People and Environment Helene Recovery Board Annual Report

Planning, Economic Development & Environment Committee

Jack Igelman, Chair

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE



Key Takeaways

- **Recovery Boards** have provided engagement amplification, cross-sector input, and recommendations on key recovery projects and policy initiatives that support City Council in decision making.
- **This Annual Report** outlines board engagement, input delivered to City Council, and relevant resulting actions when applicable.



People and Environment Recovery Board Scope

- Provides input to City Council on
  - **policy recommendations** that strengthen the city's ability to **prepare for and respond to climate-related disasters**, **support environmental sustainability**, and recognize the impact and **role of Asheville's natural resources in recovery**
  - ways to **support neighborhood-level resilience and preparedness efforts** that build community capacity to withstand future challenges.
- Supports City Council by
  - consulting existing resources and tools to include known **climate vulnerability considerations into policy and programming recommendations**
  - providing input on ways to **support residents** recovering from disaster impacts while **strengthening long-term community resilience**
  - **helping residents feel informed, engaged, and connected to recovery resources** through each member's respective networks

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Key board agenda topics:

- Resilience Hubs (2/2, 4/13, 8/3, 10/5)
- Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP) (4/13, 2/2, 8/3)
- CDBG-DR Planning Allocation (4/13, 6/23)
- Parks Recovery Projects
  - French Broad (6/23)
  - Azalea Parks & Infrastructure (8/25)
- Biltmore Village Infrastructure Project (8/25)
- 91 Riverside Drive (10/5)

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Board Input and Connection to Council 1:

Resilience Hubs

- **Board input**: Participated in community events and promoted Resilience Hub Mapping Survey. Board feedback informed the Resilience Hub Mapping project and CDBG-DR Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) program development.
- **Feedback Loop with Council:** Input from P&E was provided to Planning, Economic Development and Environment (PEDE) Council Committee on 8/18/26 to be considered as they provided additional direction and input to project managers

Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP)

- **Board input**: Supported project engagement, promoted the UFMP survey, and participated in UFMP community events. Provided feedback on UFMP draft strategies for incorporation into final draft.
- **Feedback Loop with Council:** Input will inform the final draft of UFMP guiding principles, goals, strategies, and action steps which will be presented to PEDE in Winter 2027

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Board Input and Connection to Council 2:

- CDBG-DR Planning Allocation
  - **Board input:** Project specific input from the board will be incorporated during project development and evaluation. The board recommended allocating CDBG-DR planning funding for 5 projects (Emergency Shelter Development Plan, Strategic Planning Process, Comprehensive Plan and Development Ordinance Update, Deaverview Master Plan, Economic Development Strategic Action Plan).
  - **Feedback Loop with Council:** Input from P&E was reported to the City Council Work Session on Policy, Finance, and Infrastructure (PFI) on 4/28/2026 and 6/23/2026 and resulted in Council allocating funding for these 5 projects.
- Biltmore Infrastructure
  - **Board input:** Board feedback will be used to inform future project communications and will be integrated into the final design to the extent possible, once construction begins (projected to begin in early 2027).
  - **Feedback Loop with Council:** City Council heard a report on Biltmore Village Infrastructure Project at the September 8, 2026 City Council meeting

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Board Input and Connection to Council 3:

- Parks Recovery Projects
  1. French Broad
  2. Azalea Parks & Infrastructure
     - **Board input**: Board members participated in French Broad and Azalea community events and promoted survey participation for both projects. Board feedback will be integrated into the final design concepts for both the French Broad and Azalea Parks and Infrastructure Projects.
     - **Feedback Loop with Council:** Input from P&E was reported to the City Council Work Session on Policy, Finance, and Infrastructure (PFI) on June 23rd and full Council on August 25th and informed the feedback and direction Council provided to the project consultants.



THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Board Input and Connection to Council 4:

- 91 Riverside
  - **Board input:** Board voted to recommend City Council approval of a lease of the property at 91 Riverside Drive to RiverLink, Inc. Site specific recommendations and feedback will be incorporated into the communications plan, project design, and into the lease agreement, as appropriate.
  - **Feedback Loop with Council:** P&E's recommendation to approve the lease agreement was reported to City Council at the agenda briefing on 11/5/26. At the November 10, 2026 City Council meeting, Council voted to enter into a 15-year lease agreement with Riverlink, Inc. for the property at 91 Riverside Drive.



Questions?