

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Monday, November 7, 2011

7:00 P.M. Strategic Plan Town Hall Meeting

MINUTES

Place: Northern High School, 110 Tom Wilkinson Road, Durham NC

Present: Vice-Chair Ellen W. Reckhow and Commissioners, Joe A. Bowser, Brenda A. Howerton, and Pam Karriker

Staff: County Manager Mike Ruffin; Deputy County Managers Marqueta Welton and Lee Worsley; Assistant County Managers Drew Cummings and Deborah Craig-Ray; Assistant to the County Manager Michael Davis; Lowell Siler, County Attorney; and Michelle Parker-Evans, Clerk to the Board

Consultants: Michael Palmer, Tyrone Baines, and Zelos consultants, Lou O'Boyle and Kathy Keeley

Michael Palmer welcomed the group of 21 citizens and asked them to give a brief introduction. The County Manager introduced County staff.

Mr. Palmer gave a brief explanation of the strategic plan initiative and emphasized that the plan was the community's plan.

The audience shared the following comments regarding benchmarks for the goals presented:

Goal: Community & Family Prosperity and Enrichment

- Graduate 4 years after entering high school
- Enrichment– not addressed in definition
- Reduction of arts was a negative
- Child care opportunities
- Determine why people leave or stay in Durham

Goal: Health and Well-Being for All

- Senior citizens – look at their needs differently
- Increasing awareness and education
- Jail included in Mental Health data
- Accessibility (ADA)
- Services to community, especially for seniors
- Holistic services and cultural competence, including trauma informed services
- Health mobile unit similar to bookmobile for rural areas

Goal: Safe and Secure Community

- Correlation between increase in crime and joblessness
- More positive activities for youth
- Abandoned lots, houses
- Schools and bullying
- 90 percent of crime happens in City of Durham
- Partners Against Crime (County)
- Judicial system
- Listserv for neighborhoods

Goal: Environmental Stewardship

- Develop standards
- Proposed building plans
- How to grow county with the least impact – smart growth

- Timeline for planning
- Spend more money on animal services

Goal: Accessible, Efficient & Visionary Government

- Accountability of where money goes
- Requiring new set of GAAPs
- Change status quo
- Use of Best practices
- Transparency and education
- Neighborhood College participation
- Performance based standards (make sure benchmarks match community)

A citizen made a plea to consider animal protection in the strategic plan.

Manager Ruffin thanked the citizens for coming out and sharing their comments and views. He commented on branding Durham County.

Dr. Tyrone Baines briefly explained how the mission and vision statements for Durham County and the strategic plan were developed.

The Board of County Commissioners thanked the community for coming out and sharing in the community plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



V. Michelle Parker-Evans
Clerk to the Board