

Tuesday 8 December 2009

To all member associations in the Alliance of Neighborhoods; all individual representatives in the Alliance and Presidents of Neighborhood Associations (from the Neighborhood Association Contacts list from the City of Charlottesville web site.)

As the president of the Alliance Executive Board, I am writing to give you a report on Alliance activities and to ask for your help in specific ways.

Please forward this message to the officers and/or the membership of your NA or HoA.

First some good news:

- The Alliance had its formal start just eight months ago. Since then, we have run successful forums on issues important to the community: the sewer interceptor project, traffic in neighborhoods, and the city council candidates.
- We have helped individual neighborhoods by lending our voice to their appeals to government on specific issues: commercial zoning in residential areas and traffic detours into neighborhoods caused by road and bridge construction.
- We are a partner in the community outreach efforts for the 2010 census.
- We have begun to circulate news of issues that affect all neighborhoods, and we plan a monthly e news bulletin to ensure that neighborhoods get the information they need, without overloading your in-boxes.
- We are simplifying our operating rules and structure.
- We have hardworking and committed officers and members.
- We are (slowly) building our membership.

In all these ways, the Alliance is fulfilling its mission:

- to amplify the voices of individual neighborhoods
- to protect and advance their interests
- to bridge the city/county divide and thus help solve problems of broad importance to all of us who live in the region.

So why do we need your help and what can you do?

We need to hear from the neighborhoods about the issues that they need addressed.

We need participation from the neighborhoods and from you. Three areas of participation are crucial:

-- speak out to your AoN representative about the issues you think the Alliance can and should address.

-- volunteer to serve on the AoN Planning and Research Committee. This committee is key mechanism for the Alliance to develop its stances on specific issues.

-- consider stepping up for the vacancies that will open on the Alliance board in March.

The Alliance membership meets only four times a year in the Assembly. The Alliance Executive Board meets about eight times a year. Our work is not burdensome, *but the organization needs active participants* if we are to build momentum and serve the residents of Charlottesville and Albemarle.

Our next board meeting is Wednesday 6 January at 7 pm in the Jefferson Room of the Central Library (on Market Street, downtown).

Please call or write to me directly to share your concerns and your ideas. And feel free to come to the meeting.

Sincerely,

Jack Brown - 962 9790

On behalf of the Executive Board of the Alliance of Neighborhoods

Our member organizations and their primary representatives are:

In the city - Martha Jefferson (Bruce Odell), North Downtown (Colette Hall), Kellytown (Anne Knox), Jefferson Park (Gail McIntosh), Woolen Mills (Victoria Dunham), Meadowbrook Heights - Rugby (Jack Brown), Venable (Vicki Hawes), Belmont-Carlton (Jessie Fiske).

In the county - Fontana (Lynwood Bell), Peacock Hill (Michelle Nikiforov), Johnson Village (John Shepherd), Rio Heights (Claire Linden)

Our individual members are: Peggy King, Kevin Lynch, Downing Smith, and Joe Kopp

Attached to this email you will find:

- 1) Minutes of the Nov 17, 2009 meeting of the Alliance of Neighborhoods
- 2) A sheet with contact information for resources at the City

Please feel free to contact our Corresponding secretary with any questions you have and/or with any information you would like to have forwarded to the membership list.

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