

**Our Town – Lewis Mountain, University, Venable, Rose Hill, Kellytown
September 29, 2016
6:00 p.m.**

Councilors present: Signer, Galvin, Szakos, Fenwick.

Martin Killian, 44 University Cir., thanked the City for helping their neighborhood reach equilibrium amongst the variety of residents in their area. He said there are still tremendous problems, particularly in the Venable neighborhood, due to slumlords, management companies that don't do their work, fraternities that are out of control, and we need to work together to improve the situation. He asked the City to finance a part time inspector to the Venable neighborhood, especially on garbage. Tighten fines and crack down on landlords that do not do their work. Task Del. Toscano with changing the laws in Richmond for how long a property can be left dirty and littered, which is currently 10 days.

Ms. Galvin said she recalled that getting another inspector would not make a difference because people cannot enter buildings that are not licensed businesses. Mr. Craig Brown said he will check into this.

Mr. Fenwick said enforcement is an issue; existing rules and codes are being ignored.

Ms. Szakos said the University has newly come out strongly against enforcement against under-age drinking.

Additional action required: Follow up by City Attorney's office

Status: update pending

Mr. Robert King, 13th Street, said he was born and raised on 13th Street and remembers when 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th Street were all residential neighborhoods. He asked what regulations keep landlords from coming in and setting up multi-resident homes for students.

Ms. Szakos said zoning maps are available online and at NDS. Mr. Ikefuna said call his office for more information.

Mr. Fenwick said residents should keep pressure on the City for preserving the neighborhoods.

Additional action required: Resident to follow up with NDS

Mr. Scott Wiley, Rose Hill neighborhood, asked about the upcoming Comprehensive Plan and the zoning audit and asked what the difference is.

Ms. Galvin explained the Code Audit, which we are tightening to align with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Additional action required: Follow up by City Attorney's office

Status: The City is currently reviewing its Zoning Ordinance, Standards and Design Manuals and Comprehensive Plan to determine what changes and updates are needed. There will be a joint meeting of the City Council, Planning Commission and PLACE Design Taskforce on November 30 to review staff evaluations and provide direction. Citizen engagement process will start in 2017, and the planning process is expected to be completed in December 2017, depending on the level of updates needed.

Marilynn Wright, Preston Place in the Venable neighborhood, said they are the only owner-occupied home located right next to a fraternity. The amount of trash is appalling. The trash is picked up on Thursday, which means all the weekend trash is there for a week. She asked if trash could be picked up on Monday instead. She said a lot of street lights are out, particularly the large street lights on 17th St. behind the Westminster Church. On Grady Ave., there is not a curb for parking, so huge ruts are being created along the streets.

Ms. Szakos said Dominion Power poles have numbers on each pole, and residents can report it by calling VA Dominion Power.

Additional action required: None at this time

Nancy Carpenter, Rose Hill neighborhood, said the noise ordinance progress made a few years ago may not have trickled down to the current students. UVA may be willing to kick in a few dollars for extra trash pick-up.

Additional action required: None at this time

Paul Long, 1410 Grady Ave., said public transportation used to stop at 14th and Grady, but they are no longer served by CAT bus service at that corner. Great service is available during the academic year, but UTS does not operate during major sporting events and the summer. He asked that CAT service be restored to that corner. He asked for an update on the creation of a Regional Transit Authority.

Ms. Szakos said RTA is on the agenda for the joint Council/BOS meeting next Tuesday. She said they are supposed to make service a priority at that area, even during special events, and she will follow up with CAT.

Additional action required: None at this time

Status: Discussions of RTA continue. The next joint meeting of Council/BOS is scheduled for January.

Maeve Curtain, Student Council liaison to City Council, gave her email address (mc4en@virginia.edu) for residents, especially for student concerns, so that she can connect with them and help with issues.

Additional action required: None at this time

Luke Michelson, 3rd Year at UVA, founded ‘Hoos Cleaning Up to get UVA students together to clean up around the community. He can be reached at lam5vk@virginia.edu with any requests or concerns. He asked what the most problematic areas for trash are so that he can mobilize his group.

Ms. Szakos said there is litter near shops, the Corner, the store on Grady Ave., and on the University area where parties occur.

Ms. Galvin said the University conducted an all-day charrette this past week to identify what type of community we want to be. UVA Provost Katsouleas started this idea, and it was an idea-generation conference-style meeting. Incubators for service, larger community resource centers, a University test lab, and combining the University’s innovation with the needs of the Charlottesville community were some ideas.

Additional action required: None at this time

Warren, 1849 Fendall Ave., asked about the status of the CVS building at Emmet St. and Barracks Rd. This is a crucial part of our neighborhood and an entrance corridor to the City. The building type is generic and is not specific to Charlottesville. Design considerations and traffic generation issues should be considered.

Ms. Szakos said it has not yet gone to the Planning Commission for approval. Mr. Ikefuna said there are still some issues with the site plan regarding requirements. Once staff is satisfied with the site plan, it will go to the Planning Commission. Comments on the project should go to staff at this point. Please send comments to ikefuna@charlottesville.org.

Mr. Fenwick said he will add Rachel Lloyd to the list about when these planning projects come before Planning Commission and Council.

Ms. Galvin said existing zoning allows that building and dictates use.

Rachel Lloyd, 810 Tunlaw Pl., President of Venable Neighborhood Association, said several neighbors attended the site plan review meeting, and there were concerns that the road there was planned to be widened with added turn lanes. This area is already unsafe for pedestrians.

Additional action required: None at this time

Paul Wright, Preston Pl., said the trash issue has not changed. Commercial trash pick-up is not allowed on a day different from municipal trash pick-up. You could also simply extend the existing Tuesday pick-up zone across the railroad tracks to Grady. The Sigma Chi fraternity is his next-door neighbors, and they produce a lot of trash, but it is not their fault that it sits out all week until the Thursday pick-up. He asked if street-sweeping could be increased to help with the enormous amount of glass left on the road after the weekends. Trash cans are left in the sidewalk all the time, and no one ever gets ticketed.

Additional action required: Follow up by Public Works Director

Status: Adjusting pickup zones cannot be done simply. It would require adjustment of some – potentially all – other zones in the City, changing the collection day for a significant number of persons. Our contractor’s routes would need to be adjusted according, creating logistical challenges for them which would take some months to fine tune. Service across the City would be impacted. Altering the ordinance to allow for Monday collection – in addition to collection on the day of regular collection – is feasible, but would require some thought to ensure the change would not have unanticipated consequences. We will give this careful consideration. Street sweeping frequency – increasing the frequency in any one neighborhood would have a ripple effect, resulting in service level decreases to auxiliary streets, business districts, and other neighborhoods. However, we will revisit our service delivery levels city-wide to determine whether some adjustments may be appropriate.

John Gaines, 10th & Page St. neighborhood, said he is concerned about safety on Preston and 8th St., where trucks are unloading in no parking zones and often park on the sidewalks. He has been told by the traffic division that lack of manpower keeps them from monitoring these areas. The City does a lot of business at various stores in the community. He said he thought he remembered Council saying they would monitor these businesses to ensure they are hiring minorities. However, he has noticed that certain local businesses do not have any minority employees. It seems NDS is focused almost primarily on business growth, and we need someone to focus on neighborhood concerns. Funds currently allocated to Habitat for Humanity should be earmarked instead to the CRHA. Funding has been reduced federally.

Mr. Jones said we have provided some funding for specific positions in CRHA.

Ms. Szakos seconded concerns over safety with the delivery trucks at 8th St., especially when they inhibit site lines for traffic turning out onto the main road. He said staff can look into the zoning aspect of this issue.

Ms. Charlene Green reviewed how the Human Rights Commission could serve to assist regarding concerns about local businesses employing minorities.

Ms. Galvin said the housing stock needs to be redeveloped, and we are all very concerned about moving forward with a viable plan. We are making progress.

Additional action required: Follow up by NDS Director

Status: NDS Director has written a letter to the property owner and businesses located at the Coca Cola building asking them to inform their delivery truck drivers to park at the on-site parking lot while making delivery or else the City will ticket them. The City traffic engineering staff and police department will be monitoring the situation for compliance.

George Snyder, 1941 Lewis Mountain Rd., said the recent water line replacement on their street could have gone much better. It created a significant amount of dust on a daily basis, and it caused breathing issues. He asked why traffic was not sent down Thompson Rd. during the

construction, as a simple detour would have taken care of a lot of the problems. Fire hydrants were put on the street close to the right-of-way near his driveway, making it difficult for him to turn in and out. He asked what the rules are for hydrant placement. He provided his contact information to Judy Mueller.

Additional action required: Follow up by Public Works Director

Status: The construction of the Lewis Mtn Rd waterline is complete. Our Utilities Engineer has reached out to Mr. Snyder via e-mail to see if he would like the fire hydrant moved back from the curbline about 24 inches. He wants it moved to in front of his neighbors house. If his neighbor agrees we can do this with in-house forces. The existing hydrant is in the ROW. Mr Snyder has yet to respond.

Bill Rockwell, Lewis Mountain neighborhood, said traffic is an issue. They are one of many in the queue for having the City monitor and take action for traffic. They have a lot of cut-through traffic in their neighborhood. Speeds of cut-through traffic along Cameron Ln., Lewis Mountain and Thompson are problems. He said they are #11 on the list, which indicates that this is a big problem.

Mr. Ikefuna said the Traffic Engineer completed an evaluation of several areas around the City. It is difficult to keep people from driving through certain City streets. An inventory of the existing design manual is being conducted.

Additional action required: Follow up by NDS Director

Status: The City Traffic Engineer conducted a traffic study for Lewis Mountain, Cameron Lane and Thompson on July 13, 2016 week. The posted speed limit is 25 MPH; the result indicated the average speed limit was 22 for Lewis Mountain, 24 for Cameron and 26 for Thompson. A traffic calming consideration is warranted when the speed limit is 10 MPH over the posted speed limit. A copy of the study is attached.

Roberto Armengol, 916 Anderson St., said he lives on the east side of 10th St., which is a major thoroughfare that bisects his neighborhood. The speed limit is 25 mph officially, but cars travel much faster during the morning and afternoon commutes. This is a major danger, especially for the school children traveling to school in the mornings and afternoons. A better crossway is needed at West and 10th to enable children to walk to school safely. Whiter and wealthier neighborhoods have these types of traffic calming mechanisms. He said the police do a great job in the City, but he has never seen a police officer pull anyone over on 10th St. More enforcement and an electronic speed monitor could help with the problem. He invited staff and Council to join him on his walk to school with the kids in the morning.

Ms. Szakos encouraged him to also talk to the School Board, because they may be able to employ a crossing guard at that location. Mr. Armengol said the Venable principal was supportive of coming up with a solution.

Ms. Galvin said Amanda Poncy can look into doing a Safe Routes to School study for the Venable school district. Mr. Jones said we will look into increased enforcement in the area.

Additional action required: Follow up by NDS Director and Charlottesville Police

Status: The City Police Department (CPD) conducted a speed study following this Town Hall meeting. The existing posted speed limit is 25 MPH and the study found the average speed was 25.95 MPH. Concerning the safety of kids going to school, NDS has been working with Timmons Group on a design plan for the 10th and West intersection to include curb extensions and rapid flashing beacons through the CDBG grant. The neighborhood is in favor of the design plan. Staff will be working with them for specific elements for implementation.

As for "safe routes" generally, the most recent infrastructure improvements include Clark Elementary intersection improvements (currently under construction), Jackson-Via/Harris Road (in design), St. Clair Ave. (Burnley Moran) and Cherry Ave (Buford) sidewalks (completed in 2012-2013?).

We are currently working with city schools to conduct travel tallies (counts of students walking/biking to school) and may be able to glean some insight as to whether the improvements have affected travel patterns. However, that effort is largely aimed at having baseline data to measure success in the future.

The city just hired a safe routes to school coordinator whose sole responsibility will be working with parents/students to identify safe routes, coordinating events/educational programs and measuring success of these programs in all city K-8 schools.

Captain Phillips presented about the Fire Department's program for installing smoke alarms in households across the City, including devices for the hearing-impaired. If you do not have one, please come see him afterwards, and the City will provide one for free. Also, the Fire Department and NDS will be doing fraternity house inspections over the next few weeks and will bring concerns to the housing managers.

Rosanna Bencoach said October 17 is the deadline to register to vote; registration forms are available here and at the Voter Registrar's office.

Mayor Signer announced the Voting Rights Restoration event on October 5 in CitySpace.

Adjourned.