From:	Stacy Merten
To:	Blake Esselstyn; bteague; byronb; drridout; Guillermo Rodriguez; helenhyatt; keith.mcdade; Laura Collins; laura.bernhud; Linda Giltz; sasha.mitchell; Steven W Sizemore; William Eakins; Winkler.pamela00; Amy Kemp; Barber Melton; Billie Buie; David G. Nutter; Dewyane Barton; Grant Millin; Kim Roney; Sabrah n"haRaven; Sage Turner; Steve Rasmussen; Wilson Sims; Nathan L. Pennington
Cc:	Todd Okolichany; Alan Glines
Subject:	[External] Update on Living Asheville: A Comprehensive Plan for our Future
Date:	Wednesday, March 28, 2018 11:26:29 AM

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless verified. Use the "Phish Alert" button to report all suspicious email.

Dear Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee,

I am excited to report that Planning and Urban Design staff are working with Skidmore Owings and Merrill (SOM) to release the final draft of *Living Asheville: A Comprehensive Plan for our Future,* the week of April 2, 2018. There will be a press release going out once the document is on-line and I'll share that with you when it is available. I would also like to update you on the progress of the comprehensive plan, since we last met in September of 2017.

Planning and Urban Design staff have worked diligently over the past six months, editing the document to reflect the feedback we received from the public and all of you in concert with your respective boards and commissions. Following the prioritization work session in September, planning staff met on numerous occasions with the city's Technical Team and all relevant city government staff to gather their input. This included a review by the Executive Management Team, the Legal Team and the Equity and Inclusion Manager. This process was very beneficial to further refine the prioritization of the plan's strategies and overall language of the plan.

In addition to prioritizing the plan's strategies, the staff worked with SOM on additional improvements to both the format and content of the entire document. A major change included the reorganization of the *Introduction* for improved ease of use. This allowed for the incorporation of additional graphics and analysis from the Market Housing and Economic Strategies Report, as well as the Assessment Report, providing a more robust context and background for the plan's strategies. There has also been a rewrite of suggested performance measures, a simplification of the strategy hierarchy, and the elimination of strategy language that was more tactical in nature.

Other improvements to the document include additional graphics, enhanced photography, improved maps and a Future Land Use Map with a detailed description of future land use categories. The scope was expanded to include a growth scenario analysis, which will analyze the growth capacity within the growth areas and how targeted growth will impact quality of life, as well as transportation, employment, sustainability and fiscal goals. The document will be also be released in a more user friendly format.

Starting in April with the release of the plan, staff will be visiting the various boards and commissions represented by the Advisory Team, as well as the Tree Commission and the Riverfront Redevelopment Commission for the purpose of updating them on the evolution of *Living Asheville*, and reviewing the schedule for adoption.

For those of you not currently serving on a city board or commission, you are invited to the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting April 11, 2018, at 5:00 pm in the City Hall 6th Floor Training Room for an overview of the plan or to any other of the commission meetings scheduled below. Additionally, if you would like more information, Todd or I would be happy to meet with you individually.

Meeting Schedule for Presentation of Final Draft
Affordable Housing Advisory Committee - April 5, 9:30 am, City Hall, 6th Floor HR Training Room
Historic Resources Commission - April 11, 4:00 pm, City Hall, 1st Floor North Conference Room

Planning And Zoning Commission - April 11, 5:00 pm, City Hall, 6th Floor HR Training Room
African American Heritage Commission - April 12,11:30 am, City Hall, 1st Floor North Conference Room
Riverfront Redevelopment Commission - April 12, 4:00 pm, Chamber of Commerce Board Room, 36 Montford Ave.
Downtown Commission - April 13, 8:30 am, City Hall, 1st Floor North Conference Room
Tree Commission - April 16, 3:30 pm, Public Works Building, 161 S. Charlotte Street, A109
SACEE - April 18, 3:30 pm, City Hall, 1st Floor North Conference Room
Neighborhood Advisory Committee - April 23, 6:30 pm, Public Works Building, 161 S. Charlotte Street, A109
Multimodal Transportation Commission - April 25, 3:00 pm, City Hall, 1st Floor North Conference Room
Recreation Board - May 8, 12:30 pm, City Hall, 1st Floor North Conference Room
Public Art and Cultural Commission - **TBD**

Going forward, there is a hearing scheduled for a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission on May 2, 2018, and a hearing before the Asheville City Council for final adoption on May 22, 2018. I will be in touch with you if there is a change in the schedule.

I have enjoyed working with all of you and sincerely appreciate your service and dedication to the planning process. I believe the document has been greatly enhanced through your involvement. As always feel free to contact me with any additional questions or concerns that you may have.

Best Wishes,

Stacy

--
Stacy Merten, Project Manager
Asheville Department of Planning and Urban Design
828-259-5836
smerten@ashevillenc.gov