From: Jonathan Wainscott <jonwainscott@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/24/2013 11:01:18 PM
To: Gordon Smith, chrispelly@avlcouncil.com, marchunt@avlcouncil.com, andavis@avlcouncil.com, Cecil Bothwell, emanheimer@vwlawfirm.com, mayorbellamy@avlcouncil.com
Cc:
Subject: Brewgrass...

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

As you may know, I have thrown my hat into the ring for this year's City Council race. I understand that public service can be an arduous and thankless task. I understand that you can never please all of the people and that more often than not it is criticism that expressed before praise. Maybe it's criticism fatigue that has set in, and while I know you hear the complaints, it sure doesn't seem that you are listening to them. I came to the City Council meeting simply to listen to what was being brought before Council and become a little more familiar with the place I hope to be spending much more time. It's certainly daunting at times to think about what I am signing up for. I've never run for office let alone held an elected position. I wonder to myself "What makes you think you can do this?" Last night, you provided me with all the reassurance I needed.

I am glad that Mayor Bellamy recognized that the concerns of the East End Neighborhood had gone unheeded for a year. What astonished me though is that once again you told these people you'll get to it later. Brewgrass wants to move to McCormick Field. There isn't a more compatible site in Asheville to have this event. They sell fewer tickets than the capacity of the stadium. The stadium has parking and permanent bathrooms. It already sells beer and makes noise to much later hours than a typical home Tourists game. I have been critical of Council for lacking creativity and problem solving skills. In this case, the simple solution was given to you and once again you don't have the confidence to make a decision and move forward.

In the coming weeks you can expect more criticism of your performance. I'm a pretty blunt guy. I can also tell you that if I win a seat, I will be bringing some very simple and cost effective solutions to some fairly big problems in our town and the image of Council as being slow and unresponsive will change for the better. I urge you to take the letter I sent to the East End residents to heart, and act swiftly on their concerns.

Thank you-

Jonathan Wainscott

(letter to East end Neighborhood Association)

Dear Neighbors,

My name is Jonathan Wainscott, and I became aware of your concerns and complaints about the Brewgrass Festival held at Martin Luther King Jr. Park when I attended the City Council meeting on July 23. I was in attendance simply to listen to the concerns of the community as I am a candidate for City Council in this year's election.

My motivation to run for Council comes from my frustration with how long it takes to get simple things done in our city. I was appalled to hear that you had brought your complaints to Council over a year ago, only to find yourselves in the the same spot, being told the same things, and still, City Council did not have the courage to pass a resolution that night, and resolve once and for all your very reasonable requests.

What is most frustrating, to me, is that a simple and obvious solution was presented to Council, and they still could not see fit to take action. While McCormick field is only a mile or so from MLK Jr. Park and still close to your neighborhood, the stadium is designed to be a place where large numbers of people can congregate and enjoy the outdoors. It is my understanding that Brewgrass issues about 3,500 tickets and McCormick Field holds 4,000 spectators in its seating. The Tourists' major league sized baseball field is larger than the softball field at MLK Jr. Park. McCormick Field is equipped with parking for that size event, it has permanent bathrooms to support such events, it already sells beer, and many of the Tourist's home games do not even begin until 7:00 PM, the concluding time of Brewgrass. It seems that Brewgrass would have the same impact on the area around McCormick Field as any home Tourists game. Brewgrass wants to be at McCormick Field too.

I am very disappointed that Council did not commit to ending Brewgrass at Martin Luther King Jr. Park, and further delayed action on your complaints. I will be bringing this matter to the attention of the public promptly, and insist that City Council pass a resolution that you find

satisfactorily addresses your concerns as the first order of business for the next City Council meeting. You have waited too long.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Wainscott