

From the Executive Director

David MacDonald

Asylum Hill Strategic Planning Steering Committee met to review draft recommendations

AHNA's Strategic Planning Task Forces are continuing with their work to develop recommendations and goals to guide the revitalization of Asylum Hill for the next ten (10) years. The Asylum Hill Strategic Planning Steering Committee met on June 23rd to review the draft recommendations of 6 of the 8 Task Forces.

The Steering Committee reviewed the draft recommendations from Arts & Culture, Environment and Green Initiatives, Economic Development, Workforce, Housing, and Human Services Task Forces. Two Task Forces recommended organizing a Farmington Avenue festival. Economic Development wants a Farmington Avenue festival to help support our local merchants and promote the history of Asylum Hill. Arts and Culture also recommended a Farmington Avenue festival to promote the Arts and history along the avenue from art galleries at ArtSpace and the 224 Ecospace to the historic Stowe Center and Twain museum. Both Task Forces saw our neighborhood's art and history as assets to promote our neighborhood as a destination.

The Steering Committee members asked questions and offered suggestions for improvements to the plans. However, most all the recommendations were positively received by the Steering Committee. The Youth and Public Safety Task Force recommendations will be reviewed at the next Steering Committee meeting in late August. The Youth Task Force's recommendations are focused on engaging more collaborations with youth agencies serving Asylum Hill youth and supporting youth leadership in our work, by providing opportunities for youth leaders to take on issues of concern to them.

The Public Safety Task Force has more work to do and will be meeting on July 21 at 7pm to review public safety in Asylum Hill and begin developing recommendations. If you are interested in joining the discussion on public safety in Asylum Hill, please contact me at exdir@asylumhill.org or 860-805-8935.