

**Our Town - Ridge, Burnett Commons, Willoughby Neighborhoods
Jackson Via Elementary School
October 13, 2016**

Councilors present: Signer, Bellamy, Fenwick, Szakos

Tim Reid, Raymond Rd., thanked Council and staff for their time this evening. He said real estate is getting expensive in Charlottesville, and there is a wealth and income disparity in the City.

Ms. Szakos said the Planning Commission and Council is working on addressing density and affordable housing needs.

Mr. Ikefuna explained the recent RCLCO Housing Study; a work session is planned for November 30.

Mr. Fenwick encouraged residents to get involved with the City, particularly through Boards and Commissions.

Mr. Bellamy said we have education and job training opportunities in the City.

Mr. Signer said growth is a good thing, and we are working with grants, AHIP, and other organizations to make sure that we are providing affordable housing and directing proceeds from a dynamic economy to those who need it the most.

Additional action required: Follow up by NDS Director

Status: The City has several programs to address affordable and workforce housing challenge. The City established Affordable Housing Fund several years ago that it uses to leverage private money to create affordable housing; rental, new construction, home ownership and home improvement. Additionally, the recommendations from the RCLCO Housing Study are expected to be considered by the City Council before the end of the year, and include strategies designed to continue to address affordable housing issue.

Kim Spalding, 912 Ridge St., at the corner of Brookwood and Ridge, said traffic moves very quickly in this area. A traffic study was done this summer and showed that in the 25 mph zone, the average speed was 38 mph. The traffic engineer agreed to install additional signage, and she asked what the status was of this.

Mr. Ikefuna said staff is going through the list of recent projects and will continue to follow up.

Additional action required: None at this time

Karen Joiner, Ridge St. : at the 5th St. extension, asked how to continue the dialogue about speeding. She recently lost her cat. The buses also speed.

Mr. Jones said he will check with the CAT manager and check to see what drivers are speeding through the neighborhood and address it immediately. He also explained the process for proceeding with traffic calming; NDS can provide more information.

Additional action required: Follow up by NDS Director and Transit Manager

Status: The City has a procedure for the public to follow in requesting for traffic calming measures. The information can be obtained from the City's Website, or by contacting the City Traffic Engineer at (434) 970 – 3182. The average speed for the street has to be at least 10 MPH over the posted speed limit to be considered for traffic calming.

Pete Armetta, 506 Ridge St., asked about the status of addressing traffic camera use. He said he does not understand why this disproportionately affects poor people. He said signage is poor a long Ridge Street. He said some crosswalks in the City do not work, for example at Oak Street.

Additional action required: Follow up by NDS Director

Status: Traffic camera has not been authorized by the State and the City cannot install it without such authorization.

He thanked the City for the Daughters of Zion cemetery project.

Ms. Szakos explained the legislative agenda process, which would need to take place before speed cameras can be used. She explained why it disproportionately affects low income residents.

Mr. Signer said Council would have to discuss this on a policy level, but he said he personally is not supportive of red light cameras.

Ms. Szakos said the Streets That Work implementation is an effort to address speeding through design.

Mr. Signer suggested that Mr. Armetta provide a list of crosswalks that are not working.

-Tonsler Park crosswalk, 5th St. and Ridge St.

-Crosswalk at Barrett, Dice

-Burnett and Lankford at Oakwood Cemetery; there is also no sidewalk there.

-Crosswalk between the two Burnetts; there are 17 kids who use the bus stop.

Additional action required: Follow up by NDS Director

Status: These issues will be examined by the traffic engineering staff and Public Services Department.

Mr. Signer said we have a lot of public engagement during the budget cycle, and it is very helpful for us to hear directly from residents.

Mr. Armetta also asked about the efficiency study. Staff gave information on how it is being conducted and opportunities for public input.

Additional action required: None at this time

Jim Marshall, 633 Harris Rd. in Willoughby, asked for an update on the status of the Landmark Hotel and Mr. Dewberry.

Mr. Signer said this has been a major focus for Council this year. He gave an overview of where the project now stands and what is planned for the future.

Mr. Fenwick said this is a complicated issue, and there is a lot at stake.

Additional action required: None at this time

Mary Marshall, 633 Harris Rd. in Willoughby, said the City's public schools are the jewel of Charlottesville. However, there is still an achievement gap in the City. She said preschool should be stressed to give children a head start. Money could be spent better on our future with our children, such as not spending \$700,000 to move a few statues. We should expand education, and she for one would be willing to pay for it with increased taxes.

Ms. Szakos said Charlottesville is at the top of the state for local investment in preschool.

Mr. Bellamy said the City and County is exploring a free regional preschool. He said the Black Male Alliance is working on this as well. Jackson-Via was just nominated for a national grant in response to their improved test scores.

Additional action required: None at this time

Clarissa W. Bell, 1007 Ridge St., said there has been paving throughout the City, and the street between Ridge and 5th Street Station is fairly rough. She asked if this is the final surfacing.

Mr. Murphy said he is not certain about that location, but Public Works is using some new techniques to extend the life of the City streets. He said staff will get back to Ms. Bell about this particular road.

Ms. Bell said Brookwood Rd. off Ridge St. is narrow, and there is parking on both sides. The residents there have driveways and garages to house their vehicles. She asked if anything can be done for traffic safety, such as only allowing parking on one side.

Mr. Ikefuna said staff can look at this area. The irony is, if cars are removed from the street, this can increase speeding by creating a wider street.

Ms. Bell asked about safety on Ridge St. crosswalk near the fire station.

Additional action required: Follow up by NDS Director and Public Works

Status: Public Works staff followed up directly with Ms. Bell about the status of the roadway. The City on-call Traffic Engineer has been asked to look into the Brookwood Road and Ridge and 5th intersection.

Kim Spalding, 912 Ridge St., said we should drop the speed limit at Ridge/64/Cherry. Mr. Ikefuna said the City has to go through a process and cannot drop the speed limit without warrants.

Additional action required: None at this time

Chip Boyles, 948 Raymond Rd., said Brookwood is an example of design flaws that should be kept in mind for future developments. The driveways that she is referring to are too short, so cars that pull into the driveways come across the sidewalk, which is unsafe for pedestrians, especially the disabled. There should be a 20 foot length between the sidewalk and the garage.

Additional action required: None at this time

John Urdwerm, 124 Burnett Way, said traffic in Charlottesville is a mess, and there is a five-year window to get a handle on it before the City's growth projections make it impossible. He said the Ridge Street neighborhood association is putting together a group to present a report to Council with suggestions. They will be informed by the Streets That Work plan. He asked why there is not a right hand turn lane at Ridge/Cherry/Tonsler. Mr. Ikefuna responded.

Additional action required: None at this time

Bryce Abbott, 224 Langford Ave., said there is a narrow, steep hill. The speeds automobiles travel down Langford before you get to New Burnett is shocking and causes near-accidents all the time. Most of his neighbors would support a speed hump to slow traffic, especially with the large number of pedestrians on that road.

Additional action required: Follow up by NDS Director and Public Works

Status: The City is working with Tool Design Group firm on a street scape improvement for this corridor. The design is approximately 70 to 75% complete, but had been placed on hold due to the potential site conflicts with the city cemetery and drainage/ flooding issue at the street low point. Once these items have been resolved Toole Design can be instructed to proceed and complete the work so implementation can begin. We are currently seeking to procure the services of an archeological consultant to conduct archeological study for the area.

Rosanna Bencoach encouraged residents to register to vote if they have not already.

Ms. Szakos invited Chief Baxter to address residential smoke alarms.

Mr. Fenwick announced the upcoming meetings of the Blue Ribbon Commission. Adjourned.