



SOUTH CHARLOTTE

PARTNERS

South Charlotte Partners



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PARTNERS

Mission Statement

To be a unified voice for the interests of South Charlotte through advocacy, leadership, and collaboration

Vision

To assist in promoting and maintaining the area's quality of life as being a premier destination to live, work, and play



Board Members

Victoria Nwasike, Chair
Wil Brooks
Tracy Hill
Vinay Patel

Ray Eschert, Vice Chair
Greg Duckworth
David Huss
Stephen Rosenburgh

Board Advisors

Ned Curran (General)
Taiwo Jaiyeoba (Planning)
Lt. John Kitchen (Police)

Alicia Campbell (Health)
Batt. Chf. Phil Bosche (Fire)



Priorities



Areas of Interest





Activities

Area
Advocacy

Secure
Additional
Funds



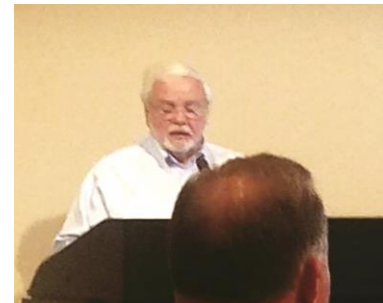
LETTERS SENT TO:

Mayor Lyles	Area Funding
Gov. Cooper	I-485 Express Ln
Dir. Memory	I-485 Express Ln
Sec. Cook	Lancaster Hwy
Eng. Rochelle	Tom Short Inter.

Addressing City Council
about area funding



Addressing CRTPO
about area roads



OUTCOMES

\$25 million allocated
in area
improvements.

Advancement of the
\$203 Million I-485
Project.



Prioritizing Road Projects



Activities

Area
Advocacy

Secure
Additional
Funds

Notices for the
Ballantyne
Community

LOCAL ROADS

Provide alerts of Public
Comment Periods to Fund
Roads

Highlighted Outcome:

South Charlotte projects received
the 1st and 2nd highest # of
comments for each public
comment period

Our Roads Received Full CRTPO Points for Funding

Ardrey Kell Rd. (2 Projects)

Ballantyne Commons Pkwy.

Lancaster Hwy. (2 projects)

Additional Activities

- Advocating for transit options in Ballantyne
- Advocated for Resolution from Pineville supporting Light Rail into Ballantyne
 - Advocating for Area Transportation Study
- Hosting Regional Transportation Summit on March 25, 2019

Intersections & Sidewalks

Prioritizing the
\$5million allocated
city's 2019 budget for
4 local intersection
projects and 3
sidewalk projects





Activities

Meetings With Gov. Leaders

Charlotte City Manager Jones

Charlotte City Council Members

CDOT Director Babson

Planning Director Jaiyoeba

CATS Director John Lewis

NCDOT Bd Member Lathrop

NCDOT Div. Engineer Scott Cole

Mayor Bailey - Matthews

Mayor Edwards - Pineville

Engagement
with Local
Leaders

Engaging Leaders in Government & Business



Sponsored Charlotte
Regional Business
Alliance Events





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Activities

Hosted Community Meetings

Community
Engagement

Planning Dir. Taiwo Jaiyeoba



NCDOT Div. Engr. Scott Cole



City Manager Marcus Jones





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Ballantyne Breakfast Club

Ballantyne Breakfast Club – Community Meetings and Events

Community
Engagement

Community Safety Meeting



Ballantyne Candidates Picnic



Back to School Meeting





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Ballantyne Breakfast Club

Ballantyne Breakfast Club – Community Meetings and Events

Community
Engagement

Meeting with Mayor Lyles



Meeting with Tax Assessor



Growth & Dev. Meeting





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Activities

Community Engagement

Community Safety



CMPD Leaders at SCP
Board Meeting



Neighborhoods

Arranged neighborhood
meeting for Bryant Farm's Rd.
with CDOT



Alerted the community
of rezoning hearings



Cultural Activities



Working with the Arts &
Science Council to
promote and support
cultural events in
Ballantyne



S. Charlotte group wants better roads, more spending

BY ELY PORTILLO
elyportillo@charlotteobserver.com

After years of simmering discontent and growing traffic, a newly formed advocacy group is pushing for more spending on roads and other infrastructure in south Charlotte.

Called South Charlotte Partners, the nonprofit is an offshoot of the Ballantyne Breakfast Club, a civic discussion group founded in 2001. The group's eventual aim is to become a full-fledged "municipal service district," similar to Charlotte Center City Partners or University City Partners. Those groups receive funding from taxes on property in the areas they represent and advocate for those areas with local governments.

Ray Eschert, founder of the Ballantyne Breakfast Club, said the new group will have a heavy focus on transportation. In addition to new office space coming to Ballantyne Corporate Park, there



Ray Eschert



Traffic along Ballantyne Commons Parkway and Johnston Road near the Ballantyne Hotel.

ment that they don't want to restart talk of breaking away.

"We're part of Charlotte. We're not interested in any talk of splitting off on our own," said Morgan.

For now, the group is operating on a volunteer basis and with support of corporate sponsors, the biggest by far of which is Northwood Office. The New York-based company bought Ballantyne Corporate Park — the 535-acre colossus of office buildings, hotels and a golf course that replaced roll-

representation to the residential areas.

Eschert said south Charlotte hasn't received enough attention to its roads and other needs because "the area has a reputation for having everything." The 28277 ZIP code, which covers the area between U.S. 521 and Providence Road, has a median household income of \$98,186, well above Mecklenburg County's average of about \$59,000. It's the third-highest earning ZIP code in the county.

Insider: Reader wonders if client can legally abandon bill • Page 3A

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From breakfast to advocacy

Ballantyne leaders becoming more active in infrastructure

by Justin Vick
justin@cmjweekly.com

CHARLOTTE — Since 2001, Ray Eschert has been inviting city and county leaders to engage with neighbors at Ballantyne Breakfast Club meetings. In recent months, the "Mayor of Ballantyne" has become more of an advocate for the south Charlotte region.

He left his role as chairman of the Ballantyne Breakfast Club last year to take on more responsibility with the South Charlotte Partners, a new group working to enhance the quality of life for residents and businesses in the region.

Eschert penned a letter May 30 to Mayor Vi Lyles and the Charlotte City Council, on behalf of South Charlotte Partners, thanking leaders for including in their budget \$20 million in funding for the extension of Bryan Farms Road and \$5 million for public safety projects.

Eschert asked the council for an additional \$5 million for other projects. He followed the letter up by asking the council in person on Jan. 11.

"The ability to identify things that need to be looked at and then bringing some weight behind them definitely gets attention," Eschert said.

Tim Morgan and Victoria Newkirk have not only taken over the Ballantyne Breakfast Club, but they also work with Eschert on the volunteer board of the South Charlotte Partners.

While the Ballantyne Breakfast Club will continue to serve as a communications network between residents and elected bodies, the South Charlotte Partners will be focused more on policy issues, Morgan said.

Both groups are working together to bring more infrastructure to the community.

"For years, it's always been recognized that as a donor district, we were providing a lot of funding and getting very little of it in return," Eschert said.

The dynamics changed when Smoky Bissell and his Bissell Companies sold Ballantyne Corporate Park to Northwood Investment last year. Ballantyne leaders credit Bissell, not the city, for many of the road improvements around the 535-acre park.

One of the perks of having Eschert and

Newkirk on the South Charlotte Partners board is their experience on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission. This allows them to work with developers on bringing better projects to the region.

"From my experience serving on the planning commission, you start to realize the hostility toward the developers has been based on the fact that there's been no up-front conversations," Eschert said.

Developers looking to invest in the Ballantyne area have traditionally depended on city staff for meetings, but city staff doesn't necessarily have the strongest pulse of the community. They now know to give Eschert a call.

"We obviously are not trying to tell somebody what their project has to look like, but it's providing an opportunity for those folks to get some information to know what they're expecting into," Morgan said. "So when they have their community meetings, they are better prepared."

Such dialogue could help increase the amount of buffers or decrease the number of housing units in a given project.

Eschert has advocated on behalf of the South Charlotte Partners beyond the city limits. He recently encouraged the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization to go ahead and widen Lancaster Highway.

He's also written Gov. Roy Cooper to advance construction of managed lanes for Interstate 485, a project that could alleviate traffic congestion coming from Matthews and Union County. The group said it has received favorable feedback from the North Carolina Temple Authority.

Newkirk envisions South Charlotte Partners overseeing a Municipal Service District, similar to Center City Partners or University City Partners. They are taking directors that improve quality of life in a commercial area.

For example, the University City Partners completed a study a few years ago outlining how the community would like to see light rail stations develop along the LYNX Blue Line Extension. With enough funding, the South Charlotte Partners could have paid staff supporting the volunteer board's efforts.

As for the Ballantyne Breakfast Club, Morgan and Newkirk have been able to pick up where Eschert has left off with programming. Their next event is the annual back to school panel on Aug. 11, featuring Superintendent Clayton Wilson and school board members Mary McCray and Sean Smith. Visit www.ballantyneshouldstartclub.com to learn more about both groups.

CHARLOTTE BUSINESS JOURNAL



South Charlotte Partners sees momentum for once-stalled \$203M project - Charlotte Business Journal

South Charlotte Partners is pushing for a 17-mile, \$203 million project to get started soon — a project previously scheduled to be under construction last year. A response this week from the N.C. Turn

bizjournals.com

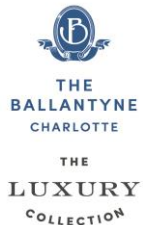


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Elaine Eschert, Realtor



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