahoo.com;cantrellbabies@gmail.com;Julie Mayfield;Marc Hunt

Subject: Voters Vote! + endorsements (Lindsey Simerly among them)

All,

I imagine most of you cast your ballots early and have been busy encouraging others to get to the polls. For those of you who have yet to cast a ballot in this year's Asheville City Council election, please vote on Tuesday at your precinct location.

There are a lot of good candidates in the race this year, and I've endorsed Lindsey Simerly, Julie Mayfield, and Marc Hunt.

Lindsey has a perspective that guarantees she'll always see policies through the lens of someone who's experienced economic and social struggles. She is a strategic thinker who gets along really well with colleagues. Her tenure as Chair of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee has been remarkably successful. Lindsey has the know-how and the temperament to be an outstanding leader on Council.

Julie is the environmental leader we've needed on Council since Brownie Newman headed to Buncombe County Commission. She understands the systems, procedures, and politics that need to change if we are going to achieve a better environmental future for our families. She's also strong on transportation issues and whip-smart regarding what it will take to get Asheville to a better place.

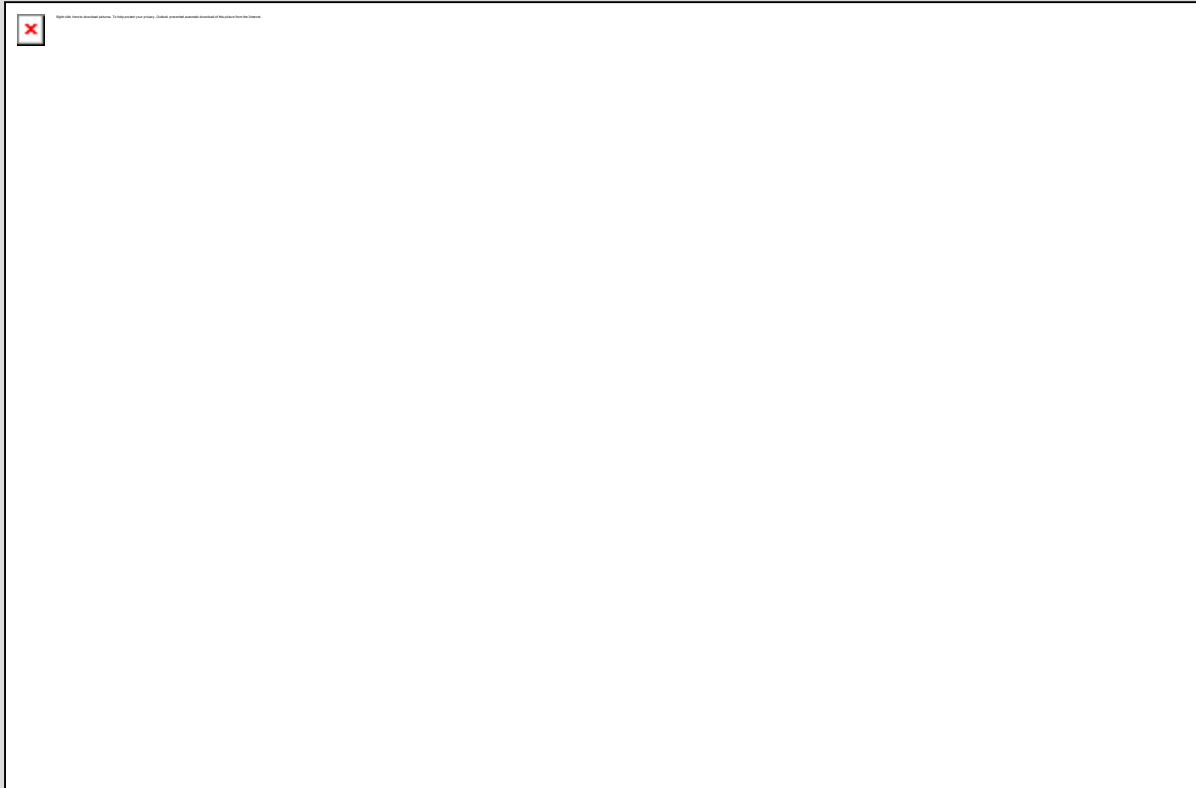
Marc Hunt has provided a level of leadership that hasn't been seen in a long time on City Council. He has focused on process, on relationship building, and on long-term, strategic thinking. Marc has been the architect of our 5-year Capital Planning process. He also led the process to protect our 18,000 acre watershed. An environmental and transportation champion, Marc is thoughtful, caring, and conscientious. I'm grateful to count him as an ally and a friend.

No matter who you're voting for this year, I encourage you to show up on Tuesday. Participation in our democracy is the foundation of good citizenship.

Thanks for taking the time to read this. I wish you all the best,

Gordon Smith

From: Inge Durre <ngedurre@gmail.com> on behalf of Inge Durre
Sent: Sunday, September 06, 2015 6:32 PM
To: GordonSmith@avlcouncil.com
Subject: Preserve the Collier Avenue Woods



Ask City Council: Preserve the Collier Avenue Woods

This Tuesday, September 8th, we will ask City Council to consider the fate of the stand of mature oak trees on the South Slope. These trees are historically, ecologically, and scenically significant, and is the last stand of mature trees downtown.

The owner of this urban forest has expressed support for saving the trees if he can trade or sell the property. Otherwise, the trees will be lost to a tall apartment building. Thus far, Councilmen

Chris Pelly and Cecil Bothwell are in support of saving the woods.

If you can, please attend the City Council meeting this Tuesday, September 8th at 5PM on the second floor of the City Building. Wear a green(-ish) top, if you can, to indicate you are one of the Collier Avenue wood preservation supporters. Please invite others to join us.

Speaking is not essential, but welcome. If you do speak, state reasons why, in your opinion, these trees should be preserved. Making the effort to appear in front of Council members in person is what impresses them, more so than the over 1000 signatures the online Petition to the City at <https://www.change.org/p/city-of-ashevi-preserve-the-wooded-area-on-the-site-of-the-proposed-collier-avenue-apartments> has so far garnered.

Parking opportunities are on the Renaissance Hotel upper parking lot and in the College Avenue parking garage across from the new Courthouse, next to City Hall.

Recent AC-T articles: “Asheville’s last urban forest in danger” (8/31/15) and “South Slope’s urban forest is in danger” (9/3/15).

Inge and Imke Durre





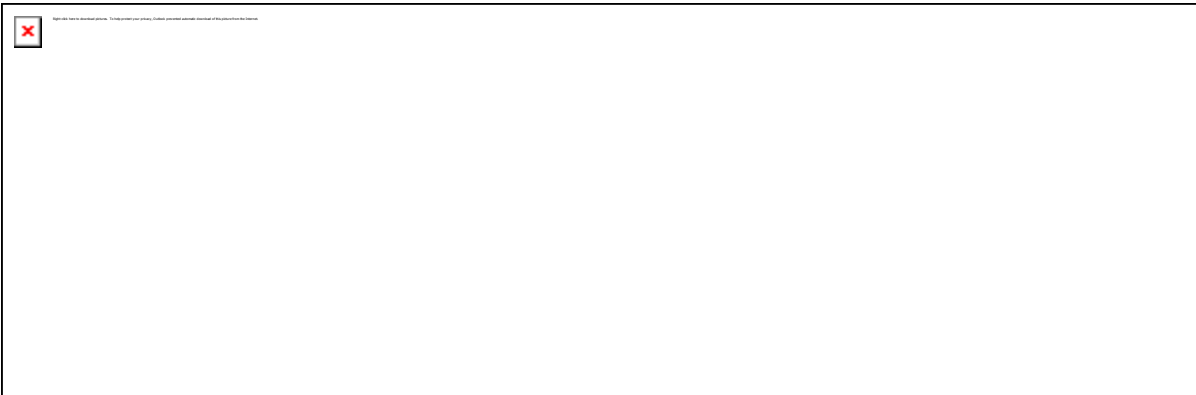
Ben Fulmer

From: Cecil Bothwell <cecil@cecilbothwell.com> on behalf of Cecil Bothwell
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2015 8:20 AM
To: GordonSmith@avlcouncil.com
Subject: I really, really need your vote online. Seriously. I do. One click.

[View as Web Page](#)

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Bothwell's Blog



You-ou-ou sent me, oh you-oh-ou sent me

Honest you did. Once more?

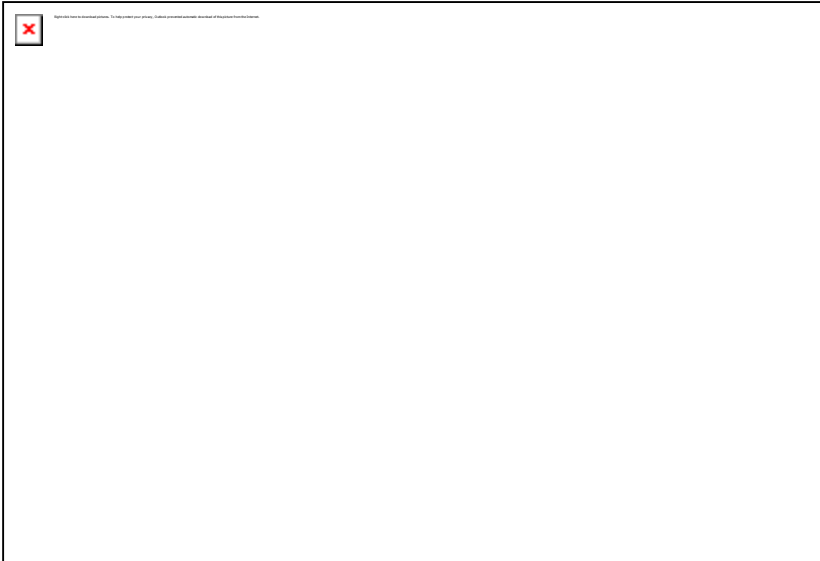
Thanks to online votes from my supporters I was able to attend the Netroots Nation conference and the Rebuild the Dream conference in 2012.

If you would vote again, I can attend this year's Netroots Nation and learn more about how to move the progressive agenda forward.

[Just click here.](#)

The annual Netroots Nation Conference provides progressive bloggers, activists and candidates a forum to strengthen the online community and grow the progressive movement while inspiring action and inspiring new ideas to affect change. [Find out more about Netroots Nation.](#)

A future downtown park



Asheville feels pretty green. There seem to be a lot of trees downtown, and, hey, we've been a "Tree City USA" for 35 years. But the status quo is fragile. If you get downtown, check out the new City Centre development at the intersection of College St. and Charlotte St. Notice how the downtown view of Beaucatcher Mountain is now completely blocked by a new hotel/retail complex.

The views are disappearing fast.

We could choose to have a park opposite the Basilica St. Lawrence and PARC has

launched a petition drive to let City Council know that many of us prefer a park there to yet another high-rise commercial development.

If you want a copy of the petition, or a free colorful yard sign, contact me!

Bothwell for Council | POB 1877 | Asheville, NC 28802 | <http://bothwellsblog.wordpress.com>

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Ben Fulmer

From: Dancewater <dancewater2@gmail.com> on behalf of Dancewater
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:31 PM
To: Dancewater
Subject: Upcoming events for the week of October 28, 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS

TIME TO VOTE!

It is possible to register and vote in one stop if you are not already registered. If you have moved or not voted in awhile, then vote during early voting to make sure your vote is counted. Do not sit out an election - no one gains a voice or more power by not participating. Some recommendations for non-partisan races are at the end of this email.

10/29/12 DEFENDING APPALACHIA FROM THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

Film & Discussion. Southern Appalachia is targeted by the nuclear industry for new power plants, waste storage and reprocessing. This event will include a discussion on local nuclear issues, efforts against them and segments of the film "Knocking on Devil's Door, Our Deadly Nuclear Legacy." Sponsored by SAFE Carolinas and Katuah Earth First!. Location is Firestorm Café and Books and time is 7 PM.

10/30/12 BUILDING AN ABUSE FREE COMMUNITY

This is a four-part series focusing on the reality of abuse in our society. The goal is to empower the community by enabling and energizing a broader base of advocates to take action in preventing abuse and supporting victims in their recovery. Time is 7 PM and location is the Fellowship Hall at Grace Presbyterian Church on Merrimon. For more information, contact jimrwallis@aol.com. Part Two: How do you recognize signs of abuse? Why is this happening?

10/30/12 STORIES OF GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Sasha Mitchell will share her own family experience on genealogical research prior to 1865. Time is 12:20 to 1:30 PM and location is Highsmith Student Union Mountain Suites.

10/30/12 FOCUS ON CHILDREN TOWN HALL MEETING

Action for Children North Carolina will launch its statewide Focus on Children town hall series in Asheville on Tuesday, October 30, 2012 from 8 AM to 9:30 AM. Children First/Children In Schools is a cosponsor. The Focus on Children town hall meetings will bring local data about the status of children and youth to communities across the state in an effort to highlight improvements and declines in child well-being and facilitate discussion about strategies to improve the status of children. Location is Mountain Area Health Education Center, Balsam Room, 121 Hendersonville Road, Asheville. To register, go to this link: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llr=nrj5mtcab&oeidk=a07e6cozjdmf0a82cea&oseq=>

10/30/12 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VIGIL

UNC-Asheville Amnesty International will host a Domestic Violence Vigil Tuesday, October 30 at 8:00pm. The candlelight service will take place on the campus Quad. The vigil will include speakers from Helpmate, Our Voice and Pisgah Legal Services. They will be reading the names of the NC homicide victims who have lost their lives so far this year. Please come and help honor victims and survivors of intimate partner violence!

10/30/12 ASHEVILLE WATER REFERENDUM WORLD SERIES

Rally and press conference in support of voting “no” on the referendum , sponsored by Clean Water for NC, Food and Water Watch, WNCA, WENOCA Sierra Club, Mountain Voices Alliance, PARC, and other local partners. Location is Vance Monument, and time is 5:15 to 6 PM. Contact Katie at 828-251-1291 or katie@cwfncc.org for more information.

11/01/12 VETERANS FOR PEACE MEETING

Time is 6:30 PM and location is VFP HQ at the Phil Mechanic Studios: 109 Roberts Street in Asheville. VFP Chapter 099: <http://vfpchapter099wnc.blogspot.com/>

11/01/12 PUBLIC MEETING ON BUS SERVICE IN ASHEVILLE

This meeting will be held at Pack Memorial Library's Lord Auditorium, 67 Haywood St. from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and will have a drop-in format. In addition to the meeting, the public can weigh in on changes to the ART system via an online poll found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ARTJan2013>. The public may also submit comments, no later than November 1, by email to iride@ashevillenc.gov or mail to Mariate Echeverry, Transportation Planning Manager, City of Asheville, P.O. Box 7148, Asheville NC 28802

11/02/12 TRANSIT TALK

Transportation is a huge barrier for low-income families trying to access food, jobs, and services. Join us to learn more about recent changes to the Asheville bus system and how we can be advocates for better transit. Julie Mayfield, Director of WNC Alliance and the Chair of the City Transit Board, will be giving a Transit Talk from noon to 1:30 PM. Bring a lunch, but snacks will be provided, and join us at the United Way Building Room #1&2 at 50 South French Broad Ave, Asheville.

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07e6jo2zjz9c2337ac&oseq=>

11/02/12 FUNDRAISING FOR HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAM

Party for the People! Time is 7-9:30 p.m. at Jubilee! Community on Wall St. Party for the People is WWD-F's annual fundraising event to support the Healthy Living Program in the Hillcrest public housing community. We offer classes and workshops around healthy habits and personal empowerment to Hillcrest residents. This event will feature live entertainment, a light dinner, childcare, and door prizes. \$25 suggested donation! [Women's Wellbeing and Development Foundation \(WWD-F\)](#)

11/03/12 GREEN PARTY MEETING

The Buncombe County GREEN Party's business meeting is open to the public. It will be held from 10 AM to noon, upstairs in the Fortune Building, 729 Haywood Rd., West Asheville. Contact Ronald @ 828-LUCK-180 or Larry @ 828-225-4347 for more information.

11/03/12 PERMACULTURE IN ACTION

This hands-on weekend workshop will explore the social, ecological, and economic potential of whole-systems thinking and design. Asheville-based teachers Zev Friedman and Dylan Ryals-Hamilton will explain and demonstrate the theory and practice of permaculture. They will be teaching from a completed permaculture master plan which includes ponds, integrated chickens and ducks, mushroom culture, and diverse rainwater collection systems. Students can get their hands dirty implementing a lowbush blueberry polyculture guild, a small forest garden patch, a native medicinal plant guild, and several strategies for erosion prevention and topsoil improvement. The workshop will take place on the weekend of November 3rd and 4th. For more information please email permacultureinaction@gmail.com.

11/03/12 SCREENING OF THE MOVIE 'THE LINE'

The Line documents the stories of people across the country living at or below the poverty line. They have goals. They have children. They work hard. They are people like you and me. From Chicago's suburbs and west side to the Gulf Coast to North

Carolina, millions of Americans are struggling every day to make it above The Line. To learn more about The

Line, please visit www.thelinemovie.com. This will be held at New Creation Church in Fletcher. Time is 1 PM. Contact Debbie at 776-3007 for more information.

11/03/12 OCCUPY ASHEVILLE MOVE YOUR MONEY EVENT

This will be held at 2 PM at Vance Monument. There will be information on how to Move Your Money and why this is important. There will also be a short picket. All are welcome.

11/03/12 OCCUPY ASHEVILLE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This will be at 4 PM in Pritchard Park. All are welcome.

11/4/12 TREE HUGGER'S BALL: CONTRA FOR COAL RIVER

Join us for a contra dance in support of Coal River Mountain Watch, a leader in the fight against mountaintop removal in Appalachia. Come dance to the foot-tappin' tunes of Contraversial and fantastic calling of Maggie Jo Saylor! Sponsored by WWC's Eco Justice Crew & Katuah Earth First! Location: Bryson Gym at Warren Wilson College. Time: 6:30 for Contra dance lesson, 7:00-10:00 for Dance!

11/07/12 SIERRA CLUB MEETING

Chris Mathis will discuss "Why Building Matter: Sustainability Challenges". Program starts at 7:15 PM and location is Unitarian Church at Edwin Place and Charlotte Street.

11/07/12 CONCERT TO HONOR BREAD AND ROSES STRIKE

Charlie King and Karen Brandow will present extraordinary songs of ordinary people and a second-set performance marking the 100th anniversary of the history-making Bread and Roses textile strike, on November 7 at 7:30 at UNC Asheville's Highsmith Student Union. Tickets are free for UNC Asheville students, faculty and staff and \$10 for the general public. This is co-sponsored by the UNC Asheville Foreign Languages and Political Science departments and HOLA. FMI, contact hras@humanrightsaction.net or call 314-374-7446.

11/08/12 - 11/11/12 LAKE JUNALUSKA PEACE CONFERENCE

The fifth annual [Lake Junaluska Peace Conference](http://www.lakejunaluska.com/peace), "Love in Action: the Transformative Power of Nonviolence," will draw upon the lessons of nonviolent campaigns and their leaders who discovered a force that can change the world. Participants will explore the principles and learn the applications of nonviolence as taught by Gandhi, King, and many spiritual leaders who offered this alternative paradigm for resolving conflict, achieving justice, and building peace. For more information: www.lakejunaluska.com/peace.

11/08/12 THE GENERAL'S SON: JOURNEY OF AN ISRAELI IN PALESTINE

In 1997, a tragedy struck the family of Israeli-American Miko Peled: His beloved niece Smadar was killed by a suicide bomber in Jerusalem. That tragedy propelled Peled onto a journey of discovery. Peled's title for his talk is "Moving Beyond Zionism: a New Paradigm for Israel and Palestine." Location is Simpson Hall at A-B Tech. Time is 7 PM. This is sponsored by Western Carolinians for Peace and Justice in the Middle East. Open to the public. For more information, email Tony at bingtony@yahoo.com.

11/08/12 COMMUNITY EVENT AROUND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

"PRIVATE VIOLENCE" is a collaborative community event to raise awareness about domestic and sexual violence in our region. A portion of the proceeds will go to support domestic and sexual violence programs in our community. This will be at the Fine Arts Theater. No further information at this time.

11/09/12 SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVIE NIGHT AT UU CHURCH

Social Justice Film night will feature "Peaceable Kingdom" a film about the awakening conscience of several farmer who came to question the killing of animals. Time is 7 PM and will be shown at the Unitarian Universalist Church at Charlotte and Edwin Place. Donations accepted. Info from devwilliams@juno.com.

11/10/12 BUNCOMBE FRUIT AND NUTS CLUB

The Buncombe Fruit and Nuts club announces the Carnival of Nuts! You've known it all along: Asheville is nuttier than a fruitcake! So come enjoy some true nuttiness at the West End Bakery on November 10 from 5:30-9pm, and bring the kids for family fun. All funds raised go to the Buncombe Fruit Nuts, a group of nut and fruit enthusiasts who are happy to plant and nurture shrubs and trees in the parks all over town. There'll be awesome door prizes (win your own nut tree), games like the Acorn-Squirrel toss for kids, nut-cracking demonstrations featuring the Nutcracker himself, acorn magic, special viewings of the nut-blimp, the nuttiest poem, and more.

11/11/12 RING BELLS FOR ARMISTICE DAY

[Armistice Day: Ring Bells For Peace @ 11am](#)

11/11/12 EAT AT MIKE'S

Location is First Congregational UCC in Asheville on Oak Street downtown. Time is 5 PM to 8 PM. This is the WNC health Advocates' annual dinner and auction. Tickets are a minimum donation of \$20 and will be on sale at The Downtown Market, or call 828-243-6712 or e-mail leslie@wnchealthadvocates.org.

11/11/12 REMEMBER FALLUJAH WEEK

11/13/12 BUILDING AN ABUSE FREE COMMUNITY

This is a four-part series focusing on the reality of abuse in our society. The goal is to empower the community by enabling and energizing a broader base of advocates to take action in preventing abuse and supporting victims in their recovery. Time is 7 PM and location is the Fellowship Hall at Grace Presbyterian Church on Merrimon. For more information, contact jimrwallis@aol.com. Part Three: How can one be abused on the internet? Why should one be more aware while on Facebook?

11/16/12 PROTEST THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS AT FORT BENNING

11/17/12 MOVIE SHOWING BY WNC PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

They will be showing the blockbuster expose' film "9/11: EXPLOSIVE EVIDENCE--THE EXPERTS SPEAK OUT" at the Transylvania County Library at 2 PM on Saturday, November 17. The film blows the "Official Conspiracy Theory" of the Bush administration apart by focusing on the 3 WTC buildings. The film is FREE but we'll accept small donations to offset the cost imposed by the library. Also sponsored by Transylvanians For Peace. Contact Don at gaia@comporium.net for more information.

11/18/12 ETHICAL SOCIETY OF ASHEVILLE MEETING

"Criminalization of the Homeless" will be presented by John Spitzberg at the Sunday, November 18th meeting of the Ethical Society of Asheville, 2:00-3:30 PM, held at the Friends Meeting House, 227 Edgewood Road in North Asheville (off Merrimon Avenue near UNCA). Spitzberg, an author and retired educator, is current Asheville Homeless Network president and out-going president the local Veterans for Peace group, as well as a member of the Ethical Society of Asheville and the Asheville Baha'i Community. The topic will cover a growing trend in our country and provide information regarding steps that can be and have been taken to deal with this population. There will be a discussion period following the presentation. Following the meeting, there will be time for informal conversation. All are welcome! For more information contact: asheville@aeu.org, www.aeu.org, 828-687-7759 or ethicalsocietyasheville@gmail.com.

11/27/12 BUILDING AN ABUSE FREE COMMUNITY

This is a four-part series focusing on the reality of abuse in our society. The goal is to empower the community by enabling and energizing a broader base of advocates to take action in preventing abuse and supporting victims in their recovery. Time is 7 PM and location is the Fellowship Hall at Grace Presbyterian Church on Merrimon. For more information, contact jimrwallis@aol.com. Part Four: How does one stop the cycle? Where can a person turn?

12/05/12 SIERRA CLUB MEETING

This is their holiday potluck with recognition awards. Please bring a dish and a book to swap. Program starts at 7 PM and location is Unitarian Church at Edwin Place and Charlotte Street.

12/14/12 SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVIE NIGHT AT UU CHURCH

Social Justice Film night will feature "I AM" a film about a man's personal journey after a bicycle accident, 'the nature of humanity' and the 'world's ever-growing addiction to materialism'. Time is 7 PM and will be shown at the Unitarian Universalist Church at Charlotte and Edwin Place. Donations accepted. Info from devwilliams@juno.com.

12/14/12 to 12/16/12 MOVE TO AMEND CONVERGENCE IN FLORIDA

<https://movetoamend.org/events/gainesville-fl-move-amend-south-regional-convergence>

01/02/13 SIERRA CLUB MEETING

Wayne Coldwell and Steve Woody will discuss Cataloochee and the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Program starts at 7:15 PM and location is Unitarian Church at Edwin Place and Charlotte Street.

ONGOING EVENTS

TUESDAY

Veterans for Peace have a weekly vigil at 5 PM at Pack Square, Vance Monument

WEDNESDAY

Haywood Peace Vigilers have a weekly vigil at 4 PM at Haywood Country Courthouse in Waynesville.

THURSDAY

Asheville Homeless Network meeting at 2 PM at Firestorm.

Anti-racism Group Discussion at 5:30 PM on the third Thursday of the month at Firestorm Cafe.

FRIDAY

Women in Black have a vigil at 5 PM at Pack Square (Asheville) on the first Friday of the month.

Women in Black have a weekly vigil at noon at the City Hall in Hendersonville

SATURDAY

Transylvanians for Peace and WNC Physicians for Social Responsibility have a weekly vigil at noon in front of the courthouse in Brevard.

ACTIONS AND READINGS

From Roots Action:

Even the New York Times wants out of Afghanistan. Who's left supporting 2 (or 12?) more years in Afghanistan? Oh yeah, those 4 guys. Obama, Biden, Romney, Ryan.

Sign a letter to let them know what you think: <http://bit.ly/SZqg6k>

Evening the Score, Different Strokes PAC

For more information visit: <http://www.themagneticfield.com/evening-the-score>

Join us on the evening of November 1, at 7:30 p.m. when Building Bridges of Asheville will facilitate a post-performance talkback.

Building Bridges Co-facilitators are:

Stuart Zitin, BB Board Chair

Georgia M. Shannon

Linda Newman

Audrey Yatras

The Magnetic Theatre & Different Strokes! Performing Arts Collective present...

“Evening the Score, A Double-Cross in Black and White” by Steven Samuels

Directed by Stephanie Hickling Beckman

Wednesdays-Saturdays, October 24th-November 3rd @ 7:30 p.m.

This provocative drama about college friends separated by an act of betrayal and reunited decades later by circumstances that push both to the brink, delves into issues of race, religion, class, the law, and political ambition with breathtaking, often brutal honesty, focusing matters of local, national, and political import through the prism of a single, complex human relationship.

This limited engagement will have eight performances only. Tickets are \$12 for Wednesday and Thursday performances, \$15 Friday and Saturday performances.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NON-PARTISAN RACES

NC Supreme Court: Sam Ervin IV

NC Court of Appeals Judge: Linda McGee

NC Court of Appeals Judge: Wanda Bryant

NC Court of Appeals Judge: Cressie Thigpen

Soil & Water Conservation Dt. Supervisor: Jim Coman

County Board of Education At-Large: Paul (Dusty) Pless, Jr.

County Board of Education (North Buncombe): Ann B. Franklin

County Board of Education (Owen District): Ben Craig

County Board of Education (Roberson District): Steven Weir Sizemore

Ben Fulmer

From: City of Asheville City Council <admin@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of City of Asheville City Council
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2014 11:01 AM
To: gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com
Subject: Quarantine Summary 10/23/2014

gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com

These messages were quarantined before they reached your inbox as potential spam and virus-infected messages. The quarantined messages can be delivered within your personal Message Center. You can also click on messages in the following list for delivery, if you can see them as links.

Junk Messages

19 Messages

[Message Center](#)

From	Subject	Date
christine@ashevillegreenworks.org	Fall Update	10/23/2014 10:31 am Deliver
customerservice@resourcegovernment.net	Economic Development Financing	10/23/2014 9:46 am Deliver
customerservice@lormaneducation.net	Making Sense of Soil Reports and Maps - OnDemand Webinar	10/23/2014 9:37 am Deliver
no_reply@bitstamp.net	New bank details	10/23/2014 8:44 am Deliver
email@earthfare-email.com	Make it a Grill'oween! save \$5 on Ribeyes & all Halloween candy 25% off	10/23/2014 8:17 am Deliver
customerservice@lormanwebinars.com	Establishing Vegetation on Roadsides - Last Chance To Register	10/23/2014 7:14 am Deliver
suzanddon@gmail.com	BCDP Calendar Events Reminder 10/23	10/23/2014 6:02 am Deliver
paulpchoi@gmail.com	Election picks for 2014	10/23/2014 5:29 am Deliver
advantage@americanbar.org	Rake in a \$100 cash rewards bonus offer with the ABA Bank of America credit card	10/22/2014 9:54 pm Deliver
info@i360gov.com	Reminder: Smart Cities On the Horizon: Tools, Techniques, and Advice for Government Agencies	10/22/2014 6:58 pm Deliver
dficpisua@taborlutheran.com	LADIES WILL LOVE YOU- Gordon Smith	10/22/2014 6:55 pm Deliver
dmitriy88@stupino.su	=?windows-1251?B?y+jq4ujk4Pbo/yD+8C7r6PYh?=?	10/22/2014 6:51 pm Deliver
mailbox@ashevilleart.org	The Week Ahead at Your Museum: Cherokee Lecture, Build and Beer + More	10/22/2014 5:18 pm Deliver
mivey67@charter.net	Fluoridated water calcifies your arteries: study	10/22/2014 4:27 pm Deliver
customerservice@lormaneducation.net	Bikeway Design Principles, Planning, and Best Practices - OnDemand Webinar	10/22/2014 4:25 pm Deliver
tomhill4congress@gmail.com	Let's End Extremism in November!	10/22/2014 3:46 pm Deliver
bob@mail.thatsgreatnews.com	Last chance to get your plaque for article Food Action Plan: Feed Asheville	10/22/2014 3:13 pm Deliver
ashevilleparc@gmail.com	PARC Voter's Guide	10/22/2014 12:32 pm Deliver
popular_medications13@go-eol.com	Online solution to most common male and female problems, Gordon Smith!	10/22/2014 11:05 am Deliver

Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2013 12:01 PM
To: Randy Marrs
Subject: Re: Basilica Property

Thanks for writing in, Mr. Marrs. The history of the process that led to the McKibbon Hotel Group's offer at that site is well documented, and it clearly demonstrates their use of the process that was available to all interested groups. We pursued several appraisals and comps on the property, and I'm confident we got a reasonable price. I'm hopeful that Basilica representatives can work together with the Public Art and Cultural Commission as well as the MHG to create a beautiful piazza that can complement both spaces. I'm also gratified that Council has committed to putting the lion's share of the sale toward affordable housing efforts. As to the "poll" that many use a source, I find that it was poorly executed and not reliable. Having been on the receiving end of hundreds of emails on the subject, I can assure you that the sentiments of Asheville residents are much broader than PARC's poll represented.

I am happy to work with all groups to grow and maintain a healthy, vibrant downtown. Thank you for caring enough to write!

Gordon Smith

On Mon, May 6, 2013 at 10:20 AM, Randy Marrs <randymarrs48@gmail.com> wrote:

As a resident of Asheville, I strongly urge all of you to please exercise the overwhelming will of the citizens of Asheville and ask the McKibbon Hotel Group to find a different location for their proposed hotel. In addition, please allow the Basilica to purchase the property across from the Basilica at fair market value and allow them to use it as they have proposed. I would like to thank Mayor Bellamy and city councilman, Bothwell for your original vote to stop the McKibbon Group from purchasing this property by voting with the majority of the citizens of Asheville. Now is a perfect opportunity for the remaining members of the Asheville City Council to finally vote with the will of Asheville's citizens and Mayor Bellamy and councilman, Bothwell.

Thankyou,
Randy Marrs

Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 4:48 PM
To: WLangdon@aol.com
Subject: Re: (no subject)

Thanks, Bill. The proposal has been withdrawn.

Gordon

On Thu, Apr 4, 2013 at 1:46 PM, <WLangdon@aol.com> wrote:
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: WLangdon@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 4:46 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: (no subject)

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828.712.2190 cell
William K. Langdon

Ben Fulmer

From: carter.lance8@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2013 4:47 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov;PARC
Subject: Hi

Against state asserting control
over local water system. The city
has been good steward last
few years.

Sent from my iPhone

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

From: Christopher Pratt <chrispdoc1@gmail.com> on behalf of Christopher Pratt
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2013 10:57 PM
To: Chris Campbell; Jason Sandford; jboyle; Jon Ostendorff; Angie Newsome, Director and Editor; Margaret Williams, Co-Managing Editor/News Editor; Jody Evans; Terry; Holly Jones; commissioner@davidgantt.com; bill.stanley@buncombecounty.org; ray.bailey@buncombecounty.org; carol.peterson@buncombecounty.org; A-B Tech Board of Trustees; mandy.stone@buncombecounty.org; talexander@taylorandmurphy.com; mrfowler54@msn.com; wahartjr@bellsouth.net; piknsing@bellsouth.net; dlocke@ret.unca.edu; kaye.myers@ncdcr.gov; peterson7@bellsouth.net; gordon.diane@gmail.com; joebandaleta@bellsouth.net; ray.spells@wachovia.com; sga@abtech.edu; jessekorth@gmail.com; Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce; North Asheville; PARC; AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: Please keep in mind that ABTech is a treasure for this community. Sadly, at ABTech the excellent faculty does not have tenure and many have been forced out because they disagree with Dunn who sent thousands of foundation dollars that were raised for

Please keep in mind that ABTech is a treasure for this community. Sadly, at ABTech the excellent faculty does not have tenure and many have been forced out because they disagree with Dunn who sent thousands of foundation dollars that were raised for student scholarships on marketing the Sales Tax. Of course, that money was never repaid to the scholarship fund. Who will address that and when?

On Thu, Mar 14, 2013 at 10:18 PM, Christopher Pratt <chrispdoc1@gmail.com> wrote:

Why did Dunn have A-B Tech attorney Chris Campbell send me a "cease and desist letter"?

On Thu, Mar 14, 2013 at 9:49 PM, Christopher Pratt <chrispdoc1@gmail.com> wrote:

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NOT A-B Tech Employees, but TRUSTEES!

A-B Tech President Hank "Dunn is adamant that no college employee has been disciplined for expressing discontent with his decisions."

JUST A-B TECH TRUSTEES!

What kind of person thinks there is nothing wrong with telling the press adamantly "that no college employee has been disciplined for expressing discontent with his decisions" when he know it's not true? And so do all those A-B Tech employees who were threatened not to speak about being put on probation, suspended, and fired for doing their jobs. How many good, hard working people with excellent performance appraisals were targeted by him for disagreeing with him -- why is there no investigation?

And where are the College Board of Trustees of the College, the County Commissioners and the Asheville Citizen Times in letting him get away with it?

WHY HASN'T THE CITIZEN TIMES connected the dots, if Dunn will do it to Trustees, what makes them think he didn't do it to the press and to employees?

Asheville Citizen-Times reported that Asheville - Buncombe Technical Community College President Hank **"Dunn is adamant that no college employee has been disciplined for expressing discontent with his decisions."** -- Written by Jason Sanford, March 22, 2011 -- <http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20110322/COLUMNISTS06/303220025/Ashvegas-B-Tech-president-finds-transparency-hard>

Ashvegas: Asheville-Buncombe Tech president finds transparency hard

Written by Jason Sanford -- 12:02 AM, Mar. 22, 2011 | [5 Comments](#)

Hank Dunn's feeling a little under siege these days.

As the relatively new president of Asheville-Buncombe Technical College — Dunn just marked his one-year anniversary — Dunn has been dealing with a shrinking state budget and enrollment increase pressures while at the same time instituting a number of policy changes. Some of the changes are controversial.

Dunn's an experienced leader. He knows that facing a certain level of criticism comes with the territory, and that it must be addressed. But he's not happy with some of the anonymous comments he's seen on a few websites, including the Ashvegas blog. So in the spirit of openness, Dunn on Monday spent an hour reviewing some of the complaints.

The issues appear to fall into two categories: communication and policy changes. On both, Dunn says he's doing everything he can to be “as transparent a guy as I can be.”

On the communication front, Dunn is about as open as an administrator can be. He holds a monthly meeting open to any faculty member, staffer or student who wants to air issues, and he holds a monthly lunch meeting with a different group of a dozen or so he picks.

He sends out a weekly email update, and he encourages anyone who wants to talk one on one to enter his office. **Dunn is adamant that no college employee has been disciplined for expressing discontent with his decisions.**

“I'm OK with people disagreeing with me,” he says, as long as they're civil. “My approach is just to tell people what I'm doing.”

Dunn's been talking a lot about his new policies put in place over the last year on campus. He's changed the workweek from 35 hours to 40 hours. He's urged faculty to consider moving to four-week and eight-week classes, rather than the traditional 16-week time frame, which requires significant revisions to schedules and new teaching approaches in the classroom.

There's a new procedure to interview and select new hires, one that some faculty feel diminishes their voice. And he's adopted a program that uses specific metrics that aim to measure and improve student performance.

(Page 2 of 2)

That's all caused more than a little discomfort on campus. Dunn describes it as "high anxiety" rather than low morale. The only way to address it is by being open, he says.

Dunn has the benefit of learning from the administrator who preceded him, Betty Young. She replaced A-B Tech's longtime leader, K. Ray Bailey, but resigned after two years, citing discontent on campus as one reason why she decided to leave. Dunn also knows he needs his campus community behind him as he prepares to launch a wider campaign to persuade the public to approve a quarter-cent sales tax increase in November that would fund school construction and renovation projects.

Dunn's apparent willingness to talk arrives with the freshness of a spring breeze, but it can't just be a season that comes and goes. Transparency is hard work, and Dunn must keep after it.

Contact Jason Sandford at jsandford@citizen-times.com. Find Ashvegas updates online at CITIZEN-TIMES.com/ashvegas and the full blog at www.ashvegas.com.

Comments for

Ashvegas: Asheville-Buncombe Tech president finds transparency hard

[StateEmployee453](#)

5:40 AM on March 22, 2011

Ok, I'll go first.

Staff Turnover - the open-door policy Dr. Dunn mentioned does exist but you'll find few employees, and even fewer students, taking advantage of it. They have seen what happened to other employees and simply will not take a chance. Look at the good employees who have left since Dr. Dunn came on board. Look at the retirements. Do you think long-term state employees would leave a job in this economy if they were happy at AB Tech. Be prepared for the pat responses of "Disgruntled former employee" or "We can't discuss personnel matters" if you ask many questions in this area.

Outsourcing - did anyone follow-up on the very large amounts of money Dr. Dunn claimed to be saving by outsourcing the maintenance staff. These people were some of the lowest paid employees at AB Tech and they were simply swept aside to impress someone in Raleigh with the cost "savings". Notice how no one suggested out sourcing the higher paid administrative jobs.

Media - my biggest criticism goes to the media. Why is it that one of the largest state agencies in the county gets a pass when it comes to hard questions? Frequently, you ask a good question and then don't follow up with the next probing question. Case in point: being a state agency, AB Tech's finances are public information. Why haven't you gotten a list of expenditures and asked why these large amounts of money have been spent in certain areas? Given the economy, doesn't some of the travel seem excessive? What about the equipment purchases? Are all the new positions justified? You will find many AB Tech employees willing to answer your questions - it is public information after all - but don't expect them to endanger his or her job by giving information you don't ask for. There seems to be a bias when talking to people with PhDs as if they wouldn't shade the truth.

Report Abuse



Score: 2

[mwirishscot2](#)

6:03 AM on March 22, 2011

AB has been of value to our area, BUT, like everything else having to do with government spending, the spending has gotten out of control. Buildings that are no longer just utilitarian and rather need to have appeal much greater than most people's homes have eaten up millions of dollars. The emphasis on "high tech" rather than basic learning is also a waste of taxpayer's money - the basic skill set is the most important thing to build, the rest can be acquired at the next level. Teach them how to THINK, not be dependent on computers and such with no clue how to use their own minds. We have seen this with all of our children that how gone there.

That said, it IS a benefit to our area, but those ATTENDING may need to pay more to go there - this includes my last two children.

In regard to outsourcing, the lowest paying jobs also carried benefits packages that are no longer the norm - and before YOU complain, remember where you are buying your products - YOU already outsourced the jobs of your neighbors in your mantra for more for less. This will CONTINUE to move to other areas of our economy as well, government has overspent and is now fully engaged in this method as well - all in the interest of delivering "more for less".

Report Abuse



Score: 2

[RedHotPoker](#)

6:55 AM on March 22, 2011

Has he disclosed the 'private donors' who are footing the cost for the sales tax referendum as state law requires?

Report Abuse



Score: 2

[RedHotPoker](#)

6:58 AM on March 22, 2011

Dunn is ANOTHER overpaid bureaucrat at \$200,000 +++ per year...is he worth it?

Report Abuse



Score: 0

[AVLNativeOne](#)

7:54 AM on March 22, 2011

Government entities, including AB Community College, must be relevant. It seems that AB Community College has lost its way over the years as the market has changed. Now AB Community College finds its campus with a crumbling infrastructure; much of their curriculum may not be geared for an actual job in this region when their student graduates; and the campus has been plagued with unrest and discontent over the last three years due to senior leadership changes.

It appears with Volvo's two recent closings, regional manufacturing jobs are in jeopardy of leaving, and the need for an expansive technical curriculum may have passed AB Community College by. A new curriculum direction is difficult with a tight budget and major competitors for students in this market.

Transparency may be the least of Doctor Dunn's issues. The Buncombe County taxpayers are not in a mood for more taxes. He would be well advised to wait for a better environment for his tax increase ballot proposal. Another misstep and he may be a casualty of his own overreaching.

Why does it seem as though all these high priced executive leaders hired from outside Buncombe County have tremendous problems acclimating to WNC?

Ben Fulmer

From: Christopher Pratt <chrispdoc1@gmail.com> on behalf of Christopher Pratt
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2013 10:18 PM
To: Chris Campbell; Jason Sandford; jboyle; Jon Ostendorff; Angie Newsome, Director and Editor; Margaret Williams, Co-Managing Editor/News Editor; Jody Evans; Terry; Holly Jones; commissioner@davidgantt.com; bill.stanley@buncombecounty.org; ray.bailey@buncombecounty.org; carol.peterson@buncombecounty.org; A-B Tech Board of Trustees; mandy.stone@buncombecounty.org; talexander@taylorandmurphy.com; mrfowler54@msn.com; wahartjr@bellsouth.net; piknsing@bellsouth.net; dlocke@ret.unca.edu; kaye.myers@ncdcr.gov; peterson7@bellsouth.net; gordon.diane@gmail.com; joebandaleta@bellsouth.net; ray.spells@wachovia.com; sga@abtech.edu; jessekorth@gmail.com; Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce; North Asheville; PARC; AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: Why did Dunn have A-B Tech attorney Chris Campbell send me a "cease and desist letter"? Re: Why is the A C-T not addressing what Dunn told Jason Sandford?

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The issues appear to fall into two categories: communication and policy changes. On both, Dunn says he's doing everything he can to be “as transparent a guy as I can be.”

On the communication front, Dunn is about as open as an administrator can be. He holds a monthly meeting open to any faculty member, staffer or student who wants to air issues, and he holds a monthly lunch meeting with a different group of a dozen or so he picks.

He sends out a weekly email update, and he encourages anyone who wants to talk one on one to enter his office. **Dunn is adamant that no college employee has been disciplined for expressing discontent with his decisions.**

“I'm OK with people disagreeing with me,” he says, as long as they're civil. “My approach is just to tell people what I'm doing.”

Dunn's been talking a lot about his new policies put in place over the last year on campus. He's changed the workweek from 35 hours to 40 hours. He's urged faculty to consider moving to four-week and eight-week classes, rather than the traditional 16-week time frame, which requires significant revisions to schedules and new teaching approaches in the classroom.

There's a new procedure to interview and select new hires, one that some faculty feel diminishes their voice. And he's adopted a program that uses specific metrics that aim to measure and improve student performance.

(Page 2 of 2)

That's all caused more than a little discomfort on campus. Dunn describes it as “high anxiety” rather than low morale. The only way to address it is by being open, he says.

Dunn has the benefit of learning from the administrator who preceded him, Betty Young. She replaced A-B Tech's longtime leader, K. Ray Bailey, but resigned after two years, citing discontent on campus as one reason why she decided to leave. Dunn also knows he needs his campus community behind him as he prepares to launch a wider campaign to persuade the public to approve a quarter-cent sales tax increase in November that would fund school construction and renovation projects.

Dunn's apparent willingness to talk arrives with the freshness of a spring breeze, but it can't just be a season that comes and goes. Transparency is hard work, and Dunn must keep after it.

Contact Jason Sandford at jsandford@citizen-times.com. Find Ashvegas updates online at CITIZEN-TIMES.com/ashvegas and the full blog at www.ashvegas.com.

Comments for

Ashvegas: Asheville-Buncombe Tech president finds transparency hard

[StateEmployee453](#)

5:40 AM on March 22, 2011

Ok, I'll go first.

Staff Turnover - the open-door policy Dr. Dunn mentioned does exist but you'll find few employees, and even fewer students, taking advantage of it. They have seen what happened to other employees and simply will not take a chance. Look at the good employees who have left since Dr. Dunn came on board. Look at the retirements. Do you think long-term state employees would leave a job in this economy if they were happy at AB Tech. Be prepared for the pat responses of "Disgruntled former employee" or "We can't discuss personnel matters" if you ask many questions in this area.

Outsourcing - did anyone follow-up on the very large amounts of money Dr. Dunn claimed to be saving by outsourcing the maintenance staff. These people were some of the lowest paid employees at AB Tech and they were simply swept aside to impress someone in Raleigh with the cost "savings". Notice how no one suggested out sourcing the higher paid administrative jobs.

Media - my biggest criticism goes to the media. Why is it that one of the largest state agencies in the county gets a pass when it comes to hard questions? Frequently, you ask a good question and then don't follow up with the next probing question. Case in point: being a state agency, AB Tech's finances are public information. Why haven't you gotten a list of expenditures and asked why these large amounts of money have been spent in certain areas? Given the economy, doesn't some of the travel seem excessive? What about the equipment purchases? Are all the new positions justified? You will find many AB Tech employees willing to answer your questions - it is public information after all - but don't expect them to endanger his or her job by giving information you don't ask for. There seems to be a bias when talking to people with PhDs as if they wouldn't shade the truth.

Report Abuse



Score: 2

[mwirishscot2](#)

6:03 AM on March 22, 2011

AB has been of value to our area, BUT, like everything else having to do with government spending, the spending has gotten out of control. Buildings that are no longer just utilitarian and rather need to have appeal much greater than most people's homes have eaten up millions of dollars. The emphasis on "high tech" rather than basic learning is also a waste of taxpayer's money - the basic skill set is the most important thing to build, the rest can be acquired at the next level. Teach them how to THINK, not be dependent on computers and such with no clue how to use their own minds. We have seen this with all of our children that how gone there.

That said, it IS a benefit to our area, but those ATTENDING may need to pay more to go there - this includes my last two children.

In regard to outsourcing, the lowest paying jobs also carried benefits packages that are no longer the norm - and before YOU complain, remember where you are buying your products - YOU already outsourced the jobs of your neighbors in your mantra for more for less. This will CONTINUE to move to other areas of our economy as well, government has overspent and is now fully engaged in this method as well - all in the interest of delivering "more for less".

Report Abuse



Score: 2

[RedHotPoker](#)

6:55 AM on March 22, 2011

Has he disclosed the 'private donors' who are footing the cost for the sales tax referendum as state law requires?

Report Abuse



Score: 2

[RedHotPoker](#)

6:58 AM on March 22, 2011

Dunn is ANOTHER overpaid bureaucrat at \$200,000 +++ per year...is he worth it?

Report Abuse



Score: 0

[AVLNativeOne](#)

7:54 AM on March 22, 2011

Government entities, including AB Community College, must be relevant. It seems that AB Community College has lost its way over the years as the market has changed. Now AB Community College finds its campus with a crumbling infrastructure; much of their curriculum may not be geared for an actual job in this region when their student graduates; and the campus has been plagued with unrest and discontent over the last three years due to senior leadership changes.

It appears with Volvo's two recent closings, regional manufacturing jobs are in jeopardy of leaving, and the need for an expansive technical curriculum may have passed AB Community College by. A new curriculum direction is difficult with a tight budget and major competitors for students in this market.

Transparency may be the least of Doctor Dunn's issues. The Buncombe County taxpayers are not in a mood for more taxes. He would be well advised to wait for a better environment for his tax increase ballot proposal. Another misstep and he may be a casualty of his own overreaching.

Why does it seem as though all these high priced executive leaders hired from outside Buncombe County have tremendous problems acclimating to WNC?

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@ashevilenc.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: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 2:02 PM
To: Myra Ramsey
Subject: Re: Gun Shows

Thanks for writing in, Ms. Ramsey. I'm thankful that this issue is going to be addressed. The scourge of gun violence in our nation is something we all ought to be concerned about. I will look forward to learning more about our ordinance and consulting with our law enforcement professionals.

I appreciate you being engaged with your local government,

Gordon Smith

On Wed, Jan 2, 2013 at 10:08 AM, Myra Ramsey <mramsey79@charter.net> wrote:
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: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 1:59 PM
To: cpjustice@charter.net
Subject: Re: FW: End gun shows on city property?

Thanks for writing in. I'm thankful that this issue is going to be addressed. The scourge of gun violence in our nation is something we all ought to be concerned about. I will look forward to learning more about our ordinance and consulting with our law enforcement professionals.

I appreciate you being engaged with your local government,

Gordon Smith

On Wed, Jan 2, 2013 at 12:00 PM, <cpjustice@charter.net> wrote:

Could this be more simple, plain, workable? PLEASE facilitate this!

From: PARC [mailto:ashevilleparc@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 10:12 AM
To: cpjustice@charter.net
Subject: End gun shows on city property?

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City Council

Bothwell calls for end to
City property

Asheville Citizen-
Times
Mountain Xpress
The Urban News
Asheville PARC



Asheville City Council member Cecil Bothwell
Asheville to ban gun shows from City-owned p
Agricultural Center.

"Our municipal code specifically prohibits the
properties. I don't understand why that law is

The City of Asheville's Civic Center and WNC
rented to gun show promoters in recent years,

Bothwell explained, "Many citizens have conta
action in the wake of the Newtown school mur
ability to regulate guns, permitting or backgro
and United States law. However, we do have t
are on the books."

"Gun shows not only promote the ownership a
glamorization of the assault-type, semi-autom
many mass murders, but sellers at shows are n
checks on buyers. That means that guns inten

fall into the hands of persons who are mentally
intent."

"This is one place we can easily draw the line,
already on the books."

Section 12-42 of Asheville's City Ordinances re

**(a) No person shall possess, use or carry
pistol, air rifle, spring gun or compress
similar device or weapon which impels
bullet, shot or pellet of any kind, includ
or sharp tips of any nature, designated t
or spring dvice, in any park or other cit
person shall possess, use or carry any k
pocket knife, which means a small knife
pocket or purse and which has a cutting
enclosed by its handle and that may not
explosive or spring action, or a kitchen
intended to be used for its ordinary pur
city-owned facility.**

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Ben Fulmer

From: cpjustice@charter.net
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 12:01 PM
To: AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: FW: End gun shows on city property?

Could this be more simple, plain, workable? PLEASE facilitate this!

From: PARC [mailto:ashevilleparc@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 10:12 AM
To: cpjustice@charter.net
Subject: End gun shows on city property?

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Bothwell calls for end to City property





Asheville City Council member Cecil Bothwell proposed a resolution to ban gun shows from City-owned properties at the Asheville Agricultural Center.

"Our municipal code specifically prohibits the use of City-owned properties. I don't understand why that law is not being enforced."

The City of Asheville's Civic Center and WNCA Center have been rented to gun show promoters in recent years, according to city records.

Bothwell explained, "Many citizens have contacted me with concerns about gun shows in the wake of the Newtown school massacre. We have the ability to regulate guns, permitting or background checks, but we are not doing so under current and United States law. However, we do have the authority to do so. It is on the books."

"Gun shows not only promote the ownership of guns, but also the glamorization of the assault-type, semi-automatic weapons. In many mass murders, but sellers at shows are not conducting background checks on buyers. That means that guns intended for lawful use fall into the hands of persons who are mentally unstable or have violent intent."

"This is one place we can easily draw the line," already on the books."

Section 12-42 of Asheville's City Ordinances re

(a) No person shall possess, use or carry pistol, air rifle, spring gun or compressed similar device or weapon which impels a bullet, shot or pellet of any kind, including or sharp tips of any nature, designated to or spring dvice, in any park or other city person shall possess, use or carry any kn pocket knife, which means a small knife pocket or purse and which has a cutting enclosed by its handle and that may not explosive or spring action, or a kitchen l intended to be used for its ordinary purp city-owned facility.



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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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Asheville PARC



Defend our water den



reservoir

Dear Asheville Neighbor,

On election day last month 86% of Asheville voters said they 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 takeover of the water 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 support of citizen opposition to this state power grab.

On Saturday evening December 8th, virtually all Buncombe County residents, 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 the Governor. If you are unable to travel to Raleigh, this is your chance to be seen and heard in opposition 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 to raise the water issue. We expect to finish once the Rally is over.

You are welcome to create your own sign. Extras will be provided. Signs should be 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 the word 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
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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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. That's a record.

So Asheville voters can be forgiven for wondering why the state is still pushing for the takeover. Instead, proponents of the takeover want you to believe the takeover is necessary and 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 the water system come January. If allowed to happen, this would be a major victory and send fear statewide into every community.

Some of us believe not all is lost. Some of us believe we have enough power and 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.

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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: Christopher Pratt <christopher.jimmie.pratt@gmail.com> on behalf of Christopher Pratt
Sent: Thursday, November 01, 2012 8:52 PM
To: commissioner@davidgantt.com; bill.stanley@buncombecounty.org; ray.bailey@buncombecounty.org; holly.jones@buncombecounty.org; carol.peterson@buncombecounty.org; A-B Tech Board of Trustees; mandy.stone@buncombecounty.org; talexander@taylorandmurphy.com; mrfowler54@msn.com; wahartjr@bellsouth.net; piknsing@bellsouth.net; dlocke@ret.unca.edu; kaye.myers@ncdcr.gov; peterson7@bellsouth.net; gordon.diane@gmail.com; joebandaleta@bellsouth.net; ray.spells@wachovia.com; sga@abtech.edu; jessekorth@gmail.com; chris@csedlaw.com; Jason Sandford; Angie Newsome, Director and Editor; Margaret Williams, Co-Managing Editor/News Editor; jboyle; Jon Ostendorff; Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce; North Asheville; PARC; AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov; Governor Bev Perdue
Cc: Dr. Christopher Pratt
Subject: "What/who is causing the continuing revolving door of employee turnover at A-B Tech?"

What/who is causing the continuing revolving door of employee turnover at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College?

Who's monitoring it?

What's it costing the people of Asheville and Buncombe County and the State of North Carolina?

Why hasn't anyone called it into question?

Who's accountable?

Who will answer these questions please?

Thanks,

Chris

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: Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> on behalf of Leonard Carrier
Sent: Monday, October 08, 2012 7:29 PM
To: Gordon Smith
Subject: Re: BID

Hey, Gordon. I applaud your vote against 51 Biltmore. I haven't stopped in for a drink there yet, but I might do so. I know that you and PARC are not on the same page, but there's no reason you can't be. There has to be a balance between business and citizen concerns, and so far, to my mind, this balance has been lacking. I know that the Chamber of Commerce wants to encourage business. That's good. But it's not good when business is allowed to trample on other concerns.

Please don't misinterpret my remarks, either now or in the past. I'm also a "regular guy" who's taught kids how to play tennis for the past 12 years for the USTA, where I've been a certified official for seven years. I'm the VP of the Asheville Tennis Association, and I'm on the Board of ASHA, my homeowners' association. My neighbor, Eckel Bradley, and I got the NC-DOT to paint the traffic islands entering Haw Creek a reflective yellow to try to prevent accidents. In other words, as a private citizen, I try to do the best I can for my neighborhood and for those who aren't represented (to my way of thinking) by City Council. Those include the single mothers who take their kids to the YWCA (where my wife and I have been members for the past 12 years), to the homeless who are locked out of city restrooms after dark.

Please believe me when I say that, although I might use strong language when I think it's warranted, I have no animus toward you or to any other member of City Council. I consider Jan Davis a friend of mine, even though he's a bit to the right of me in his thinking, and I have no personal brief against any City Council member, even though Chris Pelly almost hit my neighbor's car while tooling west down New Haw Creek Road, where Sondley residents think they own the right of way..

I'd be happy to sit down and have a cup of coffee with you, so we can share concerns. I'm a friend of Mike Miller, whom I believe is an attorney for Ms. Manheimer, and Mike and I are fellow tennis nuts. So, yes, set a date--maybe to meet at the White Duck, or at Laurie's, or any other venue of your choosing. I'd be happy to let you see that I'm really not the fire-breathing ogre that you might think I am. I've got visitors coming in next week, and then I'm refereeing a local "Sweet 16" tennis event, but most of the rest of this week is free. Let me know.

Regards,

Len C.

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

From: [Gordon Smith](#)
To: [Leonard Carrier](#)
Sent: Monday, October 08, 2012 6:04 PM
Subject: Re: BID

Thanks for writing in, Mr. Carrier. I'm glad for the opportunity to share my views on the matters you raise. I was one of two Council members who voted against the 51 Biltmore project, as I'm sure you're aware. I'll also note that BID proponents are seeking an additional levy on property owners within the Central Business District rather than asking for a broad tax increase affecting everyone.

I'm still working out how to approach the BID proposal. There are certainly unmet needs downtown, but we also have other priorities to address. Your input is helpful as I work towards a decision.

Feel free to give me a call or have coffee with me at your convenience. You'll find that I'm a regular, middle class guy who's driven by a service ethic. You've had no shortage of venom for someone you haven't met, and that's your right. However, please know that it's less persuasive than simply having an honest conversation.

Best regards,

Gordon Smith

On Mon, Oct 8, 2012 at 4:41 PM, Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> wrote:

Dear City Council,

Why is it that when Big Business asks for something, you're always ready to give it? First, it was 51 Biltmore, then it was the other McKibbon hotel facing the St. Laurence Basilica. Now the businessmen want a new "tax district" so they can have my tax money funneled to them directly.

Now, this is really too much. Why do we even need a City Council? Why don't you people take a rest and let our tax dollars just flow directly to the Chamber of Commerce? That way we can cut out the middle men and woman, and we would save money by not having to pay your salaries.

My comments are not directed to either Mayor Bellamy or Councilman Bothwell, who are concerned with their other constituencies. Let's let them decide on Council matters so the rest of you can won't have to put up with boring meetings at which nothing gets done that benefits those of us who pay taxes but aren't business owners. Instead, you can go have a drink at Aloft with your friends at the Chamber of Commerce and tell them about how civic minded you are.

Sincerely,

Leonard S. Carrier
26 Stonebridge Drive
Asheville, NC 28805

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: Heather Rayburn <hrayburn@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Heather Rayburn
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 4:43 PM
To: 'Gordon Smith'
Cc: 'Marc Hunt'; 'Chris Pelly'
Subject: RE: Public comment on property next to Basilica + energy waste

I appreciate your follow-up, Gordon. We do agree on a lot. This is a huge blow, though. I think the blight argument was very overstated. I don't think you can trust the developer and that the locals (Basilica) should have been given the benefit of the doubt. And at the very least, I wish you all would have put this off until after the election. People we need helping us campaign for Jane have been pouring their energy into this and we're running out of time. Okay, I'm dropping it ... back to work on campaigning. H.

From: Gordon Smith [mailto:gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 9:30 PM
To: Heather Rayburn
Cc: Marc Hunt; Chris Pelly
Subject: Re: Public comment on property next to Basilica + energy waste

Heather,

I understand you're disappointed, and the outcome wasn't your preference. The debate had to be decided on the merits of what was before us rather than what we might wish were before us. I feel that Council made the right decision for the residents of Asheville.

I'm sure we'll agree on many, many more issues in the future (and present!).

Gordon

On Wed, Sep 12, 2012 at 5:03 PM, Heather Rayburn <hrayburn@bellsouth.net> wrote:

Does my voice count for anything? Today, I feel like it doesn't. When it comes to developers, I don't think residents have much of any voice.

From: Marc Hunt [mailto:marchunt@avlcouncil.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 06, 2012 1:01 PM
To: 'Heather Rayburn'
Subject: RE: Public comment on property next to Basilica + energy waste

Heather

I really appreciate the way you always research and carefully consider issues, and I am glad you are tuned into this one. I've got a ton of time into this one myself now, and continuing to learn, and if anything appreciate complexity in it. Below is the recent "take" I have been emailing in response to the many that write. Hope you'll read and reflect.

As for specifics that you raise:

- Feasibility of a park - I am really struggling with the idea that the City might divert several years of its meager capital budget for parks to this project. It would mean that other high-priority projects like much-needed renovations to community centers and parks in the river district, and greenways along Town Branch and Clingman Forest would be delayed or not accomplished at all.
- My view is not that we develop every square inch of downtown instead of parks. But in this case, we would seem to have the opportunity to take in \$2.3 million in sale proceeds, and see around \$800K/year in new tax revenues to local governments, plus downtown jobs and economic activity. That would help us be more able to do parks in the long run. The park-only scenario would not provide direct revenues and would likely cost city taxpayers a bunch, but could also help make downtown more vibrant. I do think the plaza idea could provide a nice "best of both worlds" outcome, but as I say below, it is not financially easy to achieve either.
- For what it's worth, I do not think the PARC poll nor its email communications have given respondents an informed choice among the options in light of the tradeoffs. I wish PARC's communications were more broadly and fairly informative as many of the folks who have written me at PARC's prompting and read my response and other coverage feel that they were not well-informed by PARC before they wrote.
- If we were to move forward with McKibbin, I would be insistent on rigorous design standards for this project. When the City owns and sells property, it has negotiating power for design standards well beyond what our zoning ordinance would allow.

You raise a good question about open doors and A/C. I'll poke around internally on that. We need to do lots more to incentivize support private property owners toward energy efficiency.

Thanks again,

Marc

+++++

My current "take":

Thanks for writing me regarding the future of the city-owned parcel across from the US Cellular Center and the Basilica of Saint Lawrence. I appreciate your concern. This matter offers complex challenges and complex solutions. There has been a bit of misunderstanding and some outright misinformation afloat regarding it. Please bear with me as I share my current thinking.

Alongside our outstanding regional setting, our vibrant, historic, and authentic downtown is one of our community's great assets. I am fully committed to improving it. The Haywood street site is a critically important opportunity to enhance downtown. I am committed to an outcome for the site which:

- From a design and quality standpoint enhances and adds to the vibrancy of that portion of downtown and especially complements the Basilica, the US Cellular Center, and other surrounding buildings.
- Ensures that any structures are set back from the Basilica so as to maintain site-lines to the Basilica.
- Includes the potential for there to be a public plaza / open space between any development and the Basilica.
- Utilizes construction techniques that ensure no structural damage to the historic Basilica.

Public Park Space and/or and Buildings? - Great urban design is key to being a great city. A proper mix of well-designed public spaces, parks, infrastructure elements, and land uses like residential buildings, visitor amenities, retail, and offices is key. As former chairman of the Asheville Greenway Commission and land conservation professional, I am a strong advocate for parks and green space in this community and continue to play key roles in getting some great projects accomplished. I do not disagree that a stand-alone well-designed public park might be nice here, but I do not see that as an option here. Master plans the City has developed with exhaustive public input over the last five or so years have established many project priorities, and an additional park in this area of downtown did not register as a strategic priority in those plans. Given Asheville's very limited fiscal resources, the struggle to fund what we currently have, a price-tag for a stand-alone park project on this site that would be several million, and the competing demands for high-priority parks and, greenways from other parts of town, I cannot support another full-scale park downtown. Our recently completed Downtown Master Plan did highlight that a combination of a well-designed private development and a public plaza would be a great outcome for this site and could strongly enhance the appeal and vibrancy of the Battery Park area. I am excited about the potential for development of the area just north of the city-owned property into a high-quality publicly-owned plaza - a "pocket park" of sorts - well-designed and including natural horticultural features. That plaza would not be inexpensive itself, and could only be achieved with collaboration and funding support from neighboring property owners, others in the private sector, and various levels of government. I am certain that this plaza in conjunction great architecture for privately-developed buildings and improved pedestrian/transportation infrastructure in that neighborhood would be a great outcome, so I am working hard toward that end.

City-Led or Basilica-Led Development? - Parishioners of the Basilica have done a great job helping City leaders understand the importance of great design and implementation for the site, and that is indeed resulting in the commitment to a quality outcome by the City. The Asheville Design Center was recently facilitating collaborative design efforts among official Diocese/Basilica representatives, McKibbin, and City officials. I was disappointed when, on July 5th, the Diocese/Basilica representatives unilaterally withdrew from those productive discussions, declaring that the only acceptable outcome would for the Diocese to own the site and plan/control its future development. The City owns the property and should negotiate directly with a developer to ensure a great design and implementation to benefit the entire community. I was elected to make sure that the best interest of the entire community will be served in situations like this. Note that representatives of the

Basilica say they fully intend to sell the property to a developer just as the City might, a point that does not seem to be well understood in the community. I am uncomfortable delegating that much authority to any group for a site so important to the whole community. Representatives say that their vision is retail/office/rental apartments with plaza.

Hotel versus Another Type of Development? - The City is currently in negotiation with McKibbin Hotel Group for development of the site to feature retail spaces at street level, hotel on upper floors, with structured parking included. The design McKibbin has preliminarily shared indicate building height, mass, and setbacks, very similar to what the basilica folks have suggested. It also allows for a public plaza to be separately developed fronting the basilica - a project that would be undertaken separately since it would require acquisition of additional property and realignment of Page Avenue. The negotiation is based on McKibbin's providing an initial winning proposal under a competitive RFP process four years ago. There is no downside to seeing this process through, and I support the City's completing its discussions with McKibbin before any decision is made by Council. I will only support a development agreement with McKibbin if the project strongly supports all the principals outlined above, and if it does not, we should abandon the partnership with McKibbin. I am open to the idea of a well-designed high-quality hotel, not an imposing ugly one, because that might best activate use of the US Cellular Center while also protecting the interests of the Basilica and the rest of the neighborhood. While some segments of the hotel/motel market in the region are struggling, I have recently been hearing that there is a healthy and growing demand of quality downtown hotel rooms. I want to learn more about that, and do not immediately buy into the suggestion that we have too many hotels downtown already. Many in the community seem to fear a "high-rise" development. I can only support a project that would be limited and fit height-wise between the neighboring Vanderbilt Apartments and Battery Park Apartments.

Economic and Fiscal Considerations - Downtown character and function are enormously important to our regional economic development. Getting a well-designed and highly functional development outcome for the site is critical. The City must be fairly compensated in selling the site, and given the City's serious fiscal challenges, we really need to see the property productively on the tax role. Tax revenue generated from the site is key to expanding our ability to accomplish our goals.

Next Steps - Early in 2012, Council directed City staff to continue in the earlier-committed RFP process with McKibbin and other stakeholders including the Basilica and the Asheville design center to see whether or not an acceptable site plan, design, and development agreement might be arranged. That process has been ongoing and Council is to hold a public hearing at our September 11th session as to whether to move forward to a contract for sale and development with McKibbin.

The Scenario I Most Worry About - Surface parking lots kill downtown vibrancy. I fear that ongoing political crossfire and stalemate along with limited unwillingness of key stakeholders to negotiate for shared benefits in the outcome will halt progress. If that happens, the site would likely devolve to an uninspiring surface parking lot for years to come. That would be tragic.

Marc Hunt

Asheville City Council Member

From: Heather Rayburn [mailto:hgrayburn@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2012 8:21 PM
To: Cecil Bothwell; Gordon Smith; Chris Pelly; mayorbellamy@avlcouncil.com; emanheimer@vwlawfirm.com; jandavis@avlcouncil.com; marchunt@avlcouncil.com
Subject: Public comment on property next to Basilica + energy waste

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I know you have to make many difficult decisions as stewards of the city. I realize that the pressure to keep the city's budget and residential taxes in check is a challenge. That said, I believe that the city-owned property in front of the Basilica should be turned into a park and the public supports this option. Not every square inch of urban space has to be maxed out to its full economic potential. The special location of the property calls for special consideration.

We need design standards in downtown Asheville. It makes me angry to picture the McKibbon group developing that property - especially in light of the Aloft, the tacky mess thrown up on Biltmore Avenue. It shouldn't always have to be a fight to get these developers to build structures worthy of our city.

On another note, how do you all feel about the number of city businesses that keep their doors open with the air conditioner running? In light of our global climate crisis and the mountaintop removal situation, it's pretty shocking. Has there been any talk of developing an ordinance to put a stop to it?

Thanks for your time,

Heather Rayburn

96 Holland St.

Asheville, N.C. 28801

Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 9:37 AM
To: Leonard Carrier
Subject: Re: A question of priorities

It got the wrong kind, just so you know.

On Tue, Sep 11, 2012 at 8:52 AM, Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> wrote:
Dear Gordon,

That was merely to get your attention.

Best,

Len C.

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

From: [Gordon Smith](#)
To: [Leonard Carrier](#)
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 7:39 AM
Subject: Re: A question of priorities

Thanks, Dr. Carrier, for this thoughtful approach. It is certainly more persuasive than the name-calling and threatening language you used in prior communications.

Gordon

On Mon, Sep 10, 2012 at 11:22 PM, Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> wrote:
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: 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.

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

Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2012 10:03 PM
To: Leonard Carrier
Subject: Re: McKibbon's folly

Thanks, Mr. Carrier, for your interest in this issue. Downtown development brings out strong opinions, and I've heard a lot of them regarding the Haywood Street property. Everyone involved cares about the future of the city, and everyone wants an outcome we can be proud of for generations to come. Please forgive the length of this message. There's a lot of information to cover!

Current conditions and opportunities

We know that the current situation is undesirable for everyone. Surface parking and dilapidated buildings create dead space in our city center. It's blight, and the city should not support it.

The process of putting city-owned land up for sale began in 2005 as a way to support affordable housing in Asheville, and Asheville continues to have an acute affordable housing crisis.

Proceeds from a land sale could go immediately to the city's Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF). The AHTF loans money at low interest to builders who will help create affordable housing in our city limits. The great thing about these loans is that the money comes back to the fund, where it can be reallocated again and again. AHTF funds can immediately begin building hundreds of affordable housing units for working people in Asheville.

This will create construction jobs, and the resulting buildings will add to our city's tax rolls, allowing additional investments in parks, police, and transportation. Affordable housing and corridor density are crucial to making our local economy stronger and more sustainable over the long term.

Further, it is only through building on that site that we're going to connect Haywood Street and the Grove Arcade via the Civic Center and beautiful Basilica of St. Lawrence for residents and visitors alike.

In response to some of the many ideas out there:

-- Leaving the area as surface parking would continue the current dead space problem without helping with affordable housing needs or pushing towards creation of a plaza.

-- Creating another city park would (1) postpone the series of river parks and greenways currently underway; (2) create no property tax revenue or fulfill other economic development goals; (3) leave affordable housing needs unmet; (4) be financially impossible without a broad partnership that is currently not being contemplated by anyone; (5) be very costly in a time when parks budgets are stretched to the max.

-- I have enormous respect for the people who attend the Basilica of St. Lawrence, and I fear they may not know all of the facts about what's been going on. The Basilica was one of nine entities that were deemed qualified, along with the McKibbin Group, back in 2007. The Basilica did not submit a proposal when the process was open. Matt Mores, who was representing the Basilica at the time, was interested in seeing a nine-story hotel on the site.

Earlier this year, after an initial letter demanding that the City take or leave an offer less than half of what was being offered by The McKibbin Group, the Basilica representatives began broadcasting urgent warnings of dire consequences. In response to these concerns, the Asheville Design Center offered to mediate discussions between McKibbin and Basilica representatives. A different Basilica representative, Lou Bisette, was brought to the table. These discussions were fruitful, producing six agreed-upon design principles. Then the Basilica abruptly withdrew from these talks and released Mr. Bisette, bringing back their original spokesman, Matt Mores. The McKibbin Group and the Asheville Design Center remain open to resuming those discussions.

The Basilica does not have a contract with the Kessler Group, whom they suggest will do their building, and my understanding is that they do not have the necessary funding to bring a project to completion.

Changes in representation, walking away from negotiations about design principles, shifting desires for what should be built, the lack of a firm agreement with a developer, and the lack of capital – All of these things lead me to having less confidence in the Basilica's ability to achieve a desirable outcome in a reasonable time frame.

Protecting the integrity of the Basilica

When the city sells this property, we will be able to sculpt a development agreement with the buyer. Any development agreement should include requirements for seismic monitoring and consultation with a geotechnical engineer. If integrity of Basilica is threatened, then construction must stop until a solution is reached.

There must be a significant buffer space between any new building and the architectural treasure of the Basilica in order to assure its structural integrity. That buffer space can take the form of a world-class plaza/piazza if all of the parties involved will cooperate to make it happen. The Basilica will have to be the lead entity in doing so, because they already own the necessary land. We can reroute the roads, make a safer intersection, and create a lovely plaza. It will require cooperation, and I'm hopeful we can get there.

Further, any proposed building would be the first under new design guidelines we approved in 2010 after a lengthy public Downtown Master Plan process. The new guidelines were described by the Asheville Citizen Times as embodying a compromise between development interests and critics of new downtown construction.

Aesthetic tastes vary wildly, but no matter your opinion of Aloft or Indigo, built under the old rules, every building built from now on will fall under the new design guidelines. Also, the proposed building would be shorter than the historic apartment buildings on either side of it and would use brick facades to correspond with the surrounding structures.

Lastly, I am open to all suggestions about how we can further improve any development agreement in order to arrive at the best possible outcome.

In conclusion

The McKibbin Group is prepared to invest more than \$25 million into our downtown. As people cry out for economic relief, it would be folly to reject this investment. The property tax revenues will help all of our citizens in perpetuity.

The \$2.3 million sale price of the land can go directly to creating affordable housing in our community. I will not vote for the project unless Council agrees to dedicate money to this purpose.

The decision will neither create nor prohibit a park/plaza. We need a welcoming space to join Haywood to Grove Arcade and to complement the Basilica and Civic Center. There can be a plaza, and step one will be the Basilica saying they want it and being willing to either build it or partner with others who want to do so.

We need to do away with the urban blight that exists there now.

Our new design guidelines coupled with a development agreement will ensure the highest quality building and protection of the structural integrity of the Basilica.

I hope this information is helpful,

Gordon Smith

On Thu, Sep 6, 2012 at 3:23 PM, Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> wrote:

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 McKibbin-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 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: Lawrence Gilliam <lonniegilliam@bellsouth.net> on behalf of Lawrence Gilliam
Sent: Friday, September 07, 2012 5:07 PM
To: Cecil Bothwell;Chris Pelly;Gordon Smith;Jan Davis;Marc Hunt;Terry Bellamy
Cc: Kerney McNeil
Subject: Fw: "Say NO to the Hotel" Rally

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: PARC <ashevilleparc@gmail.com>
To: lonniegilliam@bellsouth.net
Sent: Thu, September 6, 2012 2:46:03 PM
Subject: "Say NO to the Hotel" Rally

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"Say NO to the Hotel" Rally



If you're going...

1. St. Lawrence Public Meeting

Friday, Sept. 7th,
5-8PM, Renaissance
Hotel, 31 Woodfin St.

2. Sign Making

Saturday, Sept. 8th, 3-
5PM, in the church
basement.

3. No Hotel Rally!

Tuesday, Sept. 11th,
4:30PM, City Building



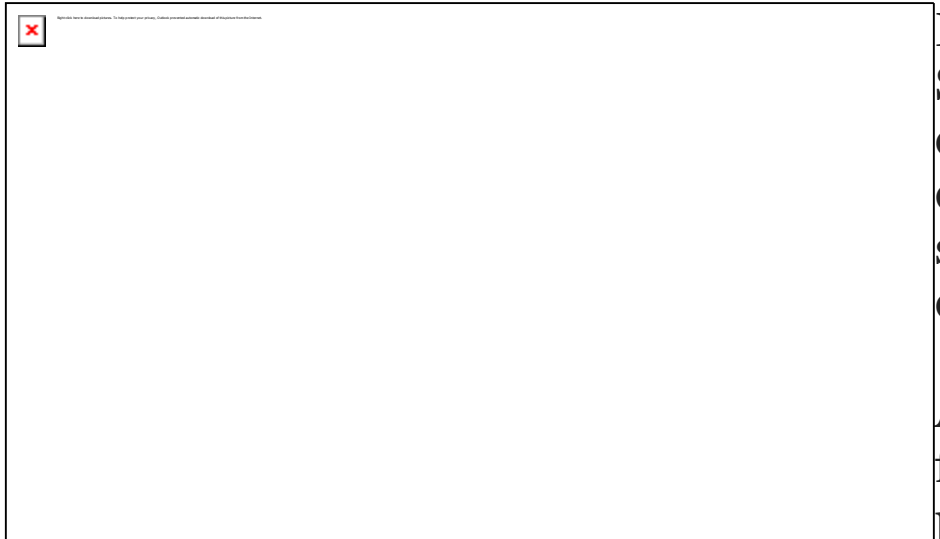
This image from McKibbon shows their hotel towering over the Basilica of St. La

The Church is holding a 'Say No to the Hotel' Rally on Tuesday, Sept. 11th, to protest the McKibbon Hotel plan for a new hotel in front of the Basilica. The Rally starts at 4:30 at the City Building. The Council has said that they'll take public comment on their meeting *that night*.

Also, the Church will hold a public meeting tomorrow, September 7th, in the conference room of the Renaissance Hotel, 31 Woodfin Street to present its proposal for development.

On Saturday, members and supporters will get together to make signs for the Tuesday rally. Please come! Bring a poster board to the church basement, Laurentien.

Please email [City Council](#), and attend the public Rally on Tuesday.



on their way from one place to another. Far down
Avenue, this beautiful building could be seen through the trees.

A recent PARC PAC poll of frequent voters showed that 38% of voters want a park, 38% want to sell the land to develop a hotel there.

Some people are making the silly argument that the park is expensive. In fact, the City already owns the land, and the cost of trees is quite low.

In comparison, the cost of those few hundred trees (that provided the base for the new McKibbin building at the Fine Arts Theater) *was over 10 million dollars*.

The same people who object to the park on the grounds of cost with the high price of that project!

Thanks for everything you do to keep Asheville beautiful.

from the folks at PARC.

.



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PARC • PO Box 4093 • Asheville, NC 28805

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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.

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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: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2012 11:17 PM
To: Leonard Carrier
Subject: Re: Basilica

I understand your perspective.

Gordon

On Wed, Aug 29, 2012 at 2:54 PM, Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> wrote:

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 McKibbon 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: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2012 8:19 AM
To: PARC
Subject: Re: Voters Oppose New Tax District

Let's hope another poll is done by folks who don't already have an outcome they'd like to see. This one doesn't hold much water for me. Let me know, Charlie, if you'd ever like to sit down and discuss these issues. You might find that more effective.

Gordon

On Mon, Aug 27, 2012 at 2:16 PM, PARC <ashevilleparc@gmail.com> wrote:

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Voters oppose no tax district



Hearing on Haywood St. property

City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 11th, to decide whether to sell city-owned property across from the Basilica to the McKibbin Hotel Group.

A PARC PAC poll showed that only 13% of Asheville voters want the land used for a hotel. 40% favored a public park and 38% favored selling the land to the church.

This is the last opportunity to weigh in. Will City Council listen to the voters who elected them or to another out-of-town corporation?

[E-mail all City Council Members](#)

(Last week we erroneously reported the date of the hearing. It's **September 11th!**) Apologies!



Asheville voters oppose the property tax district by 57% to 19%.*

The proposal is to increase the downtown per hundred dollars of valuation, to form a District. People would pay this new tax on all equipment and vehicles owned by businesses and residences and vehicles belonging to residents.

The central feature of the plan that causes concern is that an unelected board of downtown business would be spending the tax money, just as the unelected Convention Bureau does now. That board would spend it however they like, including on businesses they choose.

The new tax district would also share in the money that the towns and fire districts now receive, which would increase the amount of money available to those entities.

When the BID proponents said plainly that they would clean up downtown more and create even more festivals, businesses rejoiced but downtown residents said they just want to clean up downtown for the tourists. Really?

Oddly, the BID folks keep bringing up snow on sidewalks as a prime mission for their new district. Last year, but the year before there was a lot of snow. A new ordinance requiring property owners to clear sidewalks, and it worked! Sidewalks downtown were cleared for the first time ever, the sidewalk beside the Pack Square) was cleared of snow so pedestrians could walk.

Businesses are supposed to keep their own sidewalks clear and responsible owners do just that.

If more city services are needed downtown, ask City Council? Council seems to build a new park every few years, and seldom turn a blind eye to downtown.

The intent here seems to be something more than just taxes to a new unelected board.

***PARC PAC Poll Methodology:**

- About 13,000 people voted in at least two of the last three elections.
- Of those, we had phone numbers for about 8,500.
- The polling company deleted people on the Do Not Call list.

- About 2,000 of the numbers we had were no longer in
- About 2,500 of the calls went to voice mail.
- About 700 numbers did not answer.
- About 1,300 numbers were busy.
- About 500 hung up.
- About 1,500 people stayed on the line, and completed

-From the folks at PARC



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Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2012 8:16 AM
To: Richard Cary
Subject: Re: parc etc

Mr. Cary,

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 7:43 PM, Richard Cary <richard.cary@att.net> wrote:

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: 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: James Hester <hester882@bellsouth.net> on behalf of James Hester
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2012 8:54 AM
To: Gordon Smith
Subject: Re: City Water issue

Gordon, PARC is giving misleading information. Thank you for your response.

Jim Hester Broker/Realtor

Coldwell Banker Quarters Real Estate

718 Buffalo Creek Road

Lake Lure, NC 28746

Cell: 828 447 0354

Office: 828 625 2020

Fax: 828 625 2060

E-mail Hester882@bellsouth.net

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com>
To: James Hester <hester882@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Wed, August 22, 2012 7:59:56 AM
Subject: Re: City Water issue

Mr. Hester,

Thank you for writing in. The City Council is unanimously in support of retaining the excellent management of the water system. Please let your legislators know your opinion as well. We need all the advocates we can get.

Gordon Smith

On Tue, Aug 21, 2012 at 3:19 PM, James Hester <hester882@bellsouth.net> wrote:

Do not relinquish control of Asheville water. I am building a new home in the city of Asheville and will vote to remove any council member that votes to hand over our water to Tim Moffit and cronies.

Jim Hester Broker/Realtor

Coldwell Banker Quarters Real Estate

718 Buffalo Creek Road

Lake Lure, NC 28746

Cell: 828 447 0354

Office: 828 625 2020

Fax: 828 625 2060

E-mail Hester882@bellsouth.net

Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2012 7:55 AM
To: Jim Stone
Subject: Re: Do what the people of Asheville want.

Mr. Stone,

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 Tue, Aug 21, 2012 at 7:53 PM, Jim Stone <jimsto@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Council,

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

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: Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> on behalf of Leonard Carrier
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2012 6:14 AM
To: Jan Davis; Gordon Smith; cecil@braveulysses.com
Cc: jboyle@citizen-times.com
Subject: Fw: We're better than Greenville

Here is the response given to me by the Editor of a local newspaper--not the AC-T, where Randy Hammer has apparently put the muzzle on John Boyle, who has not given me the courtesy of an answer. Given Mr. Hammer's predilection for large hotels, I can understand his position. But it is not the position of most of the tax payers in Asheville. I think it behooves City Council to understand that. Please pass along this Editor's opinion to Mayor Bellamy and to other members of Council.

Len Carrier
26 Stonebridge Drive
Asheville, NC 28805

Subject: Re: We're better than Greenville

"I agree with you about not building a hotel there.

I agree we need a better city manager.

I disagree with your statement that we should be more like Greenville. Not a good idea. Way too bland and pc"

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

From: [Leonard Carrier](#)
To: jboyle@citizen-times.com
Cc: [Jan Davis](#) ; [Gordon Smith](#) ; cecil@braveulysses.com
Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 7:48 AM
Subject: We're better than Greenville

Dear Mr. Boyle,

I usually agree with your analyses in the AC-T, but it struck me that in your "Tangled Web," piece today you'd also become ensnared in that web. McKibbon Hotel Group desperately wants a hotel--apparently any type of hotel--on City-owned property. Now John McKibbon wants to partner with Richard Kessler to put up something like The Grand Bohemian of Biltmore Village.

Am I missing something? We already have a Grand Bohemian-style hotel. Why do we need another one across from the Basilica? Why do we need any sort of hotel on that site? We already have Hotel Indigo close by, and we have Crowne Plaza right across the bridge.

On a recent trip to Downtown Greenville, SC, I asked a Greenvillean how Greenville turned itself from a crime-ridden slum into a wonderful venue, complete with waterfalls over the Reedy River and the second-longest single-suspension bridge in the world--second only to Germany! Here was his answer in three parts: (1) They had a forward-thinking City Manager (unlike our Gary Jackson, who seems to be stuck in the 20th century); (2) they had a citizenry that was tired of wrangling and wanted Greenville to be truly "green"; (3) they had visionary corporate co-operation to supply the funds. Simple, *ne c'est pas*?

So my question is: "Why can't Asheville be more like Greenville?" We already have the energized citizenry. I'm sure that corporate heads and the media will get on board once they see the future. (Are you listening Randy Hammer?) All we need is a new City Manager, unless Gary Jackson can become more futuristic in his thinking.

I say, kudos for Terry Bellamy, Cecil Bothwell, and Gordon Smith for their efforts to have the City-owned land in question turned into a beautiful park, as PARC has advocated. I hope they can convince Mannheim, Pelley, and Davis that this is the best route to take. As a City taxpayer, I don't mind paying my taxes for worthwhile purposes. I don't want my money wasted by having it put toward yet another foot-dragging study.

Sincerely,

Leonard Carrier
26 Stonebridge Drive
Asheville 28805

Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 9:33 AM
To: PARC
Subject: Re: Poll: No hotel in front of Basilica

Thank you for writing in, PARC. 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 City of Asheville 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. Without raising revenues, I do not see a way to support another downtown park. While I very much enjoy our parks, I must also be responsible with taxpayer dollars.

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. 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.

I am looking forward to learning more about the proposals and working with Council members to ensure responsible building on the site.

I hope this is helpful. Thank you again for being engaged in our community and for your willingness to fairly approach people of different viewpoints.

Gordon Smith

On Mon, Aug 13, 2012 at 10:01 AM, PARC <ashevilleparc@gmail.com> wrote:

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Contact

City Council
Asheville Citizen-Times
Mountain Xpress
Asheville PARC

BILLBOARD TREE CUTTING



This type of clear-cutting is going to be commonplace along North Carolina's roads. The bill that passed last year was S 183 - The Selective Vegetation Removal Act. This bill was a giveaway to the

billboard industry, and it was the public's trees that got given!

And it's not just tree-cutting ... it's sometimes using highly toxic herbicides to simply kill the trees since it's cheaper and less work.

If you want to speak out on the new rules in person, you have that opportunity on Monday, August 13 at 7 pm, City of Asheville Public Works Building, Room A-109, 161 Charlotte St.

Wondering what to say? Here are some key points:

Residents favor to the church,



A new poll releases that most Asheville the city-owned p of St. Lawrence.

40% favored a public p
church, 13% favor a h

- The DOT needs to assess the fair market value of the trees to be cut and have the billboard companies reimburse the state. DOT has said that 70,000 trees will be cut with a value of 56 million dollars, yet the cost benefit analysis shows zero benefit to the billboard industry.

- The billboard companies should pay DOT's administrative costs for implementation of this law.

- DOT rules should protect our stream banks and local environmental ordinances.

- Allow local governments to have notification, input, and right of appeal.

Now that you've got that down, there's no time like the present to have your say.

You can also make comments by phone, fax, and mail to:

Fax at 919-733-9105

Phone at 919-707-2800

Online:

<https://apps.dot.state.nc.us/ContactUS/PostComment.aspx?Unit=Rules>

Mail: APA Coordinator, 1501 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1501

Thanks for speaking up!

We contacted all the members of City Council to ask if there would be a vote at the meeting. Some said maybe, some said no. Three said that if there was a motion and a second then there would be a vote.

The meeting is at 5PM at the City Building.



Lawrence Green would park where people are coming from the Civic Church, the Grove Arca Pack Memorial Library, Battery Park, and the Vanderbilt.



impression that the Ch
that is not the case. [Cli](#)

It is open greenspace t
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City Council will discus
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moment to let them kn

[Write to City Council](#)

[Write to the Citizen-Times](#)

[Write to the Mountain Xpress](#)

[Click to see the methodology](#)

--from the folks at PARC.



PARC • PO Box 4093 • Asheville, NC 28805

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Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 9:04 AM
To: MacQueen Kim
Subject: Re: basilica - my two cents

Thanks, Kim. I'm still gathering my thoughts on the issue, and your input is helpful. I agree that we can not have a park or surface parking there.

Gordon

On Mon, Aug 13, 2012 at 10:52 AM, MacQueen Kim <goldhill@skyrunner.net> wrote:

I was impressed by the information provided by Mr. McGibbon last Tuesday, and believe the structure he proposes would be an asset to downtown Asheville.

The park idea is untenable. I know this because I work closely with DARN as it has worked incredibly hard to recreate Pritchard Park into the small oasis it now is. NO ONE who insists they want another park downtown has ever come out to help us clean Pritchard, plant in Pritchard or to help program the park. In short, it is yet another Asheville story of 'I'll tell you what I want, then you pay for it and make it work.'

PARC PAC's recent phone survey was very biased (i.e., describing the BID as an 'unelected board,' when the interim board itself has not yet completed its by-laws and does not know how the board would be put in place). One prominent member of the basilica 'side' of the issue, told me he received three survey calls in one evening (to the same phone), giving him three chances to vote against McGibbon. Very scientific.

As the next-door-neighbor of this property (many talk about the impact on the Basilica, few contemplate the impact on the tax-generating businesses and residents to the other side of the property), I believe this proposal may not be perfect. Not much in this life is perfect. But it is as good as we are likely to get, and a damn sight better than what we have lived with for the past five to seven years.

Please let's move forward with this. You won't make everyone happy, but let's get something going and stop treating every developer like they have come to this town to spread a disease.

Thanks for allowing me to rant! It's been a long summer!

- Kim

Kim MacQueen
Gold Hill Associates
828/252-7153

Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 8:59 AM
To: Gail Jolley
Subject: Re: No hotel in front of the Basilica

Thank you for writing in, Gail. 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.

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I am looking forward to learning more about the proposals and working with Council members to ensure responsible building on the site.

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

Gordon Smith

On Mon, Aug 13, 2012 at 11:02 AM, Gail Jolley <g9jolley@gmail.com> wrote:

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: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 8:55 AM
To: MARNIE MIKELL
Subject: Re: Hotel Plan Near Basilica

Thank you for writing in, Ms. Mikell. 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 City of Asheville 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. Without raising revenues, I do not see a way to support another downtown park. While I very much enjoy our parks, I must also be responsible with taxpayer dollars.

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I am looking forward to learning more about the proposals and working with Council members to ensure responsible building on the site.

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

Gordon Smith

On Mon, Aug 13, 2012 at 12:43 PM, MARNIE MIKELL <artdept@great-eastern-sun.com> wrote:

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: 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: MacQueen Kim <goldhill@skyrunner.net> on behalf of MacQueen Kim
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 10:52 AM
To: Manheimer Esther; Hunt Marc; Davis Jan; Bellamy Terry; Smith Gordon
Subject: basilica - my two cents

I was impressed by the information provided by Mr. McGibbon last Tuesday, and believe the structure he proposes would be an asset to downtown Asheville.

The park idea is untenable. I know this because I work closely with DARN as it has worked incredibly hard to recreate Pritchard Park into the small oasis it now is. NO ONE who insists they want another park downtown has ever come out to help us clean Pritchard, plant in Pritchard or to help program the park. In short, it is yet another Asheville story of 'I'll tell you what I want, then you pay for it and make it work.'

PARC PAC's recent phone survey was very biased (i.e., describing the BID as an 'unelected board,' when the interim board itself has not yet completed its by-laws and does not know how the board would be put in place). One prominent member of the basilica 'side' of the issue, told me he received three survey calls in one evening (to the same phone), giving him three chances to vote against McGibbon. Very scientific.

As the next-door-neighbor of this property (many talk about the impact on the Basilica, few contemplate the impact on the tax-generating businesses and residents to the other side of the property), I believe this proposal may not be perfect. Not much in this life is perfect. But it is as good as we are likely to get, and a damn sight better than what we have lived with for the past five to seven years.

Please let's move forward with this. You won't make everyone happy, but let's get something going and stop treating every developer like they have come to this town to spread a disease.

Thanks for allowing me to rant! It's been a long summer!

- Kim

Kim MacQueen
Gold Hill Associates
828/252-7153

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:

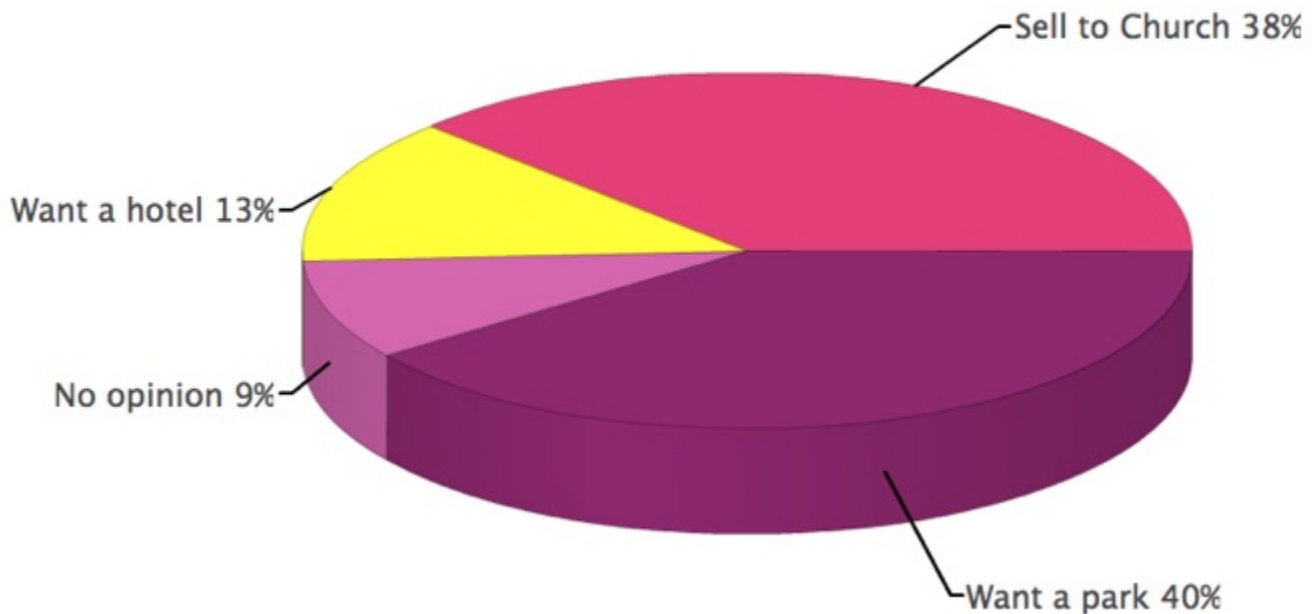
"The first question is about the city-owned land across from the Basilica of St. Lawrence. Some people favor a hotel, others selling the land to the church for their development, and others favor a public park.

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 story last Tuesday and McKibbin's public presentation of its plan. So even after all of persuasion the developers 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: Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> on behalf of Leonard Carrier
Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 7:48 AM
To: jboyle@citizen-times.com
Cc: Jan Davis;Gordon Smith;cecil@braveulysses.com
Subject: We're better than Greenville

Dear Mr. Boyle,

I usually agree with your analyses in the AC-T, but it struck me that in your "Tangled Web," piece today you'd also become ensnared in that web. McKibbon Hotel Group desperately wants a hotel--apparently any type of hotel--on City-owned property. Now John McKibbon wants to partner with Richard Kessler to put up something like The Grand Bohemian of Biltmore Village.

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I say, kudos for Terry Bellamy, Cecil Bothwell, and Gordon Smith for their efforts to have the City-owned land in question turned into a beautiful park, as PARC has advocated. I hope they can convince Mannheim, Pelley, and Davis that this is the best route to take. As a City taxpayer, I don't mind paying my taxes for worthwhile purposes. I don't want my money wasted by having it put toward yet another foot-dragging study.

Sincerely,

Leonard Carrier
26 Stonebridge Drive
Asheville 28805

Ben Fulmer

From: Marc Hunt <marchunt@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Marc Hunt
Sent: Sunday, August 05, 2012 10:58 AM
To: 'Christopher Pratt'; 'Esther Manheimer'
Cc: 'Cecil Bothwell'; 'Chris Pelly'; 'Gordon Smith'; 'Jan Davis'; 'Mayor Bellamy'; 'Maggie Burleson'; paula@mckibbonhotels.com
Subject: RE: McKibbon Hotel Group Public Meeting - Haywood Street Project

Dr. Pratt

We have exchanged emails before, and I think you know my general take on the situation, but I wanted to share my updated view which I provide to folks who write.

Thank you for being in touch.

Marc Hunt

+++++

Thanks for writing me regarding the future of the city-owned parcel across from the US Cellular Center and the Basilica of Saint Lawrence. I appreciate your concern. Let me share my current thinking on the project.

I am committed to an outcome for the site which:

- From a design and quality standpoint enhances and adds to the vibrancy of that portion of downtown and especially complements that Basilica, the US Cellular Center, and other surrounding buildings.
- Ensures that any structures are set back from the Basilica so as to maintain site-lines to the Basilica.
- Includes a public plaza / open space
- Utilizes construction techniques that ensure no structural damage to the historic Basilica.
- Activates improved use and function of the US Cellular Center.

The short clip here is provided by official representatives of the Basilica and Diocese of Charlotte as their vision for the site, and it is consistent with a site plan and structures that would meet my hopes for the site. It features a six-story structure and open plaza area separating the building from the

Basilica: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0A5NGEW3Gc>

A few more thoughts:

Public Park/Green Space Versus Buildings? – As former chairman of the Asheville Greenway Commission and land conservation professional, I am a strong advocate for parks and green space in this community. Some are avidly promoting the idea of a stand-alone green park here as being a simple choice, but I do not see this site working out as a stand-alone park. I do think approximately half of the site being dedicated to public open space featuring some horticultural elements would be great. As for the key issue of funding, note that the effort to build nearby Pack Square Park, while very successful in many ways, so far is more than \$ 1.5 million short of its initial fundraising goal. The City is also falling well short of the \$600k annually required to operate and maintain that park according to the initial vision for it as a “signature park”. Given Asheville’s overly limited fiscal resources, the struggle to fund what we currently have, a price-tag for a stand-alone park project on this site that would be several million, and the competing demands for parks and, greenways from other parts of town, I cannot support prioritization of another full-scale park downtown. I do feel that significant public space as a plaza in conjunction with a smart real estate development project can work and be aesthetically great, so I am advocating for that.

Hotel versus Another Type of Development? – The City is currently in negotiation with McKibbon Hotel Group for development of the site to feature retail spaces at street level, hotel on upper floors, with structured parking included. That negotiation is based on McKibbon’s providing an initial winning proposal under a competitive RFP process four years ago. There is no downside to seeing this process through, and I support the City’s completing its discussions with McKibbon before any decision is made by Council. I will only support a development agreement with McKibbon if the project strongly supports all the principals outlined above, and if it does not, we should abandon the partnership with McKibbon. I am open to the idea of a well-designed high-quality hotel (not an imposing ugly one) because that might best activate use of the US Cellular Center while also protecting the interests of the Basilica and the rest of the neighborhood. While some segments of the hotel/motel market in the region are struggling, I have recently been hearing that there does seem to be healthy and growing demand of quality downtown hotel choices. I want to learn more about that, and do not immediately buy into the notion that we have too many hotels downtown already. As for design, note that the vision for the site put forward by the Basilica/Diocese could work quite well as a hotel (see above video link). Many in the community seem to fear a “high-rise” development. I can only support a project that would be limited and fit height-wise between the neighboring Vanderbilt Apartments and Battery Park Apartments.

City-Led or Basilica-Led Development? - Parishioners of the Basilica have done a great job helping City leaders understand the importance of great design and implementation for the site, and that is indeed resulting in the commitment to a quality outcome by the City. The Asheville Design Center was recently facilitating collaborative design efforts among official Diocese/Basilica representatives, McKibbon, and City officials. I was disappointed when, on July 5th, the Diocese/Basilica representatives unilaterally withdrew from those productive discussions, declaring that the only acceptable outcome would for the Diocese to own the site and plan/control its future development. The City owns the property and should negotiate directly with a developer to ensure a great design and implementation to benefit the entire community. I was elected to make sure that the best interest of the entire community will be served in situations like this. The Diocese of Charlotte and parishioners of the Basilica have proposed that the City sell the land to the Diocese and allow the Diocese to negotiate with a developer for design and implementation. I am uncomfortable delegating that much authority to any group for a site so important to the whole community. Note that representatives of the Basilica say they fully intend to sell the property to a developer just as the City might, a point that does not seem to be well understood in the community. Representatives say that their vision is retail/office/rental apartments with plaza, not a hugely different outcome than what the City is currently negotiating for.

Economic and Fiscal Considerations – Downtown character and function are enormously important to our regional economic development. Getting a well-designed and highly functional development outcome for the site is critical. The City must be fairly compensated in selling the site, and given the City’s serious fiscal challenges, we really need to see the property productively on the tax role.

Next Steps - Early in 2012, Council directed City staff to continue in the earlier-committed RFP process with McKibbon to see whether or not an acceptable site plan, design, and development agreement might be arranged. That process is ongoing and should be completed within a few weeks – perhaps by late September. Council will simply review progress at its August 14th meeting.

The Scenario I Most Worry About – Surface parking lots kill downtown vibrancy. I fear that political crossfire and stalemate along with limited willingness of key stakeholders to negotiate for shared benefits in the outcome will halt progress. If that happens, the site would likely devolve to an uninspiring surface parking lot for years to come. That would be tragic.

Marc Hunt
Asheville City Council Member

+++++

From: Christopher Pratt [mailto:christopher.jimmie.pratt@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2012 11:12 AM

To: Esther Manheimer

Cc: Dr. Christopher Pratt; Cecil Bothwell; Chris Pelly; Gordon Smith; Jan Davis; Marc Hunt; Mayor Bellamy; Maggie Burleson; paula@mckibbonhotels.com

Subject: Re: McKibbon Hotel Group Public Meeting - Haywood Street Project

Dear Councillor Manheimer, Asheville City Council, Mayor Bellamy,

Thank you for your reply, however, isn't it time our City Council stops playing games with this process. Why is Council ignoring the facts? One might wonder if this isn't SOP for our City government. We all know that:

- the Basilica also submitted a bit in the first RFQ and it was acknowledged in writing by the City, and
- that the Basilica's proposal should be given full consideration first as it is rightfully due through the historical private state statute arrangement (G.S. 160A-266) with the city for the development of the Haywood site.

One might ask Is someone withholding information from the Council, and if so why, or is it that the Council is choosing to ignore the record.

Your email and the McKibbon invitation forwarded by the City regarding an August 7 design presentation, and also to the public announcement of the same in the Asheville Citizen-Times on July 30 convey misleading and apparently false information which one could only imagine you and your colleagues and McKibbon knew. Did you not?

The reference in the publicity regarding McKibbon meeting with the Basilica is misleading and should be publicly retracted. There is no approved relationship or collaboration between the

Basilica and either the McKibbon Group or the Asheville Design Center. No such engagement was ever approved and the Basilica is not aware of, let alone were they consulted about any designs that they may be presenting or you may be considering.

The St. Lawrence Plaza web site presents the only approved messaging from the Basilica. The Basilica's stand has always been to support a developer only if and when the Basilica has been granted a historical private state statute arrangement (G.S. 160A-266) with the city for the development of the Haywood site.

There is no authorized support from the Basilica for the 2007 McKibbon RFQ, moreover, there is vigorous objection from the Basilica to any hotel being built on this Haywood site. Please refer to the letter from the Basilica counsel on May 24, 2012 written to the city, available via a link on the web site. That is the only direction approved by the Basilica.

We understand that the city staff's desire is to keep this five year RFQ alive, but this is not

a position we support.

However, it is also then incumbent on the City to keep the Basilica proposal alive and give it all consideration due to it first as it is rightfully due through the historical private state statute arrangement (G.S. 160A-266) with the city for the development of the Haywood site.

At this time, the Basilica has not authorized any Basilica representatives who will be attending the August 7th presentation. This is the first we are hearing about that meeting and any supposed collaboration with the Basilica.

I believe the Basilica Pastor/Rector will be responding more formally with a letter to John McKibbin. The only engagement to date with a developer by the Basilica is with the Kessler Development Group for a plaza with residential retail and commercial, and this will go forward only when the city approves private negotiations with the Basilica.

We believe ONLY the Basilica will be able to draw world class architectural design expertise to this project and ensure that the Basilica is protected during construction. This is a liability we believe no developer should undertake without full approval and support of the Basilica.

Please let's stop wasting taxpayer money and time and acknowledge what is the crux of this matter that:

- the Basilica also submitted a bid in the first RFQ and it was acknowledged in writing by the City, and
- that the Basilica's proposal should be given full consideration first as it is rightfully due through the historical private state statute arrangement (G.S. 160A-266) with the city for the development of the Haywood site.

If you have not already, please view the proposed St. Lawrence Plaza online at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0A5NGEW3Gc>

and the Petition supporting the St. Lawrence Plaza at:

[**http://www.change.org/petitions/city-council-of-asheville-north-carolina-negotiate-to-sell-property-opposite-basilica-to-diocese-of-charlotte**](http://www.change.org/petitions/city-council-of-asheville-north-carolina-negotiate-to-sell-property-opposite-basilica-to-diocese-of-charlotte)

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christopher Pratt and Mrs. Jimmie Cochran Pratt, MPA

Chairmen, New Generations of Global Entrepreneurs

120 Norwood Avenue
Asheville, NC 28804-3618 USA
+828-253-8158
christopher.jimmie.pratt@gmail.com

On Wed, Aug 1, 2012 at 9:35 AM, Esther Manheimer <emanheimer@vwlawfirm.com> wrote:

Mr. Pratt: I believe McKibbon is, on its own initiative, holding this public meeting. Anyone can reserve the space and make their own presentation. I would certainly welcome Kessler to do the same.

Thank you for the email.

-Esther Manheimer

From: Christopher Pratt [mailto:christopher.jimmie.pratt@gmail.com]
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



11 North Market Street, Asheville, NC 28801 | [828-258-2991](tel:828.258.2991) | FAX [828-255-0255](tel:828.255.0255)

422 South Main Street, Hendersonville, NC 28792 | [828-697-6196](tel:828.697.6196) | FAX [828-693-3999](tel:828.693.3999)

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Ben Fulmer

From: Rita Livezey <rdlive@charter.net> on behalf of Rita Livezey
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2012 9:37 AM
To: 'Gordon Smith'
Subject: RE: FW: McKibbon and Basilica

Thank you, Councilman. I'll pass that on to our representatives.

Best regards,

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

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: Gordon Smith [mailto:gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com]
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2012 9:34 AM
To: Rita Livezey
Subject: Re: FW: McKibbon and Basilica

Thanks for the clarification, Ms. Livezey. I wanted to also let you know that both the ADC and McKibbon Hotel Group have invited me to sit down with them prior to the August 14 City Council meeting. Please know that I'm happy to meet with the Basilica representatives as well.

Gordon Smith

On Thu, Aug 2, 2012 at 4:11 PM, Rita Livezey <rdlive@charter.net> wrote:

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

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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.
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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

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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

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Subject: McKibbon Hotel Group Haywood Site Meeting - August 7

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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
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| 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

www.plumdogfinancial.com

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.

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.

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

Mortgage Manager

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c 828 242-7194

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



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: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2012 1:18 PM
To: ashevilleparc@gmail.com
Subject: Haywood Street Property

Folks at PARC,

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.

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

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: 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, McKibbon'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 McKibbon 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: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2012 8:00 PM
To: Leonard Carrier
Subject: Re: PARC proposal

Mr. Carrier,

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. As to occupancy rates, the average does not reflect the fact that our hotels are maxed out for a large portion of the year and then more sparsely utilized during the slower "shoulder seasons".

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.

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 Mon, Jun 11, 2012 at 3:29 PM, Leonard Carrier <lcarrier@charter.net> wrote:
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: 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: dutchoc@buncombe.main.nc.us
Sent: Friday, June 08, 2012 3:53 PM
To: Gordon Smith
Subject: Re: Green space

Tanks for your reply. There are multiple facet

On Fri, June 8, 2012 9:59 am, Gordon Smith wrote:

> Marc and Dutch,

>

> 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.

>

> 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 Mon, Jun 4, 2012 at 12:28 PM, <dutchoc@buncombe.main.nc.us> wrote:
>
>> Marc and I have been following this issue for a few years. We agree
>> with PARC that it should be a park. Every one of you on the City
>> Council know that beautiful green spaces will bring more money to our
>> city. A tall building will bring darkness to an area that should be a
>> gathering place for visitors nad citizens. New development has proven
>> to be ugly for the most part. Please act for all of us and do not put a building there.
>> Thanks, Marc Nishino and Dutch O'Connor
>>
>>
>

Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Friday, June 08, 2012 11:19 AM
To: bentcreek@ioa.com
Subject: Re: re bid

Thanks for writing in about this. I'm glad to be receiving so much input and am looking forward to the upcoming public hearing.

Gordon Smith

On Wed, Jun 6, 2012 at 12:39 PM, bentcreek <bentcreek@ioa.com> wrote:

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: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Friday, June 08, 2012 10:11 AM
To: C. Walgate
Subject: Re: FW: St. Lawrence Green Space

Mr. Walgate,

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.

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 Fri, Jun 1, 2012 at 12:01 PM, C. Walgate <cwalgate@bellsouth.net> wrote:

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: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Friday, June 08, 2012 9:52 AM
To: PARC
Subject: Re: Imagine St. Lawrence Green

PARCfolk,

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.

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

Gordon Smith

On Tue, Jun 5, 2012 at 11:31 AM, PARC <ashevilleparc@gmail.com> wrote:

6/4/12



Imagine St. Lawrence Green

The City of Asheville is considering selling the land in front of the Basilica of St. Lawrence to McKibbin, a Georgia hotel chain. Widespread public opposition has met such plans in the past.

In 2004, the City bought the land, and Mayor Charles Worley pushed for a plan to put a high-rise in front of the Basilica *and* a parking deck wrapped around the Battery Park building.

This was so unpopular that Worley lost his re-election bid, and Council withdrew the plan.

In 2008, Council put forward the McKibbin plan. *This time, residents put a full page ad in the Citizen-Times signed by more than a thousand people asking Council to put a park there.*

In 2009, the Basilica held a demonstration of parishioners and residents to protest the planned high-rise, saying that the proposed hotel would diminish the Basilica and that heavy construction might damage the beautiful hundred-year-old church.

Many residents think the area should be green space. A park would visually connect the Basilica, the Grove Arcade, the library, and the Civic Center. Trees would add shade and a human dimension to the area.

Will Council listen to McKibbin, or to the residents?

Council didn't pay for that land. Your tax money did. Council should take the opinion of Asheville residents into account.

If the aim is to increase tourism, wouldn't a gorgeous spot of trees be more attractive than more concrete and steel?

A luxury hotel would primarily benefit *just one corporation*, which would get one of the most desirable sites in Asheville for a bargain price.

A luxury hotel would be used by just a few, *while a park would serve the needs of ALL the Asheville residents, as well as tourists.*

Too often, our City's decisions support the desires of corporations over the needs of residents. It doesn't have to be this way. You can help.

Please follow the links below and email City Council or write a Letter to the Editor, or download the petition for City Council and collect signatures. *This is a critical time for City Council to hear your opinion.*

Thanks for everything you do,
from the folks at PARC.

[Email City Council](#)

▪ [Download the petition](#)

▪ [Email the Citizen-Times](#)

▪ [Email the Mountain Xpress](#)

PARC • PO Box 4093 • Asheville, NC 28805

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Powered by [MyNewsletterBuilder](#)

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: Susan Griffin <susanfgriffin@gmail.com> on behalf of Susan Griffin
Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2012 12:51 PM
To: charlie@email.skyrunner.net; AshevilleNCCouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Cc: 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: What's wrong with ... PARC? Why are they spreading misinformation?

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 county 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: 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: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 7:09 AM
To: Cheryl Orengo
Subject: Re: Land next to Basilica

Thanks for writing in, Cheryl. I've been receiving a lot of correspondence on this matter, and you'd be surprised to hear how many different ideas people have for what ought to grace that space.

I'm waiting to learn the outcome of talks between McKibbin, the Basilica, and the Asheville Design Center to learn whether they've come to an accommodation.

Gordon Smith

On Thu, May 31, 2012 at 10:45 AM, Cheryl Orengo <ctorengo@gmail.com> wrote:
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 boxy 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: 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 Ashevilleians 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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828.333.0005 cell
866.309.0196 Fax
[**bgiusto@radiitechnologies.com**](mailto: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: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 12:34 PM
To: PARC
Subject: Re: City Considers Land Sale

Oh, I got this email here as well. I hope that in the future you'll outline the real set of options and that you'll be more thorough in the way you seek to inform your list of the issues. For a quick primer on the issues, you could read more here:

<http://scrutinyhooligans.us/2012/02/09/open-letter-from-marc-hunt/>

Further - if you would ever like to discuss City issues in a constructive way, you could contact me directly. I'm always open to having a conversation. Getting something like this in the mail only pushes potential allies away. It's counterproductive. If I may assume your intent is either a park or something else that won't interfere with views of the Basilica from people's apartments or other locations, then I'd recommend attending a PED meeting or just getting together with the Council members and seek ways to create productive partnerships.

Gordon Smith

On Mon, Feb 13, 2012 at 3:00 PM, PARC <ashevilleparc@gmail.com> wrote:

City Land Sale?

Monday, February 13, 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 other reasonable options.

- 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.
- Asheville citizens have long favored a public park in the area.

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 big new sign for the U.S. Cellular Center right across the street);
2. The Church's set-back building, with a plaza; or
3. A city park, pictured below. As the economy improves and development resumes, more and more green space will be lost. Smart cities put in green space as they grow. Thousands of residents, over many years, have expressed their preference for a park.

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

If you want, send us a copy and/or send your letter to the Asheville Citizen-Times or Mountain Xpress.

(Letters to the editor require your full name and phone number for verification.)

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 to email City Council and a copy to PARC](#)



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-

PARC • PO Box 4093 • Asheville, NC 28805

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Ben Fulmer

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> on behalf of Gordon Smith
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 8:27 AM
To: jennifer@valuescentre.com
Subject: Re: Construction near Basilica of St. Lawrence

Thanks for writing in, Ms. Quinn. I hope you're well.

I'm willing to work with both the Basilica and the McKibbon group to determine who's willing to bring a project that will best complement surrounding uses and best serve the people of the city. I agree with you that we want something that Asheville can be proud of for generations to come and will preserve the beauty and integrity of the Basilica. Our Planning and Economic Development Committee, composed of Council members Manheimer, Hunt, and Pelly, opted to remain with McKibbon for the moment but have made it clear that we're seeking the best possible option for the site.

Council Member Marc Hunt provides more context and facts in his excellent open letter regarding the property at this link:

<http://www.mountainx.com/article/40213/In-open-letter-Asheville-Council-member-seeks-to-address-concerns-about-Basilica-land-offer>

I appreciate you taking the time to contact me about this,

Gordon Smith

On Mon, Feb 13, 2012 at 5:05 PM, <jennifer@valuescentre.com> wrote:

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=Uh8EAAAIBAJ&pg=5653,1376678>

Thank you,

Jenny Quinn

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.

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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: Sharon Willen <sharonwillen@gmail.com> on behalf of Sharon Willen
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 1:11 PM
To: Gordon Smith
Subject: Re: a parc not a parking lot

Thanks for your thoughtful reply.
Sharon

On Feb 9, 2012, at 11:41 AM, Gordon Smith wrote:

Sharon,

I think a lot of factors would inform my decision. Among them are:

1. Preserving integrity of the Basilica
2. Complementing the Civic Center with something that would be utilized by conventions/conferences
3. Street level retail
4. Comporting with the newly instituted Downtown Design Guidelines formed through the community-led Downtown Master Planning process
5. Recognizing parking issues in that part of downtown

I hope this helps to clarify my thoughts on this matter. Please know that I'll be continually working to ensure a great outcome at that site.

Gordon Smith

On Mon, Feb 6, 2012 at 5:04 PM, Sharon Willen <sharonwillen@gmail.com> wrote:
"the best possible option for the site." - based on what and whose criteria? is what I'm concerned about.

Sharon

On Feb 6, 2012, at 4:59 PM, Gordon Smith wrote:

the best possible option for the site.

|

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!](#)

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Ben Fulmer

From: Mark Sligh <marksligh@yahoo.com> on behalf of Mark Sligh
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 11:35 AM
To: Gordon Smith
Subject: Re: Sale of City land near Basilica

Thank you for responding. I received the open letter from Marc Hunt last night and I agree that it is excellent. The McKibbon proposal seems far superior to what the Basilica has offered so far. Also, it sounds as if it may be problematic to withdraw from the existing agreement with the McKibbon Group. I particularly liked the reference in Marc Hunt's letter to the City's fiduciary duty to taxpayers. The obligation is to make the best deal possible for those who are footing the bill. I hope the Council will keep this in mind, and not be unduly influenced by a minority that would like to have others subsidize their own personal preferences.

--- On **Thu, 2/9/12, Gordon Smith** <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com> wrote:

From: Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com>
Subject: Re: Sale of City land near Basilica
To: "Mark Sligh" <marksligh@yahoo.com>
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2012, 11:05 AM

Thanks for writing in, Mr. Sligh.

I'm willing to work with both the Basilica and the McKibbon group to determine who's willing to bring a project that will best complement surrounding uses and best serve the people of the city. I agree with you that we want something that Asheville can be proud of for generations to come. Our Planning and Economic Development Committee, composed of Council members Manheimer, Hunt, and Pelly, opted to remain with McKibbon for the moment but have made it clear that we're seeking the best possible option for the site.

Council Member Marc Hunt provides more context and facts in his excellent open letter regarding the property at this link:

<http://www.mountainx.com/article/40213/In-open-letter-Asheville-Council-member-seeks-to-address-concerns-about-Basilica-land-offer>

I appreciate you taking the time to contact me about this.

Gordon Smith

On Wed, Feb 8, 2012 at 10:08 AM, Mark Sligh <marksligh@yahoo.com> wrote:

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: 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