

Our Town

North Downtown, Little High, Locust Grove, Martha Jefferson, Woodhaven

December 1, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

Key Rec Center

All Councilors present.

Mr. Bellamy made a statement of apology.

Mr. Brad Connors, 1201 Belleview, Locust Grove

Traffic. His neighborhood is a major cut-through starting at Belleview. Lessen the traffic or slow it down. There are a lot of kids on his street and in the neighborhood, as well as disjointed sidewalks, specifically in front of his house on the corner. Kids walking to a bus stop or to school have to cross the street twice to follow sidewalks. There is a huge amount of commercial traffic. Szakos: she shares his concerns, and wondered if staff can communicate to the public that the new bypass is a better way to travel.

Creasy: we will do what we can do influence driver behavior. We can have our traffic staff look into this again. She discussed the sidewalk process.

Galvin: referred her to Ms. Poncy and Streets That Work

Additional action required: Follow up by NDS

Status: There is a sidewalk project scheduled for Belleview. The new sidewalk design is at 90 %. Storm drainage easements are still needed. Parking and travel lanes will need to be restricted which will have a calming effect.

Ms. Rebecca Quinn, 104 4th Street NE #2

Trash collection has been an issue, but the last two weeks have been pretty good.

Ragged Mountain Natural Area should be reserved for quiet enjoyment.

She spoke on the NDRA board's recent "Walkability Study". Sidewalk issues, (poles, tripping hazards, missing sidewalks, etc.) and crosswalks (faded paint, curbs that make it inaccessible), missing signs and pavement marking issues, drainage problems, and vegetation obscuring signs.

The Birdwood neighborhood said there are a number of commitments made in terms of the McIntire project that have not been followed through.

Additional action required: Follow up by NDS and Public Works

Status: Staff communicated the following to Ms. Quinn: The Interchange project created an accessible route outside of the neighborhood – to the Memorial, McIntire Plaza, etc. The Hillcrest sidewalk project also contains a public path and series of steps to connect the southern end of Hillcrest with McIntire Road. It was further followed up with the neighborhood that the request for a sidewalk in front of the Covenant School has been included on the list for future prioritization. Trash collection concerns have been addressed.

Mr. John Cruickshank, 324 Parkway St., North Downtown

Child safety – April 20, 2015 resolution on integrated pest management adopted by Council, committing to reducing overall pesticide use and eliminating where feasible on City sites. He asked how far the City has gotten in eliminating synthetic pesticides on parks and school grounds. He also asked how much it would cost to eliminate pesticides all together.

Daly: 2016 numbers have reduced compared to 2015; staff will report in the spring with exact numbers during their annual review and report to Council. The cost is approx. \$15,000.

Fenwick: said he will ensure this goes into the next budget cycle

Additional action required: None at this time

Ms. Jean Howell, 509 Lexington Ave. in Locust Grove

Parking at High Street and Lexington down to about Poplar, there's parking until you get to Taylor, that is non-permitted. It's difficult to turn from Taylor or Maple onto Lexington safely. Cars are parked legally all the way to the corner on both sides; two cars cannot fit past one another with the remaining space.

Additional action required: Follow up by NDS

Status: Staff plans to install additional signs to provide clarity that no parking is allowed on the East side of the road.

Mr. Paul Reynolds, 857 Locust Ave.

Speed along Locust Ave. is still a big issue.

He thanked Council for slowing down City buses. School buses still need some work.

He thanked Council including the speed cameras issue on the state legislature agenda.

Additional action required: Follow up by NDS

Status: Staff continues to monitor the speed in this area and return to discuss with the neighborhood next Summer.

Mr. Stephen Bach, 1208 Meriwether St.

Bicycle safety - he asked Mr. Jones to ask Traffic Engineer applicants and Planner applicants if they've ever used a bike as a mode of transportation on a regular basis. He also asked about development plans in coordination with UVA.

Galvin: Councilors and staff are actively discussing these matters.

Additional action required: None at this time

Ms. Margarita Figueroa, 1214 Little High St.

Near High Street, school buses, City buses, and cut-through traffic avoiding Market St. and High St. are causing safety issues. No continuous sidewalk. Top of hill near Little Hill and High, there is a one way stop sign for 11th St. that is not obeyed. Accidents or near-accidents are

frequent. They have been told speed bumps are not a viable solution because of the slope of the street. She asked how neighbors can follow up on this request.

Szakos: clarified this is for the Burnley Moran Elem. school district.

Jones: work with Ms. Creasy and staff on options.

Galvin: has the intersection been studied since Cville Day School has opened?

Creasy: staff will look into this.

Additional action required: Follow up by NDS

Status: Staff plans to take new traffic counts in this area and compare them to past data. Traffic staff will be in touch with Ms. Figueroa with the Traffic Calming application materials.

Ms. Heather Peck, 760 Lexington Ave.

Thanked Council for convening these meetings. She thanked the City for their attention to detail. She thanked Council and Mr. Jones for addressing her request months ago that the lowest wage workers in Charlottesville be adjusted upwards. She asked that we look at getting to \$15/hour as soon as possible.

Political and economic shifts have happened in the last month globally. She said many want to know what the ROI for their tax dollars will be. She encouraged a dashboard to demonstrate to all citizens that our City's ROI is great. The more data points, the better.

The City needs to engage with best practices nationally to make sure we land gracefully during economic contractions.

Signer: a lot has been happening with data transparency on the local level.

Additional action required: None at this time

Mr. Scott Kleinman, 1518 E. Market #201

Thanked Council for a great job at running the City.

The Senior Center, where he volunteers, has run out of space to grow. They are working on funding for a new center, and funding is important for the community.

Bellamy: we need to make sure we are providing for our senior members.

Additional action required: None at this time

Tanesha Hudson, 711 Prospect Ave.

affordable housing; She said she grew up on Hardy Drive, and nothing has changed in those units in the last 15 years. They need to be updated. Many senior citizens have been living there for years and do not have proper air conditioning and heat. Charlottesville is not an affordable place to live. We need mixed income subdivisions. Trash is an issue in certain neighborhoods, such as Hardy Drive and First Street. The City needs to engage all types of people.

Szakos: this is a critical issue that crosses all boundaries of Charlottesville. We have been making progress, although sometimes it's hard to see it. We are trying to increase affordability with developments, etc.

Bellamy: the City is closer than ever.

Additional action required: None at this time

John Feminella, 616 McIntire Rd.

Served as an Election Official in the City, which was his first direct experience with the local government. He thanked Rosanna Benchoach for how smoothly everything went.

He said he enjoyed reading the budget and appreciated that it won the GFOA.

We need to do something about the Landmark Hotel.

Making Our Town meetings more accessible, open and participatory for the general population would be good.

Signer: the Landmark Hotel issue is complicated, and we are working very hard on it.

Additional action required: None at this time

Mr. Eberhard Jehle, 1402 Hazel St. in Locust Grove

Cut-through traffic, speeding school buses and delivery vans speeding along Hazel are a problem. He got all but two residents to sign a petition to address speeding, and they have not had a response over the past three traffic engineers. The intersections at St. Clair and Hazel, and Hazel and Gillespie need more stop signs and signs reminded cut-through traffic that this is a school area. A painted traffic circle or other traffic calming devices would be helpful. Speeding on Locust has not dropped off. Remove parking on one side and install a bike lane on Taylor.

Additional action required: Follow up by NDS

Status: Traffic staff will correspond with Mr. Jehle.

Mr. Mark Rylander, 607 Lexington Ave.

Concerned about different types of experiences he's had with contacting the City with information; some is really good, and some is radio silence. Please work on good responses from all departments. He was happy to hear about the comprehensive plan at a meeting last night, and you should bring together the City at the greatest cross sections as possible. We can't address problems within our own neighborhoods in isolation.

Additional action required: None at this time

Mr. John Hossack, 617 Davis Ave in Locust Grove

Concerned that the Free Bridge project shifts traffic onto Locust Rd. Ecologically concerned with the design. Hydraulic intersection issues.

Additional action required: Follow up by NDS & TJPDC

Status: The Free Bridge project is an Albemarle County submission for Smart Scale funding from the State. Staff and Council are aware of the potential impacts on the City of Charlottesville. Announcements of Smart Scale funding awards are expected in January or February of 2017. The Hydraulic Intersection is currently under review for improvements. An update on the planning for this project is expected by the end of January 2017.

Ms. Melanie Miller, 528 Locust Ave.

Concerned about Free Bridge plans, agreed with Eberhard and Reynolds about Locust Ave. traffic calming. Requested that we try implementing proposed solutions, and if they don't work, try something different.

Additional action required: Follow up by NDS

Status: Staff continues to monitor the speed on Locust and return to discuss with the neighborhood next Summer.

Ms. Nancy Carpenter, 921 Henry Ave #B, Rose Hill neighborhood

Important of affordable housing

Requested that housing studies have public hearings.

The HUD Secretary will change in 2017, and the current nominee has no experience with housing. Concerned about tax credits people use to be able to afford housing. Concerned that most affordable housing initiatives will become dead in the water under the upcoming administration. Look at transient population and what we provide, and examine possible tax revenues we could realize as a result of those services that we provide. Use creative incentives to allow for affordable housing.

Additional action required: None at this time

Galvin: asked for verification about improvements on Locust Ave. not being completed and asked for them to be expedited if so.

Status: The Locust plan was completed and speeds continue to be monitored.

Pedestrian safety on Hazel and along routes to schools should be a priority. She is also concerned about commitment to public housing given the changing political climate.

Szakos: Free Bridge funding request is not specific to a design; it is in the concept phase.

Fenwick: encouraged involvement in the budget process. Copy Mike Murphy on any correspondence to ensure a response.

Adjourned.