

Proposal:

Establish Neighborhood Advisory Committee of Asheville City Council

Rationale:

The City of Asheville is made up of a rich and varied collection of neighborhoods. Some well organized and defined, others disconnected and with amorphous boundaries. At present, there is no formal mechanism for facilitating communication and coordination among and between neighborhoods, particularly unorganized neighborhoods.

The history of the relationship between Asheville neighborhoods and City Hall has not always been harmonious.

Purpose:

The role of the Neighborhood Advisory Committee shall be to make recommendations to city council on ways to build up neighborhood identity and strengthen the relationship between neighborhoods and City Hall.

Suggested recommendations might include advising city council to:

- 1) Provide a platform for citizen input for allocation of public resources in defined neighborhoods/areas.
- 2) Encourage creation/rebuilding of neighborhood-based community associations to strengthen community cohesion. Incentives to join might include modest improvement grants, meeting facilitation training, newsletter assistance, identifying existing community assets, (others?).
- 3) Establish communications system capable of reaching every Asheville household. Use this system to share neighborhood successes and challenges, upcoming civic events, seasonal and other city-wide information.
- 4) Improve the development process, and residents' ability to access the process, to reduce the potential for conflict between developers and the surrounding community.

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