

# CAN Minutes (March 9, 2009)

Contributed by James Judd  
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Coalition of Asheville Neighborhoods (CAN)

Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2009

## CAN Goals

1. Educate and inform the community about matters that concern Asheville area neighborhoods;
2. Provide a means for Asheville area neighborhood organizations and groups to share information; and
3. Provide technical assistance to neighborhood groups and individuals that are interested in participating in community affairs

Topic

Presenter

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Approve February minutes.  
Treasurer's Report.

Bill Bailey  
Carl Nyberg

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Introductions - your name, neighborhood and quickly state any Issue / Success to share or to add to agenda.  
Bill and Marianna Bailey (Viewpoint) Organizing neighborhood watch.  
James Judd (Chunns Cove)  
Chris Pelly (Haw Creek) Starting planning community gardens. Passed out monthly newsletter.  
Barber Melton (Haw Creek)  
Robert Zeeber ( ) Problems with leaves.  
Ned Gutman ( )  
Dan Marsh (North Asheville) Planting flowers  
Carl Nyberg (Kenilworth)  
Mike Lewis (Grace) Issue with traffic islands  
Steve Hudzik (Kenilworth)  
Debbie Applewhite ( Beverly Hills) Having annual meeting this week. Working on oral history of things that have

transpired. Also have a new website.

Byron Ballard (West End Clingman) Excited about Aston Park reopening on the last Saturday of this month.

Working on Community Garden project

Grant (Oteen) speaking about noise later in the program

Josh OConnor (Oakley) First time at meeting.

Stephanie Decker (Oakley)

Marsha Stickford (City Neighborhood Coordinator) Having last meeting of French Broad Neighborhood visioning process. Has been great success.

Judy Williamson (Shiloh) Great celebration with Shiloh Community Center and Parks and Rec for celebration of black history month. The four groups who are focusing on improvements in the neighborhood are starting to get activated. Have started picking up trash. UNC interns are doing good work in neighborhood.

Barb Verni-Lau Is glad to be back. The Logan weed and seed program has picked up with the leadership that Barb left in place as she was gone.

Judy Daniel Planning Director

Lauren Bradley (South Asheville) City Communications

Shannon Tuch (Downtown) Assistant Planning Director

Kendra Turner (Parkway Forest)

Barbara Buchannan (Parkway Forest)

Adam Pittman

Jake Quinn (Grove Park Sunset Mountain) New traffic calming has been installed and the neighborhood is pulling together a large crew to do some planting. The Grove Park Inn may be donating some greenery. Planning on submitting lessons learned document through CAN to City.

Cecil Bothwell (5 points / Montclair) Organizing the democratic precinct in his neighborhood and is running for City Council.

Round the Table

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Neighborhood Spotlight &ndash; Parkway Forest see story at bottom

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Asheville Planning Department:

Judy Daniel has been the Planning Director for 8 months. She came from the Washington DC area. She was ready for something smaller than 1 million people and enjoys being able to run into community members she recognizes more frequently. She arrived during &ldquo;busy times&rdquo; last summer but since then it has slowed down due to the economy. Amongst other things the Planning department is looking for ways to give the developers more time to start projects. When the Planning Dept. first saw concerns last fall about the slowing economy they started to develop some proposals to allow for longer extensions for projects in process or that have been giving permission. Most examples are larger project like the Ellington and the Deal Buick. Developers have had problems getting letter of credit for a bond. Trying to keep permits in place while requiring safety issues to be addressed.

Question from audience revealed that development above Walmart has found a new owner.

Judy is hoping to be able to devote more time for outreach in the community now that a new Community Development Director has been hired (the former director resigned).

Have been taking opportunities to do housekeeping on UDO.

Downtown Master Plan is moving forward including height limits, view corridors, and proposes adaptation of approval process.

Regarding the approval process Judy is used to seeing less staff approval and less council approval while the planning body (e.g. P&Z) has more approval authority.\

Working on a new structure for planning department. Planning to divide city into five different districts with lead

planner in each area. These planner would be in an educational role and would not be doing permits in their area but acting as a relationship builder and resource. The planner may even call the neighborhoods to inform them of new developments etceteras. Would like to get this up and going during the downturn.

Trying to create a one stop shop for permits. Hope to start work by middle of summer to Public Works building to create one stop shop. Office of Economic Development (OED) will be moving into Planning new space and Police substation will move into OED offices on Haywood Street.

Discussed whether Neighborhood coordinator should be in the Public Relations department or closer to the Planners.

Discussed level III (large projects like Walmart) and whether staff approval should be allowed without public hearings.

Discussed Conditional Zoning which gives Council a great deal of flexibility and others believe is spot zoning.

Discussed the affordable housing legislation that has been taken to the Housing and Development Committee (sub committee council). Considering point system with rewards being added density. A draft copy should be posted in a few weeks.

We all enjoyed the lively and diverse interaction and want to thank Judy and her Staff for joining our CAN meeting.

Judy Daniel  
Shannon Tuch

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Noise Control Issues Concerned with noisy vehicles, monster trucks, motorcycles etc when they are modified to increase their noise level. Published commentary about health effects of loud noise in Asheville Citizen Times. Mitigating tool is the federal noise control act. Enforcement can be at factory end. Custom shops for example change mufflers on motorcycles etc.

Grant Millin

#### Spotlight on Parkway Forest Neighborhood

Based on a presentation by Barbara Buchanan and Kendra Turner at the March 9 Coalition of Asheville Neighborhoods (CAN) meeting.

Parkway Forest is a neighborhood with few real problems and a great group of neighbors who work together. This can be partially attributed to the fact that this small East Asheville neighborhood communicates well. With about 140 homes in the neighborhood, folks can get to know their neighbors and feel connected with each other. When there have been problems in the past - like a rash of break-ins a while back - they get the word out and join together as a neighborhood and with City of Asheville staff to address the problem.

Parkway Forest was built in the early 60's and looks pretty much the same as it did back then. The homes are well taken care of and the residents take pride in their neighborhood and its appearance, having summer and winter landscaping and decorating contests, with winners on each street. All entrances to the neighborhood are off Tunnel Road, so the neighborhood avoids many of the problems that are associated with folks outside the neighborhood driving through to other destinations. Many of the houses on the easternmost side of the neighborhood back up to the Blue Ridge Parkway and because of this, bears are a common sight. But being so close to the parkway also means that neighbors can access the Sea to Mountains Trail on the outskirts of their neighborhood.

One way Parkway Forest residents come together is through their Homeowners' Association. The Association holds 2 annual meetings when neighbors gather to catch up with each other and get up to date on issues. The Association Board meets more frequently and Board members stay in contact with each other on a regular basis. This level of

contact contributes to the neighborhood keeping on top of ongoing and new issues and helps build the good neighbor feeling that is a characteristic of Parkway Forest.

If you are out on the Blue Ridge Parkway, think about getting off at the Tunnel Road exit and visiting Parkway Forest. But drive carefully. The neighbors of Parkway Forest are often out and about enjoying their neighborhood - especially when the weather is fine.