

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

Monday, October 7, 2013

9:00 A.M. Worksession

MINUTES

Place: Commissioners' Meeting Room, second floor, Durham County Government Administrative Complex, 200 E. Main Street, Durham, NC

Present: Chairman Fred Foster, Jr., Vice-Chair Brenda A. Howerton, and Commissioners Michael D. Page, Wendy Jacobs and Ellen W. Reckhow

Presider: Chairman Fred Foster, Jr.

Citizen Comments

The Board of County Commissioners provided a 30-minute comment period to allow Durham County citizens an opportunity to speak. Citizens were requested to refrain from addressing issues related to personal matters. The following citizens spoke:

Mr. Terry Rekeweg spoke about the Durham-Orange Light Rail Project. Mr. Rekeweg proposed a revision to the project stating that the alternative calls for changes that will help resolve issues.

Ms. Wanda Boone spoke about adolescent substance use and abuse in Durham County. Ms. Boone stated that there is a lack of cohesiveness. Ms. Boone mentioned including a \$5000.00 contribution from her grant funds to go towards the community engagement process of the proposed Youth Initiative.

Ms. Lorisa Seibel spoke on behalf of the Durham People's Alliance and Durham CAN. She discussed affordable housing and transit.

Ms. Rhiba Hicks spoke about working with the City and the County on a functional Planning Department to leverage affordable housing in the community.

Mr. John Tarantino provided a musical tribute regarding transportation.

Mr. DeWarren Langley spoke about Youth Services--efforts and ways to coordinate programs and services.

North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' (NCACC) Video to Introduce New President

The Board reviewed a 4-minute video that introduced Ray Jeffers, NCACC President; updated county commissioners on the various steering committees, and explained how commissioners could participate. The video also provided a brief overview of the Affordable Health Care Act and its effects.

Vice Chair Howerton mentioned that she attended a six day education training course in Chapel Hill, NC and shared how meaningful it was to interact with other elected officials.

Commissioner Reckhow made reference to an Affordable Health Care Act Seminar on October 15, 2013 that was mentioned in the video. Commissioner Reckhow asked the Clerk to the Board to check for registration and follow up with the Board.

Made in Durham (MDC) Progress Report

Mr. David Dodson, President of MDC shared a presentation on the status report titled “*Made in Durham: Building an Education to Career System.*” Mr. Dodson stated the end goal was to provide a post secondary credential for disconnected youth. He stated that this Education to Career System would ensure that all Durham youth and young adults had, by age 25, a credential beyond high school that equipped them for employment and living wage work. The goal is to also ensure that Durham youth have an equal advantage in the labor market as job seeking youth from outside the Durham area.

Mr. Dodson reviewed a PowerPoint presentation which referenced the vision and characteristics of the MDC. The Vision of the system is: A “dual customer system” that satisfies two complementary goals: to prepare youth and young adults for rewarding careers and to meet employer demand for a skilled, productive workforce. The characteristics of the system include: multiple pathways, blended learning and work, demand-led training, adult guidance and advocacy, and cross-sector collaboration.

Commissioner Page asked Mr. Dodson to respond to several questions including to define the term neglected age group; would there be a selected group of children that would participate in the program; would there be instant results; and he questioned whether this was the first program. Mr. Dodson responded that the age group 14-25 does not get a lot of social attention. While moving into early adulthood, this program would focus on the early years. Mr. Dodson also responded that this is a Proto-type program that would involve education in the schools. He added that this is Durham’s first attempt to design and build this concept; however Boston and Grand Rapids are two cities that have already put this concept to use. Commissioner Page mentioned that he would like to see the composition of the group in Durham. Mr. Dodson stated that there are 100 active people and a list will be provided.

Vice Chair Howerton inquired about the plan for the 14 year olds regarding engagement since they are not old enough to work. Mr. Dodson responded that there will be job shadowing experiences, short internships, bringing businesses into the classroom, engagement and other exposure offered. Mr. Dodson also mentioned that there will be tracking available on how successful the students are once involved in the program.

Commissioner Jacobs commented that since the report, the graduation rate had improved as well as other initiatives since the youth work program has been expanded.

Commissioner Reckhow stated that more progress needs to be made. She asked if there were any manufacturing facilities involved. Mr. Dodson stated that many were invited but did not respond. Commissioner Reckhow stated that we need several members of manufacturing and made a recommendation to start the age at 11 years old instead of 14 years old because many of decisions are made during the middle school years. Commissioner Reckhow mentioned the

implementation date and that she would like to see more solid information available on the website. Mr. Dodson responded that they would start next year and will begin to see results by 2020. Mr. Dodson also mentioned that the private sector holding the jobs are now heavily involved and are the driving force. The group is open to suggestions and feedback and will bring all updates to the next task force meeting.

Chairman Foster mentioned a statement made by Mr. Dodson about MDC not being the driving force, and asked for clarification of MDC's role. Mr. Dodson stated that MDC is "sheparding" the Made in Durham design process and does not intend to be the leadership group. MDC will recommend that Durham creates something to hold the pieces together. Chairman Foster asked what the ultimate recommendation would be. Mr. Dodson stated the recommendation would be a public private partnership.

Youth Opportunity Proposal

County Manager Michael Ruffin stated that he hoped a decision could be made today at the meeting about moving forward and bringing systems together and the lack of cohesiveness across the systems.

Ms. Ann Oshel, Alliance Behavioral Healthcare, showed a Youth of BECOMING video clip about what the proposal would do and the concerns about Alliance Behavioral Healthcare being the physical agent. She stated that the video will also be available in Spanish. Ms. Oshel explained that the slogan "It is OK to ask for help" would be displayed on the side of buses, in kiosks and movie theaters.

Ms. Oshel shared a presentation explaining the program and requested the Board grant approval for Alliance to hire two positions (Youth Service Director and Youth Opportunity Coordinator); facilitate strategic planning process; establish a Youth Service Steering Committee and leverage existing resources through BECOMING.

Commissioner Reckhow requested clarification if the existing Youth Council would be used or if a new one would be established. Ms. Oshel stated the Youth Council is what BECOMING calls their youth group and they are involved in the Office of Youth where they learn about resources. Commissioner Reckhow asked how many members are in this group. Ms. Oshel responded that the numbers varies. BECOMING has about 25-35 attendees that meet twice a month and they have also conducted a weekly resource group and have hosted a youth leadership institute group.

Commissioner Page remarked that County Manager Ruffin wanted a decision made today, but he was not comfortable moving on this issue due to the list of issues that needed to be addressed. Chairman Foster and Vice Chair Howerton agreed.

Vice Chair Howerton asked Ms. Oshel to address accountability, directors, funding and reporting structure. Ms. Oshel stated that the reporting structure consisted of three entities: the City County School Leadership Committee, Alliance Board of Directors and the Durham Directors. Vice Chair Howerton mentioned if a Commissioner is not in the group, it leaves other members uninformed. Ms. Oshel stated that public reports were also available if Commissioners were not part of the group. Vice Chair Howerton mentioned the Board was not aware of referrals to John Umstead Mental Hospital in Butner, NC and asked how the Board would be involved in the process so they could provide information to the community. She inquired about the structure

and the operation. Ms. Oshel stated this initiative is needed and information would be available to the community. Regarding funding, Alliance would like it to be a self governance system, looking for diversified funding at state, government and local funding. Ms. Oshel stated that Alliance would be accountable to the Board. Vice Chair Howerton mentioned that there needed to be visibility to the community on the website.

Commissioner Jacobs stated that we have partnerships with the City of Durham and Durham Public Schools and this program is needed because it does not exist.

Commissioner Page asked if the MDC project and the BECOMING project were aligned and would work together. Commissioner Page mentioned his concerns with accountability and questioned if this program would be for disconnected transition age youth. He also mentioned that this does not reach out to what we initially intended and some kids are not being considered in the model. Ms. Oshel stated for clarification that the IBM recommendation was where this proposal originated and if the need is beyond the scope of the recommendations, then it can be tailored to fit that need. Commissioner Page mentioned to the Board that he was under the impression that the County was creating their own venue in this regard.

Vice Chair Brenda Howerton referenced the age group for this program and stated that by the age of 16, most are already in the judicial system.

Commissioner Reckhow recommended that a member of the Board be placed on the committee along with representation from Cooperative Extension. Commissioner Reckhow asked how many staff members are currently working. Ms. Oshel stated that there will be 6 project management team members and a total of 30 people working in the community. Commissioner Reckhow asked how the Youth Opportunity Initiative would assist a counselor with a middle school student facing problems. Ms. Oshel stated that there is currently no system in place just--fragmented pieces. Once a system is in place, co-located people will be assigned to "hot spots," there will be a 3 hour training offered to staff and the ideal system will have safety nets in place. Commissioner Reckhow mentioned the three main missions: increasing level of coordination, adding to the services that exist, and helping to steer young people to the right assistance.

Commissioner Reckhow suggested amending the proposal to include ages 11-25 which includes middle school years and asked that the Board put it on the agenda for regular meeting (10/14 or 10/28) to approve the proposal.

Chairman Foster mentioned that this process had been attempted before by Commissioner Mary-Ann Black and former Mayor Sylvia Kerckhoff in 2002, but it was defunded. Chairman Foster stated that City of Durham or Durham County need to take ownership and we need solutions. Chairman Foster stated that he was not ready to move forward at this time.

Commissioner Reckhow mentioned that there was no evidence of the progress, which is why it was defunded and it did not have the infrastructure at the time.

County Manager Ruffin stated that the end goal was the same; it was the how and the details that stopped the program.

Commissioner Page mentioned that BECOMING could be a major part of the process and asked that the Commissioners look at creating a Youth Program from the County. This program would

help address the issues that our youth are having in the community. This could help BECOMING, and Cooperative Extension and create a Youth Opportunities Office. Commissioner Page asked that the Board discuss this further.

Chairman Foster asked if MDC would continue to exist with BECOMING and if so, would they work together since they both would be working towards the same goals. Chairman Foster mentioned the use of funds and how they could be shared with areas under the same umbrella, not just disconnected youth, but the youth in general.

Commissioner Page asked that the Board come together to create something for the youth.

County Manager Ruffin stated that youth were addressed in several ways; however the County does not have the same options as the City of Durham. Mr. Ruffin stated that this program would offer and accomplish what the County wants but it would just be placed under Alliance instead of the County.

Commissioner Page stated that we need to encourage and support the youth so they feel they are not connected to a Mental Health Program and he was not sure if BECOMING would be something that young people would want to be a part of. Ms. Oshel stated that she did not agree and felt like "Hello, Help, Heal" would encourage people to join.

Vice Chair Howerton mentioned that according to the City's website, the Mayor's Youth Commission did not allow County youth to participate. Vice Chair Howerton asked that the Board address its own concerns prior to bringing Ms. Oshel back for discussion.

Commissioner Jacobs stated that Alliance is a physical agent, and that the two positions do not need to be housed at Alliance, they can be placed anywhere. Commissioner Jacobs referenced the three City programs (Youth Work Group, Teen Center and Youth Council) and the three County programs (4-H Youth Program, Jr. Leadership Program and Kids Voting) that are completely different and serve different needs.

Commissioner Reckhow mentioned volunteering with the staff to bring back information and creating a greater role for Cooperative Extension. The front door should be welcoming to all youth in the community.

Commissioner Page concurred with Commissioner Reckhow and agreed to work with her on this initiative.

Vice Chair Howerton requested that a report be viewed before action is taken.

County Manager Ruffin stated that Ms. Oshel and Ms. Delphine Sellers, Director of Cooperative Extension will work closely with Commissioners Reckhow and Page as well.

Chairman Foster mentioned bringing in Mr. David Dodson from MDC to be sure it is inclusive and no separate reports are given.

Joint City-County Planning Department Annual Work Program

Manager Ruffin stated that he asked Mr. Steve Medlin, City-County Planning Director, to discuss the revisions to the Work Program that would complete the Affordable Housing Assessment and Plan without additional funding if it was not available.

Vice Chair Howerton stated the budget was passed to have funding removed from the budget, but comments from community indicated there was an outcry to reallocate funding because of how it would affect affordable housing. As Chair of Joint City County Planning Committee (JCCPC), Vice Chair Howerton could not make decisions without the Board hearing the recommendations.

Mr. Medlin stated the City and County managers asked him to evaluate the work program on both partial and full loss of funding. He stated that with partial loss of funding, Planning would decrease the amount of staff allocation toward Affordable Housing and the JCCPC passed a motion that asked for full funding. Mr. Medlin continued saying that Planning also asked the Board to reconsider their funding and suggestions were made to not work on the Mixed Use Ordinance. He concluded that it was also suggested that a smaller amount of time be spent on the Urban Open Space Plan and the Gateway Implementation Plan.

Commissioner Reckhow noted that Affordable Housing work is essential and important criteria needs to be met. Triangle JCOG and TTA are all working together. Commissioner Reckhow reminded the Board that it is a reallocation of one position and she hoped that creative solutions could be addressed.

Commissioner Jacobs asked Mr. Medlin how \$85,000 translated into two positions. Mr. Medlin stated that the \$85,000 covered salary and benefits for a Senior Planner and a Planner Position. Mr. Medlin pointed out that we are already in this fiscal year and their positions may have to be eliminated later in the year. Commissioner Jacobs inquired about the Site Planner Position and the amount, and if the Board moved forward, what would be the next step. Mr. Medlin stated that amount would be \$55,000 which included benefits and salary. He added that the questioned Planner is considered a senior level position and the person would need to be highly experienced and require minimal supervision. The next step would be to go back to JCCPC for approval along with the City Council, then it would come back to the Board. Commissioner Jacobs stated that if the Board goes back to the original work plan, it would not go back to JCCPC. Mr. Medlin commented that the statement was correct because JCCPC had already ratified the full funding.

Commissioner Jacobs mentioned a report that Mr. Medlin provided to JCCPC on August 7, 2013 in regards to the site plan reviews. Commissioner Jacobs added her concerns that not fully funding the Planning Department could cause delays in the site plan reviews which could impact economic development and negatively impact staff morale. She discussed the need to make the best decision for the community and address the concern of funding.

Commissioner Page stated he supported the Affordable Housing component and we needed a commitment from the Joint City-County Committee.

Chairman Foster stated he was in support of the proposal and that we are in a multi-judicial area. Chairman Foster mentioned that the government shut-down has resulted in limited funding so there is a need to be cautious with spending. Chairman Foster stated that he supported the Manager and Mr. Medlin.

Vice Chair Howerton stated that she supported Affordable Housing and felt that full funding should be reconsidered.

Commissioner Reckhow moved, seconded by Commissioner Page to suspend the Rules.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Reckhow moved, seconded by Commissioner Page to endorse the Amended Work Plan.

Ayes: Chairman Foster, Commissioner Page and Commissioner Reckhow
Noes: Vice Chair Howerton and Commissioner Jacobs

DSS Main Street Facility Demolition and Redevelopment Update

Mr. Glen Whisler, County Engineer stated the intent of this update was to present several design concepts and receive direction from the Board on the redevelopment of the site as a civic plaza.

Mr. Dan Jewell, RLA, Coulter Jewell Thames, PA gave a presentation that included the history of the Department of Social Services (DSS) building, an outline of the process for finalizing the design, demolition and a project schedule. The DSS location would become a landmark in itself near the railroad. Mr. Jewell stated that if a green space or plaza was created, it could become known as a public civic place in downtown Durham.

Mr. Kevin Turner, AIA, The Freelon Group, Inc. mentioned the challenge was to safely demolish the building and replace it with a civic plaza that would provide a positive intervention in an urban environment. Mr. Turner discussed the following in detail and described how it would affect the look of the plaza: (1) Topography, (2) Pedestrian Access (3) Utilities and Dumpsters (4) Service Access.

Mr. Turner emphasized that the sketches were development strategies and were not the actual designs for the plaza. He gave a description of the each layout as follows: (1) Main Street Centric – Flat plaza that focused on Main Street and will include ramps and stairs for pedestrians, (2) Galleries – flows Roxboro Street and steps down, this could include public art or sculpture concept with landscape (3) Terraces – start the Main Street centric and follows down which encourages pedestrians to move through the plaza.

Commissioner Jacobs suggested best ways for this space to be used. She suggested ideas which included a space for lunch, gatherings and performances as well as the space being low maintenance. Commissioner Jacobs mentioned that she would like to incorporate different concepts in the design.

Commissioner Reckhow stated she would like it to be greener than the SunTrust area as well as a multi-purpose space so it could be a gathering place for speakers and events.

Chairman Foster commented that he would like to see lights and water added to the design.

Mr. Whisler reviewed the process including stakeholder input as well as the demolition/design phase.

Vice Chair Howerton asked Mr. Whisler if the Historic Commission could stop the demolition. Mr. Whisler replied that the Commission could not stop the demolition; however, they could delay it for up to 12 months while they evaluated the proposal.

Commissioner Jacobs added that the County employees' feedback should be included as they would be using that space as well. Commissioner Jacobs asked if materials would be saved and reused during the demolition process. Mr. Whisler responded that it is now mandatory that all the components be reused or recycled.

World War I Memorial Located at the Old Durham County Courthouse

Mr. Lee Worsley mentioned that the City-County Appearance Committee wanted the Board to consider adding a small plaque at the bottom of the Memorial in alphabetical order to show no separation in names due to race. Mr. Worsley mentioned a plaque was imposed on the Memorial but the City-County Appearance Committee was concerned due to its small size. The American Legion opposed placement of a plaque on the Memorial but would agree to a sign being placed next to the Memorial. Mr. Worsley proposed to the Commission a more inclusive sign that gives history on all three memorials as well as the WWI Memorial, and the City-County Appearance Committee did endorse the proposal. Mr. Worsley asked the Board to fold this project into the Civic Plaza project by adding the Memorial so that it is all coordinated.

Commissioner Reckhow stated that the proposal was a good approach and agreed that a separate standing sign or kiosk would draw more attention to the facts/history rather than a small plaque.

Commissioner Jacobs mentioned being creative with the signs that would broaden the context.

Vice Chair Howerton stated this would be a great chance for the young people to know our history. Mr. Worsley mentioned that the context is important and the Memorial could be a way to direct citizens to other monuments in the area.

Chairman Foster commented that Mr. Worsley went to American Legion Post 7 which was predominantly white rather than going to Post 175 which was predominantly black. Chairman Foster mentioned he would like input from other Legions, Veteran Associations and Mr. Davis before moving forward. Mr. Worsley mentioned that letters were sent to American Legion Posts 7, 175, 416, 2740 and VVA Chapter 530; however, the only response came from Post 7. Mr. Worsley also stated that he was willing to reach out to Mr. Davis for his input.

Commissioner Reckhow stated that it would be a common courtesy to reach out to Mr. Davis and if he has concerns, please alert the Board.

Authorization of an Eight-month Dual Route Roadside Recycling Collection Pilot Program using 95 Gallon Roll Carts

Ms. Motiryo Keambiroiro, Director of General Services stated that a Pilot Program using the 95 gallon roll carts would service 2000 of the 9000 participants. This program is scheduled to begin

November 4, 2013 and run until June 30, 2014. She stated it was created because the Board mentioned they would like to see an increase in the recycling program.

Mr. Brian Haynesworth, Solid Waste Program Manager discussed the mission of the Solid Waste Department and next steps. Mr. Haynesworth also stated the purpose was to switch from 18 gallon bins to 95 gallon carts and determine the overall usage of those carts. The pilot program would include two routes: the Monday A route has 1,283 homes servicing: 27278, 27705, 27712; the Tuesday B Route has 759 homes servicing: 27514 and 27714. If approved, a discussion about the promotion and delivery of the carts would take place as well as information being available online. Mr. Haynesworth mentioned each cart would be equipped with a radio frequency tag to track usage and at the end of the pilot residents would be asked to complete a survey. This data would be used while reviewing the upcoming budget to request additional carts for other households. A summary of the report, revenue and feedback would be presented to the Board.

Ms. Keambiroiro mentioned the carts would have Waste Industries logo on them and the department would like an approval so that pilot program could start by November 4, 2013.

Commissioner Reckhow asked about data regarding the participation rates, how much revenue are we earning from recyclables and what type of volume has the City seen since their roll-out. Mr. Haynesworth stated that the vendors will keep track of this data. He indicated that the earnings from last year were \$17,672 and the City has seen a 40-50% participation increase. Commissioner Reckhow stated that we should do the pilot and she would like to see the results.

Commissioner Page inquired as to the long term goal of this pilot program. Ms. Keambiroiro stated the goal is to be able to provide the 95 gallon carts to all 9000 participants. Ms. Keambiroiro mentioned the department is working within their own budget constraints to cover the pilot, but if successful they will need additional funding for the other 7000 homes.

Commissioner Jacobs mentioned her concern with getting notice out to citizens about the start date as well as what is considered as "recyclable." Commissioner Jacobs also added that this would definitely increase participation.

Vice Chair Howerton moved, seconded by Commissioner Reckhow to suspend the Rules.

The motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Howerton moved, seconded by Commissioner Reckhow to endorse the Roadside Recycling Collection Pilot Program.

The motion carried unanimously.

Strategic Community Partnerships Proposal

County Manager Michael Ruffin announced this item would be postponed until the November 4, 2013 Worksession.

County Appointment to Durham Technical Community College (DTCC) Board

Mr. Lowell Siler, County Attorney, briefly discussed the issue with the appointment of Vice Chair Howerton to the DTCC Board of Trustees. He recommended that the Board take two possible actions for the appointment to DTCC's Board of Trustees. The first would be to secure special legislation that would allow a Durham County Commissioner to be on the Board as well as an Orange County Commissioner. The second would be to appoint someone to serve as an interim appointment until the special legislation could be secured.

Commissioner Reckhow stated that she supported adding a county commissioner and asked how many appointments we currently have. Attorney Siler stated that we currently have four appointments. Commissioner Reckhow stated that she would not have a problem with putting it on the upcoming legislative agenda.

Vice Chair Howerton clarified that an interim appointment was to be made until the process goes through the General Assembly. Attorney Siler stated that the Board could make a selection from the ballot that was presented in June.

Commissioner Jacobs stated that she did not remember if the Durham Technical Community College Board had any recommendations for that position. Ms. Michelle Parker-Evans, Clerk to the Board, stated that no recommendations were received.

Commissioner Page moved, seconded by Vice Chair Howerton to suspend the Rules.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Parker-Evans distributed ballots for the Board to make an appointment to the Durham Technical Community College Board.

Commissioner Reckhow asked if the term would be a time to be determined. Vice Chair Howerton mentioned it would be until the Legislature approved a Durham County Commissioner appointment. Vice Chair Howerton mentioned it could be early June or July. County Manager Ruffin stated it could be earlier. Vice Chair Howerton stated that Orange County and Durham Technical Community College were in agreement with the County's recommendation.

The Board made the following appointment:

Durham Technical Community College Board of Trustees
Tara Fikes - Foster, Howerton, Jacobs, Page and Reckhow

Commissioner Jacobs commented on the need to have an update on the impact of the government shutdown and its effects on the government and community agencies.

County Manager Ruffin stated it was unclear how the shutdown would affect DSS funding and that he would like it be added to the agenda for the regular session meeting on October 14, 2013. Commissioner Reckhow questioned if the House of Representatives approved payment for those that were furloughed and the Senate concurs, if furloughed employees would be allowed to work from County funds temporarily, and would the County be reimbursed?

County Manager Ruffin mentioned that the County could get reimbursed; however, the cost per day during the shutdown would be \$150,000. Manager Ruffin assured the Board that the County was not presently absorbing any costs.

Commissioners' Directives

Mr. Michael Davis, Strategic Plan Manager, presented the Board Directives for the months of June, July, August and September 2013.

The Board had no questions for Mr. Davis regarding the directives.

Recess

Chairman Foster requested a 15 minute recess. The meeting reconvened after the recess.

Closed Session

Chairman Foster asked for a motion to adjourn into Closed Session pursuant to G.S § 143-310.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee.

Commissioner Reckhow moved, seconded by Vice Chair Howerton to go into Closed Session.

The motion carried unanimously.

Reconvene to Open Session

The Chair announced that the Board met in Closed Session. Directives were given to staff. No action was taken.

There being no further action, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Monica W. Toomer
Administrative Assistant II