Town Council

NOVEMBER 19, 2024

Consent Agenda

Public Comment

Presentations & Reports

Woodfin YMCA Presentation

PAUL VEST, PRESIDENT & CEO, AND TIM BLENCO, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

WOODFIN TOWN COUNCIL

Nov. 19, 2024

Paul Vest and Tim Blenco

YMCA OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

AGENDA

- About the Woodfin YMCA
- How we serve Woodfin residents
- Childcare challenges

WOODFIN YMCA



YMCA OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

- Celebrating 15 years in Reynolds Village
- Headquarters of the YMCA of Western North Carolina
- Employs dozens of local residents
- Total visits in 2023: 153,333
- Total visits to date in 2024: 164,649

OUR MEMBERS

- 4,274 members based at the Woodfin Y
- 9.2% receive financial assistance, made possible by donor support
- 8% of City of Woodfin residents are members
- 14% of people within a 10-minute drive belong to the Y



NUTRITION OUTREACH HUB



- Nutrition Outreach Hub now calls Woodfin home
- Headquarters for a food delivery network that distributed 115,000 pounds of fresh produce to the community over past year
- Volunteer opportunity for all ages

INCREASING FOOD SECURITY

- The YMCA hosts 20+ monthly food distribution sites across five counties
- Markets offer free produce and nutrition education, no questions asked
- Launched a mobile food market at the Woodfin Y in August
- As of 10/31, we've served 1,890 pounds of produce to 452 neighbors



SUPPORTING COMMUNITY



- From National Night Out to the Woodfin 5K, we participate in local efforts to build community
- Since Helene, we've distributed water and relief supplies at the Y
- The Y hosts public support groups for dementia care, bereavement, and cancer

DEVELOPING YOUTH

- The Town of Woodfin's fields serve as the YMCA's northern site for youth soccer and flag football
- Students from Woodfin Elementary are eligible to attend the Y's afterschool programs at Beaverdam and Weaverville



STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS



- The Y is a place where people from all walks of life come together to explore mutual interests and meet new friends
- We sponsor a variety of clubs for hikers, readers, mahjong players, and more
- Many of these clubs are open to the public

ADVOCATING FOR CHILDCARE

Childcare in NC is at an inflection point.

- This week, the NC legislature will decide whether to extend the wage stabilization funding for childcare workers scheduled to sunset 12/31/24
- WNC ECC, HPI, Verner, the Y, and others are working to develop long-term solutions that work in both rural and urban communities
- Recent events continue to spotlight services like childcare as critical infrastructure to a community



THANK YOU

Paul Vest, pvest@ymcawnc.org
Tim Blenco, tblenco@ymcawnc.org



YMCA OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Town Manager Report

SHANNON TUCH, TOWN MANAGER

Tropical Storm Helene - Recovery

FEMA Public Assistance

- Damage inventories submitted for Stormwater & Roads
- Damage inventory for Silver-Line Park to be submitted next week
- Riverside Park to be split into two separate Public Assistance projects
  - Riverside Park - Expansion
  - Riverside Park - Improvement
- Seeking permit for emergency bank stabilization/repair to Riverside Park Improvement





Tropical Storm Helene - Recovery

Riverside Park Expansion Construction

- Construction schedule for RSP Expansion & Taylor's Wave to be adjusted
  - Taylor's Wave construction on hold based on river conditions
  - Work on-shore (fill removal) proposed this winter
  - Taylor's Wave to be re-initiated in the spring

Tropical Storm Helene - Recovery

Debris Removal

- 1st pass for debris removal along public roads complete
- Debris removal from waterways – awaiting feedback from state/FEMA
- Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR) approved
  - Private roads (one pass)
  - Private parcels (when public safety is threatened)
  - Smaller waterways (creeks, streams, etc.)
  - Requires Right of Entry (ROE) documents
  - Intake process to begin after Thanksgiving

Tropical Storm Helene - Recovery

Water System

- Boil water advisory is lifted for both Asheville and Woodfin!
- If home was built before 1988, it is recommended to flush pipes for 30 seconds to two minutes before use.
- Safe for drinking, cooking, bathing, dishwashing, etc.

Administration

- Contracts: October - November.

SDR	Debris Tech
$400,000*	**$400,000***
(Debris Removal)	**(Monitoring & ROE)**

*Gross estimate incl. on Notice to Proceed

- Powell Bill Inventory Submitted
- Police Chief Recruitment

Planning & PW/Facilities

- November PBOA cancelled
- December PBOA not cancelled – 1 CZ application pending

- Lake Town Lane re-paving project is complete!
- Taylor St. paving project postponed until spring
- Exploring contracting for solid waste collection
- Community Center - FMS open house & Debris site
- Town Hall boiler and electrical repair

Stormwater & Parks

- Taking over Buncombe County SW permit close out – focus on active projects
- Stormwater infrastructure RFQ on hold pending storm related repairs

- Buncombe County Passive Rec. grant on hold until Summer 2025
- Great trails grant application submitted

Police

- Police Chief Assessment process this Thursday, Nov. 21st
  - Candidate Meet & Greet @ 5 p.m.
  - 4 Candidates, all from NC
- New body cameras
- Upgrading DVR in Town Hall & replacing DVR in Property/Evidence Room
- Adding cameras to small conference/interview room
- New Patrol Officer hire – 2 vacancies in patrol remaining

Officer Recognition

Sgt. Andrew Arthur

New Business

Disaster Planning Policy Discussion: A Safe, Happy Hometown: Woodfin

COUNCIL MEMBERS EDGERTON, KAHN, & YOUNG

A Safe, Happy Hometown: Woodfin



Today’s Objectives



- See Woodfin as an opportunity for Demonstration Projects
- Start to Think About a Resiliency Lens
- Include in Retreat Planning

A Safe, Happy Home: Woodfin

At some point in the future…..

Small Town Smarts - Woodfin Punches Above its Weight
NC town pioneers a new path for mountain and river towns in the midst of our volatile climate - **NY Times, July 10, 2030**

Climate-Resilience by the French Broad River
Woodfin in the Blue Ridge Mountains provides its citizens with a safe, happy home while preserving their beautiful environment – **Charlotte Observer, March 23, 2029**

In Woodfin, Disaster Collectivism Turns the Tide
Mountain and river town Woodfin, NC resists the pressures of post-Helene Disaster Capitalism by harnessing local business, environmental activism and citizen's independent spirit - **Fast Company, September, 2028**

Living with the River: Woodfin as Home for Demonstration Projects

WHY NOW?

- A hunger for solutions and to find ways to have less severe recovery needed in the future
- There will be external grants, government funding, resources and collaboration for:
  - Those towns and communities that want to show the way
  - Those towns and communities that are first to articulate a coherent vision
  - Those towns and communities who can demonstrate an ability to execute (e.g., The Wave and Woodfin Greenway-Blueway)
  - Those towns who are willing to work to find these outside resources and collaborators
- People are already talking and planning
- The foundations for the rest of the decade will be set in 2025.

The Climate-Resilient Hometown Lens

Resilience: *(noun)*

The capacity to withstand or recover quickly from difficulties

<u>All ideas and actions should be seen through this lens:</u>

- Does this make us more resilient to the effects of climate change?
  - Reducing exposure
  - Increasing adaptive capacity
  - Supporting response and recovery
- Does this increase resilience equitably?

Asks:

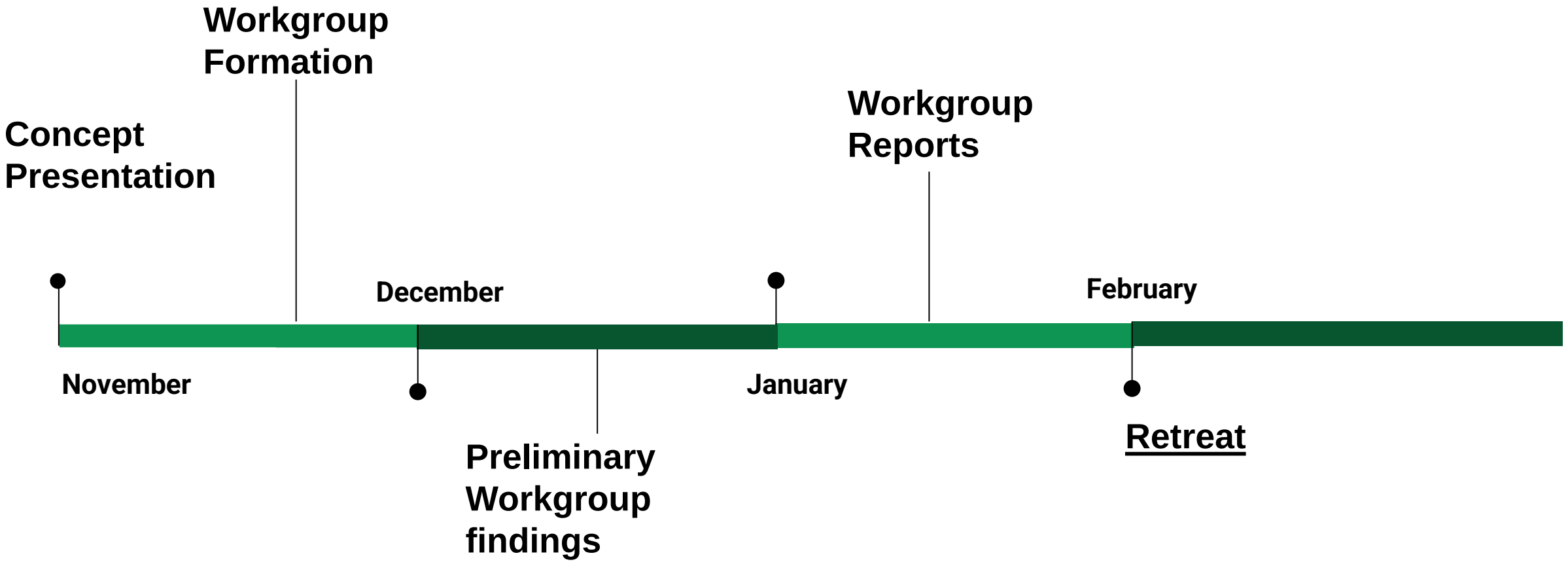
- Approve this for Retreat Agenda
- Approve the Resilience Lens Concept

Next Steps

- What preliminary workgroups are needed
- What kind of teams are on the workgroups
- Examples
  - Ideas for a more resilient Woodfin
  - Funding
  - Implementation Partners
  - Define Resilience Lens

- Workgroups to work towards initial findings for December

Timeline


Workgroup Formation
Concept Presentation
Workgroup Reports
November
December
January
February
Preliminary Workgroup findings
Retreat

Discussion

Solid Waste Management Discussion

SHANNON TUCH, TOWN MANAGER

Solid Waste Collection

- Approaching critical decision point - expand department (staff + trucks) to meet demand, or seek alternative

- Buncombe County conducts RFP process earlier this year
- BC signs contract with FCC Environmental Services in May (service to begin Jan. 1)
- NCGS 143-129(g) provides option to by-pass RFP process for certain types of contracts
- Town contract & procurement policy encourages competitive bid process for service contracts but allows exception if in the public interest

Solid Waste Collection

- Preliminary analysis shows a cost savings by contracting for solid waste collection
  - FCC quote saves approximately $4 per month, per household
  - Reallocation of PW staff resources to parks, roads, & stormwater
  - Other indirect cost & resource savings

- Cost savings contemplates a 50% reduction in force
  - Employees with CDL would be offered positions with FCC
  - Potential increase in hourly wage + change in benefits

Solid Waste Collection

- Timing
  - Flexible but quotes are time limited and subject to change
  - Can fold into the budget discussion

- Next Steps
  - Explore council interest
  - Identify questions & seek more information
  - Weigh various considerations
  - Respond to FCC

Closed Session

Adjournment