

May 2017 West End Association Meeting Minutes:

05.23.2017 at the West End Room of the YMCA / Started 6PM

Attendees – No Sign In sheet was passed around as folks were asked to sign in at a desk staffed for Jeff McInstosh. It did appear, among the community members present, that all board members were present as well:

- Mark Lively
- JoAnn Mount
- George Bryan
- Clint Buss
- David & Lisa Elam
- Keith Stone
- Brian & Kristina McElhinney
- Carol & Ralph Moore
- Frank Johnson
- John Merschel
- Dan Bradley

Business 40 presentation with Q&A took greatest amount of meeting time. The presentation was adapted from their regular one, focusing on impacts to the West End neighborhood. It provided context for the larger project and timeline running through to summer 2020. Two DOT representatives and one City representatives were present. For a quick overview of the project covering 1.2 miles, 9 bridges, 2 pedestrian bridges and an adjoining bike/walk multi use path:

- Fall 2017 – Fall 2018: West side of project, including Peters Creek and 4th street Bridge. Business 40 will remain “open” during this stage though lane closures will occur. The Peters Creek bridge will remain open and useable throughout the project by utilizing lane closures. A bike/walk tunnel will pass below Peters Creek on the north side of the 40/PC interchange.
- Fall 2018 – Fall 2019: East side of project, including Liberty, Main, Church. At this stage, business 40 will be fully closed. Once this part of the project completes, these bridges will be opened so traffic coming from the East will be able to utilize the new access points into downtown as work begins on the final phase.
- Fall 2019 – Summer 2020: Central portion of project from Ballpark to Cherry. Business 40 will remain open at Peters Creek and

Relevant Q&A Related to and during presentation:

- Potential repaving of First near Westdale due to bucking below the roadway
- 4th Street Bridge will be replaced but the design leaves it mostly unchanged from current size. Updated design elements are included with the 4th Street Bridge.
- The bike/walk path will be accessible from the 4th Street Bridge.
- The bike/walk path will be accessible from the end of Westdale where a few properties are being removed to provide access.
- Sound walls are included in several areas though they were rumored to have been removed from the project.
- Bike/walk paths are not partitioned for different types of traffic.

- Multiple intersections throughout the city are being re-striped (lanes) or parking lanes eliminated as temporary measures for the duration of these projects to alleviate overflow congestion points.
- Questions about additional police presence, towing and accident removal along business 40 and through the impact area were voiced.

Minutes – Minutes from last meeting were not reviewed in the press to get everyone immediately engaged w the business 40 presentation. It was suggested we do an online read and approve/correction by email before the next meeting.

Treasurer's report – was referenced after the business 40 meeting, indicating 93 household memberships and 16 business memberships

Historic Resource Commission – Two COA's were mentioned though neither was under immediate consideration, future discussion may be needed to form a board opinion.

Hanes Park Update –Construction is expected to begin in late Fall 2017. The masterplan has been approved by the city and bids are expected to go straight to city council as individual items instead of in its entirety.

Several questions were directed to City Councilman Jeff McIntosh or came from conversations directed to him:

- Wall at Grace Court has gone to design stage by a firm other than the one expected. Waiting on design submission.
- Question about the type of herbicide being used along stream banks of the Peter's Creek running down center of Hanes Park led several folks to mention they had asked the same thing and the application was plant specific and non-toxic.
- Concern raised about pedestrian crossing from the neighborhood and/or Hanes Park to get across to Canal Drive / Hoots complex. Mention was made of crossing on foot to the Daniel Boone monument for a solid line of sight in all directions but that it was indeed difficult to cross. Similar problem at the intersection of Brookstown & 4th at the former Wells Fargo / Zevely / Filling Station intersection. General discussion of traffic calming measures ensued and that once the Business 40 project completed measures may be necessary where the bridge over 40 at 4th funnels traffic into the neighborhood.
- Erosion at the bridge where Glade Street passes over Peters Creek has increased. Multiple reports have been made to the city. An exposed manhole was also referenced though it was thought this may have been resolved recently.
- Question as to whether the Bicycle Races provided much compared to the hassle to the neighborhood was answered as a definite yes – the races do provide substantial economic benefit to the community.
- Question about what was happening at the former Wells Fargo building was answered that it was sold, but details were not public yet. Rumored insurance company was not substantiated.
- Discussion of the continued construction of residential units within the downtown area led to a listing of all the current projects and a statement that convention held that an urban core could support 5% of the meto-area population.

Residential units could more than double current volumes before approaching that figure.

- Discussion of continued hotel expansion was held. Beyond just the quantity of buildings and units in the downtown core, the specific mention of a new rezoning request for the south of 4th bridge was mentioned. Details were not public but a request to the zoning board is expected soon.
- Discussion of viable employment in the downtown area was held. Specific mention was made about an unnamed large grocer or other inventory business.
- Discussion of public transportation in the downtown area was held.

Carol Moore reported that bands were arranged and Grace Park reserved for the first three “Music at Grace on Sunday” events in June, July and August with hopes the frequency could increase once the event is established!