



# CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE DOWNTOWN ADVISORY BOARD

Downtown Program Office | 125 Fifth Avenue West, Suite 200 | Hendersonville NC  
28792



Tuesday, December 12, 2023 – 4:00 PM

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## AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - A. November 2023 Downtown Advisory Board Minutes
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. Downtown Event Update 2023 Review + 2024 Planning
  - B. 7th Avenue Streetscape Update
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
6. **OTHER BUSINESS**
  - A. Downtown Team & Workplan Updates
7. **ADJOURNMENT**

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# CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE DOWNTOWN ADVISORY BOARD

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Tuesday, November 14, 2023 – 4:00 PM

## MINUTES

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – In attendance: Chris Cormier, Phil Wilmot, Carol Sitzer, Matthew Hickman, Caroline Gunther, John Ryan, Mark Pavao, Nancy Neikirk  
After minutes were approved: Aaron Adams, Joe Dinan, Sam Simmons

Absent: Heang Uy, Michele Woodhouse, Anthony McMinn, Councilwoman Debbie Roundtree

Online: Jerry Fitzgerald

Staff present: Jamie Carpenter, Sgt. Garret Gardin, City Manager John Connet, Terrye Jacobs, Dakota Parker, Lew Holloway (online)

- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Caroline Gunther requested changing the agenda to the following:

- Remove Earth Day expansion request – The Environmental Sustainability Board rescinded their request.
- Add to Old Business – presentation by John Connet on Homelessness

Caroline made a motion to remove New Business Item A and add under Old Business – 1. Presentation about homelessness by City Manager John Connet

Matthew Hickman seconded. All were in favor.

- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - October 2023 Downtown Advisory Board Minutes – Mark Pavao made a motion to approve minutes. John Ryan seconded. All were in favor.
- 5. NEW BUSINESS** - 2024 Meeting Schedule - Downtown Advisory Board – leave January 2 for subcommittees. Leave September meetings and cancel later if we decide to do so.

Move November 5 to Wednesday November 6 for subcommittee meeting

Motion to approve amended meeting schedule. John Ryan. Aaron seconded. No discussion. All in favor.

- 6. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Homelessness Update with John Connet – City Manager John Connet provided an update on homelessness in the City that was presented to City Council a few months prior.

In order to gauge the size of the Homeless population, cities do what is called a ‘Point in Time Count’ – which is a federal day where members of the service community go out to locate camps to try to count the number of people in the community. The point in time count was the only number up until recently and this number is unreliable because it is in the winter and people find places to go at that time.

Current / Recent initiatives by the city:

- Police have collected data regarding the homeless population in the last 18 months as it pertains to calls. The chart reports the number of calls that is specifically with homeless people. These calls may not reflect the full amount of people – one call may be for multiple people.
- Code enforcement has taken an aggressive approach to moving people off public/private property as it relates to homeless camps.
  - They use a heavy and soft hand – there are some legalities the city has to follow. City has established a policy that if it is on public property they are given 14 days. They contact Blue Ridge Community Health Services for mental health outreach to attempt to help the people in need before removing a camp.
  - The presentation included a list of homeless camps removed – records kept by Kathy Bragg (Code Enforcement Officer).
- Ordinances already in place:
  - Cannot panhandle in public right of way.
  - Sidewalks are considered a place of free speech.
  - We also have a broad disturbing the peace ordinance that can help in enforcement of nuisance issues.
  - Noted that in the West Coast – courts have ruled that the courts cannot move homeless unless they have a place for them to go.
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Homelessness Committee is a committee of the different Homeless Service organizations in the city. Recently, discussions have been:

- Seeing people we do not know, much more obvious of worsening mental health issues.
- We do not currently have data on who are ‘local’ homeless vs out of town homeless.

The Hendersonville Rescue Mission has about 75 beds. The board members present then had a discussion of high barrier vs low barrier shelters. We do not have a low barrier shelter in Hendersonville. There has been a lot of conversation about the merits of each type of shelter.

City’s approach going forward:

- Individuals have the right to be homeless, they do not have the right to be a nuisance.
- Working to develop a Strategic Plan – bringing committees together in December in coordination with the County, with 4 areas to review. We do not have the capacity to handle mental health or substance abuse.
- County has established drug court. Funding to come from Opioid Settlement.
- Have to make decisions and have the conversation as a community for what to do with people who will not or cannot go to the Rescue Mission.
- Strengthen ordinances to give more tools for code enforcement and law enforcement.

Board questions / comments:

John Ryan asked about low barrier at cold temperatures – it was noted that the Rescue Mission will open when there is extreme temperatures (code purple)

There was discussion among board members regarding the level of support that the community should offer for the homeless population.

5:20 John Connet left to attend a different meeting.

Caroline Gunther requested to board members that they share the information from today's meeting. Share about PD and what they are doing. It is not something the city is not working to find a resolution for.

Would like to revisit the underhoused topic at Downtown Board at a future meeting. Jamie Carpenter will provide

2. 7th Avenue Streetscape Update – Jamie provided a brief update on the streetscape, with information that had been shared with the board and discussed in depth at the Community Character Committee meeting.

3.. Downtown Team and Workplan Updates – This topic was not discussed due to time.

**8. ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn – Mark Pavao**

Location	Tentative or Confirmed 2024?	Event Name	Typical Event Date(s)	Estimated Attendance	Organizer/Contact Name
8th Avenue	4/13/2024	Ville to Ville Craft Brew Relay	Early April Saturday	1,000	Ville to Ville Foundation/Zack Hall
Main Street - 400-500 blocks	4/20/2024	Hendo Earth Fest	Earth Day (April 20?) or Saturday around	1,000	City of Hendersvonville ESB
Maple Street	5/4/2024	Hendersonville Farmers Market	May thru Oct + 2 holiday markets	1000 every occurrence	Friends of Downtown
Main Street - South of Allen	5/5/2024	Fiesta Hendersonville	CHANGE - to May from October	1,500	Hola Carolina
Main Street- 400-500 block	5/11/2024	Jump Off Rock Half Marathon	Scheduled for May 13, 2023	1,000	iDaph Events/Daphne Kirkwood
Main Street - South of Allen		Rhythm & Brews Concert Series	Third Thursdays May-Sept - Considering Change?	2000 per show	Friends of Downtown
Main Street - Full	5/25/2024	Garden Jubilee	Memorial Day Weekend	25,000	Friends of Downtown
Main Street - South of Allen	Typically June - August	Main Street Car Shows	Coincides with Music on Main every Friday June 9 - August 25	500-1000 per occurrence	Carolina Mountain Car Club/William Jacobs
Main Street - South of Allen	Typically June - August	Music on Main	Every Friday June 9 - August 25	500-1000 per occurrence	TDA / Arts Council ?
Main Street - Full	6/8/2024	Antique and Vintage Show	Second or third Saturday in June (June 10, 2023)	5,000	Uncommon Market/Rebecca Nicholas
Main Street - 2nd Avenue South	7/4/2024	Fourth of July Concert and Celebration	Fourth of July	15,000	HC Parks and Rec
Main Street- Full	7/4/2024	Fourth of July Parade	Fourth of July	10,000	Hendersonville Merchants Association

1st Avenue W	July	Oklawaha Summer Fest			Oklawaha Brewing Co
Main Street - no closure	July	Chalk it Up	Two Saturdays after July Fourth		Narnia Studios/Barbara Hughes
Main Street - Full	September (Labor Day)	Apple Festival, Races, Parade	Labor Day Weekend	150,000+	NC Apple Festival
Courthouse - Just parking spaces	September	Walk to end Alzheimers			
Main Street - Full	September	Art on Main	September 23-25, 2022	18,000	HC Arts Council
Locust Street	Late September	Oktoberfest	Late September Saturday (September 24, 2022)		Southern Appalachian Brewery/Kelly Cubbin
Courthouse Square	October	Bear Auction	mid October (Oct 15, 2022)		Friends of Downtown
Main Street - Full	October	Treat Street Carnival	Halloween	10,000	Friends of Downtown + HC Parks and Rec
Courthouse - Just parking spaces	November	Only Hope WNC Sleep Out	Early Nov Friday		Only Hope WNC/Michael Absher
5th Avenue (City Hall)	November	Turkey Trot	Thanksgiving Day		City of Hendersonville/Lu Ann Welter
Courthouse Square	November	Holiday Tree Lighting	Friday after Thanksgiving	5,000 (10k total downtown)	Friends of Downtown
Main Street - Full	December	Holiday Parade	1st Saturday December	15,000	Hendersonville Merchants Association
Courthouse Square	1st Friday- December	Olde Fashioned Christmas (Carriage Rides)	1st Friday December	4,500	Friends of Downtown
Courthouse - Just parking spaces	Later December	Holly Jolly Train Rides			Friends of Downtown
Main Street - 500 block (morning)	December	Jingle Jog 5K	Mid December Saturday		Hope Coalition
Courthouse Square	December	New Years Eve Apple Rise/Drop	New Years Eve		Henderson Co Parks and Rec/Bridgette Galloway