

Haw Creek Community Association Annual Community Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2019 -7pm

Bethesda United Methodist Church – 315 Old Haw Creek Road



Attending Board Members:

- Nancy Baker
- Amanda Danner
- Mike Doucette
- Elisa Gura
- Kelly Kerr
- Barber Melton
- Jason Monstrola
- Caroline Noor
- Denise Wilbanks

Guests:

- Councilman Vijay Kapoor, Asheville City Council
- Ofc. Carrie Lee, APD
- Lt. Tammy Flannigan–Bryson, APD
- Brenda Mills, City of Asheville
- Lora Sepion, City of Asheville Zoning
- Emily Cooper, Friends of the East Asheville Library
- Community Members

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- Welcome
 - Caroline Noor called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.
 - Councilman Kapoor
 - Gave an introduction about Debra Campbell who is the new City Manager who previously worked in Charlotte.
 - Spoke about how City Council sets policy and the city manager is in charge or implementing that policy.
 - City Council will be having a budget retreat on Friday, March 8 at City Hall which is open to the public. At this retreat they talk about issue while the public sits around them. The point is to prioritize for the upcoming budget.
 - Right now, City Council has 36 priorities and is looking to prioritize those items. They want to focus on core government services, roads, police, sidewalks, etc.
 - Asheville has D rating for roads according to the state.
 - Asheville has a census population of 90K people but during the day the population swells to 150K people. This creates challenges for APD.

- They are hoping to set up a downtown district to help free up more APD to be active and present in other parts of town.
- Council often hears from people who are angry about an issue. He does think the squeaky wheel gets the oil.
- Your neighborhood needs to advocate and speak up for what it needs because a lot of the neighborhood issues the city council doesn't hear about.
- Community Questions for Councilman Kapoor
 - What is the best way to contact you? Email is fine. They read every email they get as councilmembers. They don't always have time to respond to them but all of them are read.
- Lt. Tammy Flannigan – Bryson - Community Liaison Officer
 - 18 years with APD.
 - Her role started early October and it is to help make sure that community concerns get to top level of APD.
- Carrie Lee - Community Resource Officer
 - Statistics from the last month: Eleven hours of crime prevention in Haw Creek
 - Eleven events including: two larceny of care, two residential breaking an entering, one fight, six larceny from vehicles.
 - Asheville App is a great way to report non-police activity to the city.
 - Haw Creek is in the Baker district which is 18 square miles and includes about a third of the city. There are four patrol cars dedicated to east Asheville.
 - See the attached handout for additional information.
- Brenda Mills
 - Brenda is the Neighborhood & Community Engagement Manager for the City of Asheville.
 - Starting a new neighborhood newsletter that will be sent every two weeks. Email her to get on the distribution list.
 - Her biggest request was to "EMAIL HER!" City council has other priorities, but she works for us full time.
- Emily Cooper - Friends of East Asheville Library
 - The plan is to break ground on the new library this summer.
 - It will be a 14,800 square ft. facility which is six times the size of current library.
 - Plans include one large meeting room that can be divided into two smaller meeting rooms and one room for a place to teach children.
 - The plan is for the current library to close in June/July and then reopen 12 -18 month with the new facility.
 - It will have fifty parking spaces.
 - There will still be a playground, but it will be a new smaller playground.
- Lora Sepion – Project Manager for Bell-Beverly Sidewalk update
 - Lora is new to her role
 - The new sidewalks will be similar in look to the existing sidewalks in the neighborhood.
 - The sidewalk will zig-zag from one side of the street to the other to help alleviate costs of retaining walls, diggings, etc.

- It is estimated to be fifteen months to get the project built. The biggest concern is the need to figure out right of way and they may need to acquire that right of way.
- Public hearings for what the plans will look like.
- Community Questions for Lora
 - Will crosswalks be installed at the street crossings? They are thinking about rapid flashing crosswalk. The DOT will be who they need get right of way from in order to possibly do a crosswalk like that.
- Community Vision Plan Update
 - The community vision meeting in conjunction with survey will help us work to update our Plan on a Page.
 - We are fortunate that some of the thing on our plan on a page have been accomplished including a new library, drainage issues that have been addressed, and sidewalks that are planned.
 - The Board is developing a document with tangible actions that we can take to help make our plan a reality.
 - We need as much community help and involvement as we can get to get the work done.
 - Caroline talked about the big ideas we've gotten out of the vision meeting and survey results.
- HCCA Announcements
 - There will be a Neighborhood Cleanup on Saturday, April 6 at 9am. The plan is to meet at St. John's Episcopal Church.
 - There will be a neighborhood-wide yard sale on Saturday, May 4. Email us to sign up to sell.
 - Haw Creek has been invited to participate in the second phase of the Urban Bear Study. The details that we receive from the graduate student from NC State were presented to the community and we will look to set up a meeting with these parties for some time in April.
- HCCA Financial Update
 - Annual Budget Presented to the community with details about the revenue and expenditures.
- Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws
 - The Haw Creek Board's proposal to amend the by-laws was presented to the community for discussion and a vote.
 - A brief discussion was had about the amendment and other aspects of the bylaws.
 - The amendment was motioned to be approved by Barber Melton and was seconded by Kelly Kerr.
 - A voice vote was called, and the ayes carried the vote and thus the bylaws will be amended accordingly.
- Community Comments
 - One Person shared their thoughts and interpretations on the survey, what it meant and what should be done about it. They stated that neighbors were ready to help and also some thoughts were shared about how to fill the seat 6th on the board, which is currently vacant.

- One community member gave us details about the meeting held earlier that day regarding the playground to be build at the new library.
 - They are to resurface the basketball court, change what playground looks like.
 - Playground at the current library is now a city park, but the city will be giving the park to the county to manage once the new library is complete.
 - A suggestion was made to try to be influential in how the city utilizes the Haw Creek Park now that they will not have two parks to maintain in the area.
- One community member asked if sub-committees would be formed for the different areas on the new Plan on a Page.



**Bethesda United Methodist Church
March 5, 2019 at 7:00 pm**

Membership Meeting Agenda

Welcome	Caroline Noor
City of Asheville Greetings	Councilman Vijay Kapoor
Asheville Police Department Updates	Ofc. Carrie Lee Sgt. Tammy Flanigan-Bryson
Neighborhood & Community Engagement Updates	Brenda Mills
New East Asheville Library Update	Emily Cooper
Bell-Beverly Sidewalk Project Update	Lora Sepion
Community Vision Plan Update	Caroline Noor
HCCA Association and Financial Updates	Caroline Noor
Proposed Amendment to Bylaws ACTION REQUIRED	Caroline Noor
Public Comments	Membership
Meeting Adjourn	Caroline Noor

Upcoming HCCA Events

- Saturday, April 6 at 9:00 am: Neighborhood Clean Up (meet at St. John's)
- Saturday, May 4 at 8:00 am: Neighborhood-wide Yard Sale



Community Vision Planning Process

June 2018: Community meeting with Planning Director Todd Okolichany

- Presentation about the city’s new comprehensive plan, particularly related to areas of development

June 2018: Community survey launched to complement vision meeting and gather additional feedback

- Survey closed in February with 178 responses

September 2018: Community meeting with Greenways Coordinator Lucy Crown

October 2018: Community vision meeting (POSTPONED)

February 2019: Community vision meeting (Rescheduled)

- Approximately 40 participants
- Small group discussions followed by large group sharing

April 2019: HCCA Board to review new Plan on a Page and strategic plan

April-May 2019: Feedback solicited from community; final plan approved

Ongoing: Opportunities for community engagement on strategic plan priorities

Big Ideas Emerging from Meeting and Survey

Diversity	Connectivity	Infrastructure
Close to city and nature Different types of housing Diversity of residents Residential w/ some bus.	Neighborhood gatherings Multi-modal options Value civic and rec orgs Public transportation	Stormwater management Low density Police and fire protection Wildlife Encroachment Open spaces

Dear Haw Creek Community Association:

My name is Jennifer Strules. I am a PhD student with the Urban/Suburban Black Bear Study, a collaborative research project between North Carolina State University and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Since 2014, our team has been live-trapping and GPS-radio-collaring resident black bears in Asheville to learn about urban black bear spatial ecology, movements, demography, and reproduction.

I am pleased to announce that we will be initiating a second phase of our study in April 2019, with new research objectives. We are recruiting organized communities in Asheville to provide us with live-trap sites and to voluntarily participate in and meet compliance standards of [BearWise](#), a regional program that promotes responsible co-habitation with black bears through bear-proofing strategies. Our aim is to live-capture and GPS radio-collar black bears in BearWise and non-BearWise-compliant neighborhoods to objectively evaluate impacts of bear-proofing strategies on urban black bear space use, resource selection, and diet. Also, we will survey neighborhood participants to better understand resident attitudes towards bears, human-bear interactions, and management practices.

The second phase of our project provides Asheville communities with an exciting opportunity to be directly involved in wildlife research efforts, and assist in providing science-based information to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to create informed and effective management plans for black bears in urban/suburban areas. I would be very grateful to have the opportunity to speak to Haw Creek Community Association members about participating in our study. Please contact me or my adviser, Dr. Christopher DePerno, to learn more, or to arrange an oral presentation for your group in late March or April.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best Regards,

Jennifer Strules
Graduate Research Associate
Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources
Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology
North Carolina State University
jestrule@ncsu.edu



Proposed Bylaw Amendment

The Bylaws currently say that the term of office for Board members “shall be two years from the first Tuesday in March of the year in which the Board member is elected.” This would mean, for example, that those board members elected at last year’s annual members’ meeting on March 6, 2018, will serve in office until March 3, 2020. The Bylaws also require that “Board members stagger their terms so each year only the terms of half of the Board members expire, ideally leaving a minimum of six experienced members on the Board at all times.” As a result, ideally, six board members should be up for election each year.

Those members who attended last year’s meeting will recall that in 2018, based on the previous Board’s recommendation, the membership amended the Bylaws to expand the Board of Directors from eight (8) members to twelve (12). However, the amendment did not stagger the terms of the twelve board seats. As a result, while the current members are properly serving two-year terms that expire on March 3, 2020, none of the current board terms are staggered.

The current Board of Directors would like to correct this oversight with the following bylaw amendment. The amendment would assign the numbers (1–12) to each of the current board member slots and starting with the board of directors’ election in March 2020, would stagger the board slots so that, going forward, half of the board’s members would be elected at each annual meeting. The current Board believes the proposed amendment will result in members having more control over Board members elections while also honoring the current Bylaw’s term lengths for current Board members.

By-Laws Currently Read:

VII. TERM OF OFFICE

The term of office for Board members shall be two years from the first Tuesday in March of the year in which the Board member is elected. Board members shall stagger their terms so each year only the terms of half of the Board members

expire, ideally leaving a minimum of six experienced members on the Board at all times.

Proposed Amendment to the By-Laws:

VII. TERM OF OFFICE

Each of the current Board seats shall be assigned the following numbers 1–12, which correspond with the Board member who currently holds each seat:

1. Caroline Noor
2. Amanda Danner
3. Kelly Kerr
4. Kevin Wilson
5. Mike Doucette
6. Vacant Seat
7. Elisa Gura
8. Kathryn Nirde
9. Barber Melton
10. Nancy Baker
11. Jason Monstrola
12. Denise Wilbanks

Beginning with the Board of Directors election in 2020, all 12 board seats shall be up for reelection. Board seats 1–6 shall have an initial term of office of one (1) year from the date of election and successive terms of two (2) years in length. Board seats 7–12 shall have terms of two years from the date of election in 2020.

**Haw Creek Community Association
2019 Financial Update
For the Period 1/1/19 to 3/5/19**

Balance for 1/1/19 6,947.27

Income:

Membership Dues	408.29
Total Revenues	408.29

Expenditures:

Office Suplies	53.50
Vision Process Expenses	300.00
Website Expenses	130.00
Total Expenditures	483.50

Excess of Revenues over Expenses (75.21)

Balance 3/5/19 6,872.06

**2019 Projected Budget
For the Period 1/1/19 to 12/31/19**

Balance for 1/1/19 6,947.27

2019 Projected Income:

Dues and Donations	400
Business Sponsorships	600
Sticker Sales	40
Total Projected Revenues	1,040.00

2019 Projected Expenditures:

PO Box Rental	-82
St. John's Church Donation	-250
Office Suplies: Stamps/Copies/Etc.	-100
National Night Out	-200
Community Events/Potlucks	-200
Vision Process Expenses	-400
Website Expenses	-200
Total Projected Expenditures	-1,432.00

2019 Projected Revenues over Expenses -392.00