

Agenda

Belmont Priority Neighborhood Task Force

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

6:00pm

1412 Carlton Avenue

- I. Review Existing Information
 - Priority Neighborhood Task Force Concerns
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (2015)
 - BCNA Sidewalk Priority List (2017)
 - SIA Goals
- II. Identify Priorities for FY 2018-2019 Funding (\$204,263.49)
- III. Public Comment (if any) (5 minutes)
- IV. Meeting Adjourned

Meeting Minutes – Agenda

Belmont Priority Neighborhood Task Force

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

6:00pm

1412 Carlton Avenue

I. Review Existing Information

Staff member Tierra Howard (TF) begins the meeting by reminding everyone about the discussion from last Priority Neighborhood meeting: whether CDBG funds would cover a community asset plan. TH explains that the community asset plan is an eligible activity of CDBG and would be paid for with the Administrative and Planning portion of the City's CDBG funds. TH explains that there is already funding allocated for Administrative and Planning, for city staff to administer the CDBG program, to carry out outreach activities. TH explains that unless there is a specific project, then the committee would not be able to use those funds. Given this news, TH explains to the committee members that she can share with the committee, information that had been published by the community. The published data can be aligned with the Belmont Priority Neighborhood priorities.

• Priority Neighborhood Task Force Concerns

Last meeting, the committee discussed concerns regarding priority neighborhood.

1. Speeding in the neighborhood, specifically with Vine Street and Sunrise Park Lane. TH shares with the committee pictures of Vine Street for the committee to examine.
2. Poor lighting in the neighborhood and Community Center as a safety concern for children
3. Need for a community gathering space.
4. Rivanna Sewer and Water Authority in Nassau St – and whether they can make this available to the public. TH asks committee members to point on where on a map they were referring to because it may be outside the Priority Neighborhood boundaries.
5. Change in the CAT routes which has made it difficult to access certain areas of the community

Last meeting there was also discussion on what the community values and priorities look like, how can the CDBG funds be used to maintain the integrity of the neighborhood.

TH explains that she researched to find other plans assessing where the public infrastructure gaps are in the community. These were TH's results:

- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (2015)** → TH mentions that this plan outlines how Franklin Street has a lack of sidewalks.

TH took pictures of areas that would not require right of way. TH explains to the committee that right of way is the public area in the street and sidewalk. Outside of the public area gets into the personal property. Homeowners would need to be asked for permission if they would allow access to their sidewalk for a project. TH explains that this type of sidewalk project would need to start now – so that the committee would be able to talk with homeowners. TH explains that the committee needs to find a shovel ready project and there would not be enough time to complete this project this fiscal year. TH outlines one area of Franklin street where City Staff pointed out how homeowner consultation was not needed.

TH explains to the committee how Carlton sidewalk was also investigated. City staff explained how the committee would need to discuss with homeowners prior to starting the project.

Another idea was Monticello Avenue off Carlton Rd. This area had been identified with having problems in the intersection as it is on the edge of the neighborhood. This would potentially be an eligible project. TH explains the subject site is unsafe, there is lots of speeding, not very pedestrian friendly. The existing intersection geometry of Monticello Avenue and Carlton Rd leads to long crossing distances. Limited visibility between people driving and walking in large curb radii, meaning the curbs are large, are not pedestrian friendly. People driving at this intersection are driving as speeds unfavored by the pedestrian. Improvements include altering the intersection geometry to shorten crossing distances, building new sidewalks and crosswalks, and installing a new bicycle lane through the intersection.

Belmont Priority Neighborhood Committee agrees.

TH reports that the Monticello Avenue and Carlton Road intersection would be an eligible project with CDBG funds.

TH reported the Bike way facility recommendations and how it outlined some facilities in need of improvement on Carlton Avenue. Recommendations include having a buffered bike lane. Franklin Street and Lyndon Avenue having a shared roadway.

Committee member, Peter Krebs (PK), begins to explain what a buffered bike lane is on Carlton Avenue. Committee members explains how a buffered bike lane is a lane that is not immediately next to traffic. There is some type of separation between where the vehicles travel and where the bikes travel. The separation could be a physical barrier like a planted strip. Committee member explains how this would makes sense for Carlton Avenue as the street is wider. Committee members started to explain what a shared roadway is. A shared roadway is when cars, bikes, and people all use the road, but must be designed where the vehicles move slowly.

- **BCNA Sidewalk Priority List (2017)**

TH explains what the BCNA's (Belmont Carlton Neighborhood Association) priorities include. Priorities include landscape islands, bulb outs in the right of way, tree plantings, parking in downtown Belmont, and Charlottesville Area transit to Carlton Belmont.

Committee members discuss that the Downtown Carlton area is very congested.

TH shares the BCNA priority sidewalk list with the committee members. She explains that this list was shared with the budget director in charge of CIP funding. Each year the city has an application process to get big projects funded. TH shares that this list was submitted to the City.

Committee members discuss different pedestrian flash sidewalk crossings in Charlottesville.

- **SIA Goals**

TH explains how she discussed with City staff member Brenda Kelley, the redevelopment manager, what the goals are for the SIA area plan. Goals include connectivity, establishing a program to construct new sidewalks, improve street level access (sidewalks), and storm water management, bike lanes, green infrastructure, trail network, and bringing public art to the area. Storm water management is designed to help reduce flooding.

TH opens the committee up for additional discussion.

PK begins to discuss the location of the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority. PK shows the committee on a map where the location of the Rivanna Water and Sewer is located. PK shows the stock yard, and the land with a creek. The gate by the creek says that there are possible tours for the restored wetland. PK asks whether it would be possible to have this area accessible to the community.

Committee member asks what a restored wetland is.

PK begins to explain. The wetland used to be wild and less controlled. PK says this area has been transformed to control the wetland and has the potential for being a nice public park or open to the public.

TH begins to explain that this may not be an eligible CDBG project because the location falls outside of the City.

PK agrees that the location is outside and in Albemarle.

PK asks how far the priority neighborhood extends too.

TH replies and explains that the boundary stretches through Nassau Street to Monticello Rd.

PK asks whether making the Rivanna Trail accessible would be an option. He explains that this would not be his first project choice but could be an option to consider.

II. Identify Priorities for FY 2018-2019 Funding (\$204,263.49)

TH begins the conversation by asking committee members to list any additional priorities for the target neighborhood.

Committee member Sean Clinchy (SC), asks whether the change in the CAT route a project could be.

TH explains that this project would be a larger transportation planning process. But explains that CDBG funds could be used for building bus shelters along a route.

TH lets the committee know that she would be able to conduct additional research on the priorities that the committee lists. For example, she explains that she would be able to look at sidewalk construction costs and the length of a potential sidewalk for Franklin Street. Additionally, she could look at speeding mitigating solutions for Bond Street.

Committee members begin to look on the Charlottesville Map for where Franklin Street and Vine Street is.

Committee members begin to discuss how sidewalk lighting would be a good project to consider. One committee member asks what the pedestrian traffic looks like.

One committee member explains that they rely on homes to provide light on the street.

TH explains that the property management for the area is Ness Realty, near Franklin Street.

Committee member explains that there is a lot of foot traffic due to the nearby bus stop.

One committee member explains that she likes the Monticello and Carlton intersection project.

Committee members begin to discuss projects that the committee did not see as a priority

TH brings up that the speeding on Vine Street was not brought up.

PK explains that the sidewalks and lighting seem to be a larger priority concerning safety.

Another committee member brings up needing sidewalk on Vine Street.

Another committee member brings up a speeding concern on Reeves Street. She asks whether putting stop signs would be possible.

TH lets the committee know she can investigate Reeves and Vine Streets as potential projects, as well as Franklin.

PK asks whether the committee could potentially start the engagement process to have a sidewalk by Franklin. PK asks whether a buffered bike lane project with a painted strip would be possible, and to investigate the costs for this type of project. PK explains that the sidewalk for Carlton avenue would be a good idea to consider.

TH goes over the committee discussion. Sidewalks and lighting seem to be a higher priority and topic of discussion.

PK brings up whether a kiosk would work for this type for project?

TH says she can include this in with her research

III. Public Comment (if any) (5 minutes)

None

IV. Meeting Adjourned

6:50PM