

**From:** Dana Frankel <dfrankel@ashevillenc.gov>  
**Sent:** 1/14/2022 4:08:39 PM  
**To:** Stephanie Monson <smonson@ashevillenc.gov>, Todd Okolichany <tokolichany@ashevillenc.gov>  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Fwd: Downtown Commission update

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FYI

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From: **Sage Turner** <[sageturner@avlouncil.com](mailto:sageturner@avlouncil.com)>  
Date: Fri, Jan 14, 2022 at 11:06 AM  
Subject: Downtown Commission update  
To: Brad Branham <[bbranham@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:bbranham@ashevillenc.gov)>, Dana Frankel <[dfrankel@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:dfrankel@ashevillenc.gov)>, Debra Campbell <[dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov)>, councilgroup <[ashevillencouncil@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:ashevillencouncil@ashevillenc.gov)>

Councilwomen,

The Downtown Commission met this morning. This is a follow up email to help you stay informed on their project review work post changes to the hotel ordinance, the design review process and new DR board. There are 4 DTC members that serve on the Design Review board, who is now the final authoritative body on hotels.

This morning the Star building was reviewed as a new 23 room hotel. It's an existing historic building across from the AC Marriott on Patton. They cannot meet the new parking on site requirement **but they applied before the Oct changes** to the hotel ordinance and are not held to the new requirement. FYI

Additionally, the Arras is back with a CZ update request to include a one story addition on the Pack Square frontage to provide enclosed dining on the existing patio. The Downtown Commission did not support the addition. It moves to Design Review board next. If it does not pass at DR, their only option is to come to Council with it. The DTC discussed this possible path and recommending to Council that, **if this item does come to Council:**

- ~ to also address ongoing lighting issues
- ~ address ADA compliance

Additionally, a discussion was had around impacts of high traffic uses like lodging with parking off site. Recognizing a separate, higher tax could not be levied on any particular Use in NC, the Commission encouraged Council to:

- ~ consider a business improvement district tax to capture tax from higher impact uses
- ~ consider rebates for the uses we do want to incentive and have in downtown

Lastly, they have completed recommendations regarding downtown for the upcoming budget planning and will submit them via staff. They also plan to have a recommendation regarding ARPA asks after the live streamed presentations in February.

Best,  
Sage

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