

Neighborhood Advisory Committee
Wednesday, December 13, 2006 @ 7:00 PM

I. October Summary Minutes

Lara distributed at meeting. NAC to review and get back to Lara is changes necessary.

II. Progress Report

A. Signage

Reviewed mock up of new signage. Sara suggested larger sign size might accommodate standard 8 1/2x11 slide-in sheet. Agreement that green-blue zoning sign and yellow-blue variance sign achieved goals identified earlier by NAC. No need for ordinance amendment with current design so Planning-Graphics division to move forward.

B. New Neighborhoods

Three new neighborhoods for next Mayor & Commission agenda: River Oaks, Cobbham, & Chicopee-Dudley.

C. Web design

NAC to check out web address <http://accplanning.jhousemedia.com>. The new site is not live yet and has many gaps in information as consultant is still helping Planning Staff with the transfer and bugs in programming. But NAC can navigate through site and let Lara know of any suggested changes. Buttons on homepage for agendas will match color on signs.

III. Neighborhood Planning Recommendations

A. Feedback on examples

Gail Hoge- Commented on sentiment that Athens is "not ready for Neighborhood Planning," likely referring to Atlanta Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) version of neighborhood planning, but not sure.

Liked Fayetteville's example of neighborhood planning in which neighborhood organization's have advisory role in review of new development.

What role might the Federation of Neighborhoods play in neighborhood planning, of this variety or another?

Lee Carmon- Would like to see the Neighborhood Organizations have a more formalized voice at Planning Commission (PC) or Mayor and Commission (M&C) level, perhaps part of the rezone recommendation report that these bodies receive from Planning staff?

Ed Sandor- Currently only voluntary cooperation is part of NNI's "early contact." Perhaps this early contact should be required? Are there examples or

models of this type of required collaboration before developments are even considered by PC or M&C? [Lara to look into Charlotte, NC example and forward to NAC if applicable. This program has element that requires a "Community Meeting" prior to public hearing review for certain rezone actions]

Sara Beresford- 2-pronged approach to neighborhood planning efforts may be necessary. One dealing with how neighborhoods organize themselves and another dealing with enforcement issues.

Gail Hoge- This attention to how neighborhoods organize is important because of the difficulty in current structure (or lack thereof) of current system in which contact person struggles with finding or presenting the "consensus voice" of a large, diverse group of neighbors.

Lee Carmon- The Comprehensive Plan should be the key to reaching consensus about individual rezone requests. For example, if comprehensive plan is clear about area's future development vision—and this vision is aligned with neighborhood's vision— decisions about rezone requests should be consistently held to this standard.

Sara Beresford- The reflection of the neighborhoods' vision within the Comp Plan seemed to be a strong component of Charlottesville's example of neighborhood planning in which all neighborhoods were analyzed individually—following standardized inventory and organization—through collaboration of residents and planners. These individually tailored neighborhood plans ("mini comp plans") then collectively comprised the city's Comprehensive Plan.

Lee Carmon- This approach helps planning vision get away from the problematic "one-size-fits-all" approach.

Walter Smith- Question of how neighborhoods and residents can understand how to make requests for getting capital improvements like sidewalks and other civic infrastructure investments accomplished. [Make request to ACC department that is responsible, then Mayor & Commission make investment decisions.] The clearer and more transparent this process can be, the greater the potential for individual participation in neighborhood planning. Current e-mail recipient list seems low at 160.

Other comments:

- Not earlier enough interaction through NNI "encouragement"*
- Prevailing "Don't ask permission, Ask Forgiveness"*

B. Establishing NAC consensus on "next steps" recommendation

- Break down "Next steps" recommendations in report:*

Next steps with...

- 1. NNI*
- 2. Engagement*

3. *Enforcement*

4. *Neighborhood-scale comp planning*

- *Continue to figure out way to better quantify success- i.e. counter on web site to see how many visits*

IV. **NAC Report Timeline**

Goal to have report ready by first of March for April presentation to Mayor & Commission. NAC will need to step up efforts to define next step recommendations. Will continue discussion via e-mail. Lara will work on fleshing out sections of the outline draft and forward through e-mail as well.

V. **Recent Issues or Topics from Committee Members**

- *Next meeting Wednesday, January 24, 2006—possibly at 6:00 or 6:30, especially if longer session anticipated to discuss NAC report. E-mail group to decide.*