From: Patrick Conant <patrick@prcapps.com>
Sent: 1/10/2018 10:55:13 PM
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Cc: Gary Jackson <gjackson@ashevillenc.gov>,Dewana little <dewanallittle@gmail.com>
Subject: Blue Ribbon Committee Public Engagement Session

Members of Asheville City Council,

The Blue Ribbon Committee held a public input session tonight at the Edington Center. We had over 50 citizens present, presented our recommendations, and held activities to allow members of the public to present their feedback on the Mission Statement and within each focus area.

City staff were very helpful in setting up the logistics of the event, and Lauren Showfety helped us organize a team of volunteers to capture all of the feedback provided by participants into a single document - all during the event itself.

I felt the event was successful, both in the amount of great ideas we received and the way in which we moved through a lot of information and activities in less than an hour and a half.

However, I am concerned that not a single member of Council was present for this important meeting, and that fact was noted by several members of the public as well.

Weâ€™ve also seen less attendance at our regular meetings from members of Council, so I wanted to reach out and relay our upcoming meeting dates / times, and respectfully request that we have one or members of Council present at future meetings if possible.

We have a regular meeting of the BRC next Wednesday, January 17th, 5:30 PM at the Public Works Building.

We have our second public input session Wednesday, January 24th, 6:30 - 8:00pm at the Shiloh Community Center.

Our final scheduled BRC meeting is January 31st, 5:30 PM at the Public Works Building.

Of these events, I feel that Council attendance at the second public input session is most important - I feel that it is critical that City Council demonstrate their support for the efforts of our Blue Ribbon Committee and show the community that this Human Relations Committee / Council (and broader equity efforts) are a priority for our City.

Thank you,

Patrick Conant