

Councilors present: Signer, Bellamy, Fenwick, Galvin

Ann Hemenway, Board of Elections, said they are proposing to move this precinct's voting location to Buford Middle School.

Mr. Bellamy: Monday, May 30 – Black Professional Network of Charlottesville hosting cookout and Town Hall meeting at Tonsler Park.

Ms. Galvin: Thomas Jefferson Health Department has a community health survey posted on the City's website; please take the survey.

Missy Wernstrom, 233 4th St., said small area plan for Fifeville/Cherry corridor needs to be a priority. Zoning needs review as well.

Mr. Ikefuna gave an update on the small area plan and the priority list.

Mr. Fenwick said a grocery store is needed, and he asked if zoning can address this.

Ms. Galvin said the existing zoning in this corridor allows grocery stores by-right as long as they are under a certain size. Anything larger must go through a special use permit process. We need to look at zoning issues City-wide.

Additional action required: None at this time

Dawn Woodford, Paton St., has been a Fifeville resident since 1992, said we are not gaining anything for all the natural areas we have lost. There is not enough affordable housing. We should not be fixing up every neighborhood; that makes it worse. She does not want natural areas in her neighborhood destroyed. UVA's rapid growth is bad for her neighborhood. Councilors promote their private agendas. There are racial problems in this town. The Lee Statue issue is making it worse. There is too much congestion on Roosevelt Blvd. and you cannot get out onto the street. Pedestrians do not watch where they are going. Bicyclists are not abiding by traffic signals. She said she does not like all the Habitat houses going up.

Mr. Bellamy said Habitat's goal is to provide affordable housing.

Mr. Fenwick said we hear across the City that Charlottesville is losing its character, and it is important the citizens continue to let Council know their thoughts about this. He said some of our policies are not helping. We need to start a program to repair old homes in the neighborhoods. He said we should encourage UVA to continue looking to the west side of the City for expansion to lessen the impact on the City's neighborhoods.

Ms. Galvin said traffic congestion around the neighborhood has been addressed recently by a study done by a group of UVA students, and she would like the City's traffic engineer to look into this.

Additional action required: Study of traffic congestion in Fifeville by traffic engineer particularly pedestrian issues on Roosevelt Brown Blvd.

Status: The City's Planning Commission has selected the Cherry Avenue Corridor as a priority area for Small Area Plan. The plan will evaluate the surrounding growth, development and traffic issues in detail and recommend solutions designed to address the traffic issues, improve pedestrian safety among other problems.

Josephine Morrison, 910 Page St., said we used to have community policing with officers on foot. No police stop on the 900 block of Page St. any more. We need a presence in the neighborhood. Mr. Bellamy said Chief Thomas will prioritize relational policing. Mr. Jones said eight new police officers were approved to enable the department to provide better coverage to neighborhoods.

Additional action required: None at this time

Seth Kelly, 810 Anderson St., said some renters in the neighborhood do not maintain their homes. The landlord owns several run down houses in the neighborhood and does not care about the neighbors. Mr. Ikefuna said he will have his code enforcement inspector visit these properties. He offered pamphlets with information about code violations.

Additional action required: Code enforcement staff review Anderson and surrounding streets

Status: Code enforcement staff has sent notices of violations to the landlord in the past; staff will continue to monitor the properties to ensure compliance with the code.

John Gaines, Page St., said he had a cordial meeting with the mayor the first week in May. He was assured his fellow would be getting back in touch with him. He said the City has failed to live up to a promise made about sidewalks on Albemarle Street. He has a letter from Feb. 28, 2003 stating that sidewalks o Albemarle Street and Addison Street would be bid out this spring, with construction in the fall of 2003. However, there are still no sidewalks. A number of neighborhood streets do not work, especially 8th St. NW. He asked if they should be one way. A traffic light is needed at 10th and Page. You cannot get out at Preston and 8th or at 8th and Main during rush hour, so you are locked in the neighborhood. There are violators of no parking areas by vendors next to the Coke plant. There are 18 wheelers coming through the neighborhood in the mornings as children are trying to get to school. Staff is unable to enforce restricted parking in the 10th and Page neighborhood because they do not have enough staff. His neighborhood is carved up, and it is hard to understand why it happened this way. Some attention needs to be given to codes. He asked how the height of the building on Booker Street was allowed in the neighborhood.

Additional action required: Follow up from Alex Ikefuna, NDS Director and Traffic Engineering

Status:

Unfinished sidewalk on Albemarle and Anderson: There was a sidewalk project along Albemarle Street that was previously completed, however this was on the north side of Preston, which extends from Dale Avenue to Henry Avenue. On our current, Council approved priority list, there is a proposed sidewalk project on 7th Street NW (Albemarle Street) from 8th Street NW to Page Street and this project has

been fully designed, but not implemented due to construction costs related to railroad requirements. We have been working on an alternative solution to build it on the other side of the road from the railroad, but needed to coordinate with emergency services on some design standard requirements. After further discussions with the residents, we are going to survey the Right of Way and conduct some traffic evaluations before taking any further action.

Traffic Light at 10th and Paige: This intersection is currently operating in accordance to its engineering design. It has a two-way stop traffic control (Page Street approaches only have stop control). Field observations of its current operation did not suggest any capacity, operation, or safety problems. Safety evaluation of the reported crash record for the last five years did not suggest any safety deficiencies. Its current traffic operation does not meet any of the warrants for an All Way Stop traffic control as set forth in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The MUTCD is a national publication, developed by the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The MUTCD sets uniform guidelines and standards applicable to different classes of road and street systems.

8th Street NW is hazardous for cars at Page Street; parking should not be allowed on the one section on the east side: On-street parking shall be only allowed when and where feasible and warranted. Two-way local streets should have a pavement width of at least 27 feet to accommodate for one travel lane per direction (2x10) and a minimum width of 7 feet for a one lane of on-street parking. The existing “substandard/grandfathered” issue (approved several years ago) and its relevant implications would require City wide evaluation to maintain equity.

No truck traffic sign/trucks improperly unloading in the no parking zone at the Coke building on 8th Street: This issue would require enhanced enforcement of the existing traffic laws pertaining to no obstruction of travel lanes and obeying the existing in place “No Parking” signs by the police. Unloading activities should be performed inside facility (off-street) and not on-street.

8th Street and Preston: Adding an exclusive northbound left turn lane on 8th Street at Preston Avenue. The left turn movement concern does not meet any of the warrants for adding a turning lane, as set forth in the Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets (2001) “Green Book” for an exclusive northbound left turn lane. The AASHTO “Green Book” is a national publication, developed by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. The AASHTO “Green Book” is used to determine the need for a left-turn lane on two-lane highways.

Josephine Morrison said zoning needs to be changed near her neighborhood, because it is for commercial and residential since 1939, and a nursing home went in next to her.

Mr. Ikefuna said he has Mr. Gaines’ list and will address them with staff. Neighborhood traffic is very troubling. Zoning on Booker St. is coming before the Planning Commission soon. Allowable heights in established neighborhoods are a priority for the code audit project. He said he will look into the sidewalk matter first thing in the morning and will contact Mr. Gaines.

Mr. Fenwick said traffic is a concern across the City, and the new traffic engineer will be addressing these issues.

Additional action required: See above re: Mr. Gaines

Scott Turner, 630 Preston Pl., asked if Council is in touch with any investment banks to increase the affordable housing stock. He said he has a friend who is an investment banker, and he puts together affordable housing projects.

Mr. Ikefuna said the City is always looking for ways to increase affordable housing. He explained the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund. They are looking at how to work with financial institutions and are exploring workforce housing. Mr. Ikefuna said he would welcome his friend's contact information. Mr. Bellamy said much of the affordable housing in the City is in poor condition. Mixed income housing developments will change the current state of the City. Mixed income housing is necessary to be able to address affordable housing. We have to work together to make it happen.

Ms. Galvin said the City is a regional job magnet, and this creates opposing needs and wants. We have a lot of commuters. Our housing target is 15%, and we are currently around 10%. We have to build affordable housing and workforce housing to be able to keep supply high and costs low. We have to manage growth and build the proper mix of units.

Additional action required: None at this time

Pat Edwards, 212 6th St. NW, said she is proud of Mr. Bellamy. She grew up on 8th Street, and there was a mix of residents. We need the mix, and we need affordable housing that is not all concentrated in one place. The PHA Board is striving to do this with the project at Garrett Square. Protect the neighborhoods surrounding West Main St. A new building is being built on West Main St. behind Blue Moon Diner without enough parking spaces as an experiment. The Planning Commission allowed this in a 4-3 vote. These cars will be parked in the neighborhoods.

Additional action required: None at this time

Seth Kelly said he went through PHA to purchase his first home. He supports mixed neighborhoods, but he said you have to find people who want to do better. You have to go to the root of the problems and help educate people on the available resources.

Mr. Signer said it is good to have healthy debate about affordable housing. There are a lot of efforts in the City trying to address affordable housing, but many of them do not look familiar to people. We currently have a debate about micro-apartments, where we will encourage people to rely on alternative transportation. We have to be open-minded about new models when we are looking at housing. Developers working on Friendship Court are working hard, but this development will look different than what we currently have in place.

Additional action required: None at this time

John Gaines said affordability means different things to different people. He said a fence should separate new housing from the Oakwood Cemetery. The cemetery is owned by the City, as is Daughters of Zion Cemetery. They should be taken care of by the City.

Mr. Signer said his fellow is working on the matter.

Mr. Daly said when the development was going through the approval process, there was no discussion about a fence barrier between the cemetery and the community.

Ms. Galvin said this could be something the entire community should discuss, because they type of fence can make a big difference.

Additional action required: None at this time

Status: The City has developed a MOU to direct the work with DOZ and contractors are being identified for investigative work and restorative efforts. Mr. Gaines was also informed that the Parks and Recreation Department has reviewed their files and found that a fence along this stretch has never existed, even long before the housing development was contemplated. During the site plan review process, there was discussion about the fence; however, the overriding concern was to ensure that there was no damage and/or encroachment into the cemetery from the development and that access to the cemetery be preserved for vehicles and pedestrians. Consequently, a fence was never contemplated. No fence is planned for the area at this time.

Mark Lewis, Forest Ridge Rd., said he is a teacher and supports affordable housing. Forest Hills Park is the best park in the City with marvelous trees, but they do not need to be mulched quite so much. He said he would like the Councilors to come more often to the neighborhood.

Mr. Jones said we post meeting minutes online for accountability, and we try to get to all the neighborhoods throughout the City. He offered other options for getting in touch with the City and the Councilors.

Additional action required: None at this time

Paul Targent, Rock Creek Rd., said he is glad to know there is follow-up on the website.

Ms. Dickler said the City's website has a page for Our Town with minutes, audio, archives, and upcoming meeting dates. She clarified that follow-up notes are also posted online.

Ms. Galvin said we are investing in a more robust complaint tracking mechanism.

Mr. Jones said the RFP is currently out for this, and we will implement the system later on this year.

Additional action required: None at this time

Lyle Solidis, 223 10th St., said he loves Charlottesville history, and he is trying to get a sense of the history of 10th and Page. He said he wants the area at the City yard to be reopened.

Ms. Galvin said right now it is a train trestle tunnel and is closed. The City could decide to redevelop this site at some point, which would beg the question of reopening the tunnel.

Mr. Jones said if this were to occur at some point in the future, we would look at allowing access.

Additional action required: None at this time

Tim Padalino, 10th and Page resident, said it would be great to reconvene the 10th and Page task force. The Tree Commission selected 10th & Page for some type of a pilot plan to increase the tree canopy, and he supports this. The neighborhood in the middle of the development activity on West Main has not been given a lot of attention and would be a good candidate for a small area plan.

Mr. Ikefuna asked for his rationale for reconvening the CDBG task force for 10th & Page. Tim said they prioritized crosswalks across 10th St., and he was wondering what some other priorities or next steps may be.

Additional action required: Mike Murphy will follow up with information from tree commission, canopy, and condition assessments

Status: Complete

Dawn Woodford said UVA should provide affordable parking for their employees.

Additional action required: None at this time

Joyce Hillstrom, King St., said UVA employees can ride the bus for free, and there is no excuse for them parking in the neighborhoods.

Mr. Bellamy said he does not know that policymakers can tell landlords to cap their rent. He said Council supports enforcement for those who park illegally in neighborhoods, as well as encouraging public transportation.

Additional action required: None at this time

Leona Brown, 909 Forest Street, asked if the fact that we are a commonwealth have anything to do with our problems.

Mr. Fenwick said it is a state legislature issue; we cannot do anything without the power to do it.

Ms. Galvin said the governor's Growing Opportunity program will explore possibilities for joint economic development projects.

Mr. Signer spoke about the permit parking process and said this may be an option for the neighborhoods around West Main.

Additional action required: None at this time