

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

Monday, March 6, 2017

9:00 A.M. Worksession

MINUTES

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

Present: Chair Wendy Jacobs, Vice Chair James Hill and Commissioners Heidi Carter,
Brenda Howerton, and Ellen Reckhow

Presider: Chair Wendy Jacobs

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 personnel matters.

Jim Svava spoke on the housing stabilization grants for low-income homeowners who faced disproportionate increases in their property taxes due to market forces pushing up home values. He noted that the home repair was an important issue, but the Home Repair Collaborative would do nothing for the almost 200 low-income families that needed immediate help with higher tax bills—those families could potentially experience even higher tax bills due to home repairs.

Commissioner Reckhow recalled her previous request for staff to report on this issue and wanted to add it to the Home Repair Collaborative item.

Discussion Items:

17-0086 Removal of Citizen Board Members Due to Poor Attendance

The Board was requested to remove the following members from the Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee in keeping with the Attendance Policy approved by the Board of County Commissioners in August, 2014. "If an appointee has absences (excused or unexcused) which constitute more than 50% of the meetings in any calendar year or three (3) consecutive unexcused absences or five (5) consecutive excused absences in any calendar year, he or she is obligated to resign."

- Corey Dunn
- Tricia Howard

The Clerk's Office was notified by the Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee of the absences and attempted to contact the board members. There was no response.

Commissioner Reckhow moved, seconded by Commissioner Howerton, to suspend the rules.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Howerton moved, seconded by Commissioner Reckhow, that Corey Dunn and Tricia Howard be removed from the Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee due to poor attendance.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Reckhow believed it would be helpful to include time obligation information and driving commitment on the vacancy announcement to ensure applicants understood the commitment that was expected of them.

Commissioners Carter and Reckhow discussed stipends for board members; Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee members received stipends to compensate them for mileage as well as to encourage citizens to apply and reduce turnover rate.

Chair Jacobs suggested asking the members' advice about their board's structure to increase retention rate.

Directives:

- **Clerk to include time obligation and driving incurred for this Committee on the Boards and Commissions Vacancies Announcement to ensure applicants understood the commitment that was expected of them.**
- **Clerk to ask the members of the Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee and the Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee for their advice on their board's structure to increase retention rate.**

17-0092 Presentation from the Home Repair Collaborative

The Board was requested to consider whether allocating FY17-18 budget funds for a Durham Home Repair Collaborative would be part of an effective County response to community concerns about affordable housing.

Maintaining decent, affordable housing stock was an important component of comprehensive affordable housing strategy; there were various funding sources for the kinds of repair and rehabilitation programs which helped achieve this goal. Each program, however, had its own delivery mechanism (often a separate public or private agency), goals, eligibility criteria, implementation strategies, staff, and so on, and thus the environment was disjointed and inefficient. For example, homeowners who could benefit from the synchronized efforts of two organizations and funding streams often ended up being served by neither and/or added to waiting lists. County staff encouraged local nonprofit organizations to consider how their rehab/repair services could be better coordinated, and how a better coordinated system would be worth greater public investment. Several members of the collaborative presented to the City Council and held a public hearing about community needs in January.

Peter Skillern, Executive Director for Reinvestment Partners, stated that their request was for the County to match the City's funding amount; the City was funding around thirty (30) small repairs per year with a budget of \$10,000 on each—a total of \$300,000 per year plus administration cost. The County match would enable the organizations to double the number of home repair projects they could complete annually. The City's portion was a combination of federal and local funds.

Dan Sargent, Executive Director for Rebuilding Together of the Triangle, gave examples that illustrated the effectiveness of agency collaboration—some homes had several problems, problems which needed to be strategically sequenced for repair due to agencies' funding eligibility requirements. Drew Cummings, Chief of Staff, stated that the County did not have the home or repair expertise required to be able to assess problems, estimate repairs, or execute repairs. He reiterated that the collaborative could be funded by re-routing some emergency assistance and other funds normally routed through the Department of Social Services.

Commissioner Reckhow wondered whether there was an opportunity to reduce expenses through a centralized approach as well as through economies of scale in order to meet the amount that was being requested from the County. Mr. Skillern believed that they would find savings through decreased expenditures and economies of scale.

Mr. Sargent stated that they were envisioning a no-wrong-door approach in which intake was centralized on the inside. He imagined a shared database that would hold all applications and be available to all agencies for examination regardless of which organization originally received the application. Mr. Skillern stated that they were still figuring out the details, but clarified that they were not planning to consolidate, but rather to coordinate strengths and programs.

Commissioner Carter appreciated their work, but wanted clarification as to what the County's role was in terms of affordable housing. She felt that having a strategic approach or unified plan would aid with future funding decisions. Commissioner Reckhow added that the County could not use certain revenue streams for housing because it was not one of the traditional functions of County government—there were restrictions on the County's annual funds. She requested that staff bring back information regarding what the County could do in this space.

Chair Jacobs requested that Karen Lado attend the April 3, 2017 Worksession to present a condensed version of her report.

Mr. Cummings spoke on the CDBG funds. Michael Becketts, Director of Social Services, spoke on the money DSS received and traditionally used for home heating and cooling; a small portion was also used for weatherization. Chair Jacobs discussed the equity that homeowners could potentially gain with the appreciation of their home due to gentrification. An ill-repaired home usually led to displacement.

Chair Jacobs inquired as to who was contracted to perform the home repairs. Mr. Sargent informed her that 30-40% were volunteers and the trade jobs (plumbing, electric, HVAC, roofing) were subcontracted.

Commissioner Reckhow stated that the County could assist with funding, but she did not believe it was appropriate to ask for the County to match the City’s funding amount. Not only did the County receive various funding requests, some of which the County was the sole source of funding for—such as education, pre-k, social services, and public health—but the City traditionally manages housing.

Commissioner Carter requested a document listing what the total current County contribution was towards housing assistance—anything from helping people pay their property taxes to federal or state programs that the County participated in to weatherization—as well as what the City’s total contribution was. She added that she would like the County to start considering merged government. She was also concerned with lead in homes. Mr. Skillern agreed to send a lead mitigation plan which was used to help identify lead in homes. He discussed the trend in lead paint contamination incidents and stated that he would send the data to the Board.

Commissioner Carter commended Mr. Becketts for his idea of using screens to prevent the spread of the zika virus which was transmitted by mosquitos.

Commissioner Reckhow recalled that some states required lead inspections of homes at the time of sale in order to substantially reduce the number of houses that were contaminated. Commissioner Hill worried about lead contaminated homes that were rented or kept in families for many generations as well as mold in homes.

Kim Simpson, Tax Administrator, read a memorandum titled “Review of Grant Consideration Parcels” which was requested by the Joint City-County Committee. The summary stated the following:

“Our office reviewed 524 parcels that were submitted as possible candidates for a grant program. Our review indicates a variety of reasons that property values increased during the 2008-2016 period between reappraisals, most of which are not directly related to the revitalization of parts of downtown Durham.”

Directives:

- **Staff to bring back information regarding what the County could do in terms of funding housing repairs.**
- **Staff to request that Karen Lado attend the April 3rd Worksession to present a condensed version of her report.**
- **Staff to give the Board a document listing what the total current County contribution was towards housing assistance—anything from helping people pay their property taxes to federal or state programs that the County participated in to weatherization—as well as what the City’s total contribution was.**
- **Peter Skillern, Executive Director for Reinvestment Partners, to give the Board the lead mitigation plan which was used to help identify lead in homes as well as the data regarding lead paint contamination incidents.**

17-0091 Proposal for Local Food in Durham County Detention Facility

The Board was requested to receive and consider a proposal for a \$30,000 pilot program to support the GAP certification process for Durham farmers and introduce local food into the Durham County Detention Facility food service system during FY17-18. Mr. Cummings stated that there were a number of attempts in recent years to find a way to introduce local, Durham food products into larger, local institutional settings, which could both improve the quality of food in those settings as well as provide a stimulus to local farmers and food producers. The FY16-17 switchover to a new food service provider in the detention facility (ABL, Inc.) presented the Soil & Water Conservation District, Reinvestment Partners, Farmer Foodshare, the Sheriff's Office, and others, the opportunity to introduce the attached proposal for a limited pilot in FY17-18. Initiating the redirect of local funding to local producers seemed like an expensive proposition, but the expectation was that investments in local producers would result in greater local economies of scale and thus in lower prices for locally grown and produced food products. Considering that a dollar spent on local food had nearly three times the aggregate economic impact of a dollar spent through a non-Durham company to purchase food grown elsewhere, the justification for accepting higher local price points were relatively straightforward. The proposal for FY17-18 would be for the Sheriff's Office to receive an additional \$30,000 appropriation for a not-to-exceed contract in that amount with Farmer Foodshare, a local food-based non-profit which would act as a liaison and purchasing agent with local, Durham producers. The funds would be used to either purchase GAP-certified food for the detention facility OR to be used as a 50% cost match for GAP certification expenses of Durham producers

Commissioner Reckhow wondered whether they were planning to have fresh fruit and raw vegetables as add-on tray items or to incorporate them into the cooked meals; if the latter, she inquired whether ABL, Inc. was prepared to incorporate the produce into the cooked meals. Brian Jones, Operations & Development Manager for the Sheriff's Office, stated that they were currently in the process of exploring what items could be offered and where. He added that capacity, scale, and the time of year were also determinants. Commissioner Reckhow suggested monitoring consumption via returned trays to determine whether any changes needed to occur; appealing to the food preferences—raw versus cooked produce—of detainees was necessary to reduce food waste.

Commissioner Howerton asked if the Youth Home would be included in the pilot. Mr. Cummings informed her that the Youth Home provided a different scale of food and bought their food from Kroger instead. Commissioner Howerton supported the idea, but requested that staff work with a diverse group of farmers for the program and provide the Board with information regarding this topic. Mr. Cummings assured her that they would. Gini Bell, Farmer Foodshare Executive Director, agreed and added that Farmer Foodshare valued working with farmers that were underrepresented in the food system, including female farmers and farmers of color.

Commissioner Carter was excited about the locally sourced food movement and hoped that the County would establish a policy for using locally sourced food in the future. She looked forward to expanding the pilot program for Durham Public Schools.

Vice Chair Hill suggested educating detainees on nutrition and how eating more vegetables and fruit would improve future health outcomes.

Chair Jacobs shared that ABL, Inc. was open to integrating local food into their food stream. Chair Jacobs reminded the Board that the 2009 Farmland Plan stated that they would try to find ways to institutionally support Durham farmers and that the County should begin to consider them as small business owners in order to integrate them in the Economic Development Plan. Ms. Bell had previously noted that the unique point of the proposal was that it would expand local farmers' reach, capacity, and sales.

Eddie Culberson, Director of Soil & Water Conservation District, discussed the incentives that the NCDA provided to farmers who wanted to become GAP certified. Mike Dupree, Agri-Business & Environmental Services Manager for the Soil & Water Conservation District, discussed GAP certification and the milestones that farmers needed to complete. Chair Jacobs stated that farmers who obtained GAP certification in order to supply the Detention Center would also have the ability to sell to grocery stores (Harris Teeter, Kroger, etc.)—this would help farmers to scale up their production and sales.

Commissioner Reckhow suggested running the pilot program at the Youth Home first and then expanding it to the Detention Center in order to establish flow and capacity. Ms. Bell clarified that the issue was not that farmers could not produce enough, but rather that they did not have the required certification to produce for the Detention Center yet; a solution was that they could include the Youth Home by having uncertified farmers sell to the Youth Home first since the certification was not required.

Commissioner Reckhow asked that staff assemble the requested information that was requested and add it to the Regular Session agenda for either Monday, March 13th or Monday, March 27th to approve the pilot by the end of the month.

Chair Jacobs requested that the Board be sent a document clarifying how the funds would be administered for the program.

Directives:

- **Staff to provide the Board with information regarding the diversity of farmers chosen to participate in the \$30,000 pilot program to introduce local food into the Durham County Detention Facility food service system during FY17-18.**
- **Staff to provide the Board with information regarding how the funds for the Local Food Program would be administered.**

17-0095 Durham County Naming and Renaming Policy Application for Durham County Memorial Stadium Press Box for Tommy Hunt

The Stadium Authority was requesting that the Board consider naming the press box at the Durham County Memorial Stadium, in honor and recognition of Tommy Hunt's thirty years of service on the Stadium Authority Board. Frank Davis, Stadium Authority Chairperson, stated that during Mr. Hunt's tenure the stadium underwent renovation as he presided as Chair over the Authority. This recognition would include Mr. Hunt's name prominently placed on the playing field side of the press box and a single plaque inside the press box area explaining the purpose of the press box naming honor.

Commissioner Reckhow thanked the Stadium Authority for bringing this forward and believed that 30 years of service merited the recognition; she felt it was a sound proposal and was in support.

Commissioner Howerton was also in support and inquired as to what the cost was. Reco Chavis, Stadium Manager, informed her that the estimated total cost was \$1807.15. Commissioner Howerton and Mr. Chavis reviewed the position of Mr. Hunt's plaque to ensure that there was no overlap in proximity with Mr. Willie Bradshaw's field or scoreboard.

Attorney Siler and Michelle Parker-Evans, Clerk to the Board, stated that they would refer to the policy and follow up with the panel regarding the next steps to ensure compliance.

Commissioner Reckhow recommended that staff attach relevant policies to agenda items, highlight any directions on how to proceed in the policy, and include them in the recommendation.

Directives:

- **Attorney Siler and Michelle Parker-Evans, Clerk to the Board, to refer to the Naming policy and follow up with staff regarding the next steps to ensure compliance.**
- **Staff to attach relevant policies to agenda items, highlight any directions on how to proceed in the policy, and include them in the recommendation.**

17-0088 Resolution from Alliance Behavioral Healthcare

The Board was requested by Alliance Behavioral Healthcare to review and sign a resolution as a tangible expression of opposition to further cuts in State funding for public behavioral healthcare. The State funding to serve individuals with mental health, substance use, and intellectual/developmental disabilities was cut by \$252 million over the past two years, including \$26 million in cuts to the citizens Alliance serves. Additional cuts during the current year would force Alliance to redirect their fund balance to make up for the shortfall, severely jeopardizing their reinvestment plan that would use those dollars to create and enhance innovative programs and services that meet the identified needs of their communities, and their constituents.

Rob Robinson, CEO of Alliance Behavioral Healthcare, explained the role of Alliance Behavioral Healthcare and summarized the resolution. Cynthia Binanay, Alliance Behavioral Healthcare Board Chair, emphasized how critical it was to continue funding for organizations that increased access to mental health services as they reduced undesirable life outcomes.

Commissioner Reckhow thanked them for bringing the resolution forward. She suggested adding a "whereas" that captured the history of deinstitutionalization and the promise for increased local funding for community support services. She also noted a minor typo. Mr. Robinson stated that they would make both changes.

Commissioner Howerton, Commissioner Carter, and Chair Jacobs thanked the panel. Discussion was had regarding the efforts of Alliance Behavioral Healthcare to educate the North Carolina General Assembly regarding the services they provided and their significance.

Chair Jacobs suggested an emphasis in the resolution concerning the opioid epidemic. She wondered what the local supplement to Alliance Behavioral Healthcare was. Mr. Robinson informed her that it was \$6.6 million. Chair Jacobs requested that information on how the \$6.6 million was spent be submitted to the Board.

Directives:

- **Alliance Behavioral Healthcare to add a “whereas” to the resolution that gave the history of deinstitutionalization and the subsequent expectation for increased local funding for community support services.**
- **Alliance Behavioral Healthcare to send the Board information on how the \$6.6 million local supplement was spent.**

17-0105 Commissioner Comments

The Board was requested to allow each Commissioner three minutes to report on conferences or make comments regarding issues that may be of interest or concern to the Board.

Manager Davis discussed the *Opportunity Youth Playbook: A Guide To Reconnecting Boys And Young Men Of Color To Education And Employment*—realized by President Obama for the My Brother’s Keeper Initiative—which incited the creation of national partnerships for the purpose of meeting the prescribed goals; Cities United was one such partnership. Dionne Hines, Assistant to the County Manager, discussed the sessions and workshops that would be offered at the Cities United 2017 Regional Convening, hosted by MBK Durham, scheduled for March 13th and 14th at the Durham Convention Center.

Chair Jacobs inquired as to who was attending and how many were registered. Ms. Hines stated that they were planning for around 100 attendees; the event was geared towards local government employees, nonprofit organizations, and people who worked towards the success of boys and men of color. Chair Jacobs asked what the local outreach process was and who had been informed about the conference. Ms. Hines informed her that staff notified the organizations that were involved with MBK Durham. Chair Jacobs encouraged the Commissioners to stop by for the Regional Convening.

Commissioner Carter spoke on the Emerging Issues Focus Forum: Kidonomics; she stated that it was very informational and she looked forward to the Pre-K Task Force’s *State of Durham County’s Young Children Report*.

Vice Chair Hill reported on a session he attended at the National Association of Counties 2017 Legislative Conference tailored towards public information officers that discussed how to deal with “extraordinary events” like the Dakota Access Pipeline and the law-enforcement involved shooting in Charlotte, NC. He was concerned with the propaganda that was being put forth regarding protestors and hoped this would not be a trend.

Chair Jacobs announced that the Southeast Greenways & Trails Summit was scheduled to be at the Durham Convention Center on October 1-3, 2017. She shared the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Federal Advocacy Goals and the National Association of Counties Legislative Priorities with the Board. She mentioned the Aspen Institute's two-generation strategy with respect to pre-k as well as a Legislative Briefing she attended about what to expect at the federal level in terms of changes and additions to current policies and laws.

Commissioner Reckhow reminded the Board about *Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope* movie screening at the Health and Human Services Building, 414 East Main Street, on March 8th at 6:00 PM. Refreshments would be available. The film was to screen from 6:15-7:15 PM, a panel discussion would occur after, and the event would be over by 8:00 PM. A second screening would occur on March 9th at 10am at the same location. Commissioner Reckhow announced the County had collaborated with the Center for Child and Family Policy to produce the *State of Durham County's Young Children Report* and it would be released soon—they were looking at a possible formal release on the morning of Friday, April 21st at 8:00 AM.

Commissioner Howerton attended a National Association of Counties 2017 Legislative Conference session on civility which she felt would be an important item to discuss in the community; she stated that most elected officials speculated upcoming budget cuts all across the board. Commissioner Howerton and Claudia Hager, General Manager of Financial Affairs, Process Improvement and Government Efficiency, agreed to have staff submit a list of the services that were now being taxed due to the new sales tax structure.

Attorney Siler summarized the Naming Policy procedures and which steps were next for the Tommy Hunt naming request. Chair Jacobs requested that the Board be updated of the process as it moved along.

Adjournment

Commissioner Howerton moved, seconded by Commissioner Reckhow, that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Tania De Los Santos
Administrative Assistant