

October 12, 1998

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

Monday, October 12, 1998

7:10 P.M. Regular Session

MINUTES

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

Present: Chairman MaryAnn E. Black and Commissioners William V. Bell, Joe W. Bowser, Becky M. Heron, and Ellen W. Reckhow

Absent: None

Presider: Chairman Black

Agenda Adjustments

Chairman Black announced that Cheryl Lloyd, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, had a presentation for the Commissioners after approval of the minutes.

Chairman Black added an item to the agenda relative to October being designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Chairman Black said a Closed Session would be held after the Regular Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Minutes

Commissioner Heron moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Reckhow, to approve the August 3, 1998 Worksession Minutes and the September 14, 1998 Regular Session Minutes of the Board as corrected.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Heron moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Reckhow, to approve the August 24, 1998 Regular Session Minutes and the September 9, 1998 Worksession Minutes of the Board as submitted.

The motion carried unanimously.

Cooperative Extension Service—Value of Volunteer Time for 1997

Cheryl L. Lloyd, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, said in 1997 the Cooperative Extension Service had an opportunity to provide many services to the County. The Department provided volunteers with training and support that was, in turn, provided back to the County as services. In 1997, volunteers of the Cooperative Extension Service contributed over 2,000 hours of time doing a variety of things across the County. The 430+ volunteers have contributed \$239,500 in service to this community. On behalf of the volunteers, Ms. Lloyd presented to the Commissioners a check for \$239,500 written on the Sweat & Tears of Volunteers Bank and Trust Company, 1000 Master Gardener Lane, Durham, NC 27702.

The Commissioners thanked the volunteers in Durham County for all their hard work.

October 12, 1998

Vice-Chairman Reckhow said the Commissioners should consider establishing volunteer awards during County Government Week in April. Volunteers should be honored in a formal manner each year.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Chairman Black made remarks about the month of October being designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Each member of the Board of County Commissioners was encouraging all people to perform a self-breast examination, including men.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Bell moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Reckhow, to approve the following consent agenda item:

- (a) Durham City-County Planning Department Work Program (adopt the FY 1998-1999 Work Program).

County Manager David F. Thompson gave the Commissioners a breakdown of the budgeted revenues as follows:

Durham County	\$ 882,751
City of Durham	727,789
Fees	<u>624,184</u>
Total Revenues	\$2,234,724

Vice-Chairman Reckhow asked Paul Norby, City-County Planning Director, about the article in the newspaper concerning the increased zoning caseload in the City-County Planning Department.

Mr. Norby responded to Vice-Chairman Reckhow's question.

Commissioner Bell also asked questions about the newspaper article and about how the increased caseload is being handled by the department.

Street Closing--Crystal Lake Road (SC98-1): Public Hearing

To hold a public hearing to consider permanently closing a 24,763±-square-foot portion of Crystal Lake Road west of Guess Road.

Vonda Frantz, Senior Planner with the Durham City-County Planning Department, was present to answer questions of staff regarding the request to close this street.

The County Manager recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve the request to permanently close 24,763± square feet of Crystal Lake Road.

Chairman Black opened the public hearing that was properly advertised.

Paul Creech, Willardsville Station Road, Secretary of the Greater Durham Moose Lodge, said the lodge owns property below the area of the street referred to in the request. The street closing would diminish the property's value and would also prevent the lodge from using the property. If the street is closed, there would be no access to the property. Also, a water runoff problem on the vacant lot owned by the Moose Lodge must be corrected.

Chairman Black stated she would like to continue the public hearing to give staff additional time to work on this request.

October 12, 1998

Commissioner Heron commented the water problem should be looked at and corrected.

Commissioner Heron moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Reckhow, to continue the public hearing until the October 26, 1998 Regular Session.

The motion carried unanimously.

City of Durham's Leasing of the Abandoned Norfolk Southern RR Corridor From Fayetteville Road to the Durham/Chatham County Line as a Part of the American Tobacco Trail

On August 13, 1998, the Rail Division of the North Carolina Department of Transportation purchased from Norfolk Southern a portion of an abandoned railroad corridor that runs from Fayetteville Road in southern Durham County through the northeastern corner of Chatham County to the Wake County line. The Durham Open Space and Trails Commission has asked the City to lease the section of corridor in Durham County—as it already has leased the corridor beginning at the Durham Bulls Athletic Park and ending at NC54—for a continuation of the American Tobacco Trail.

Since that portion of the corridor is in Durham County, the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission requested that the County (1) support its request for the City to lease the corridor from NCDOT for a continuation of the American Tobacco Trail; and (2) support its request that the subsequent required public meeting be a joint one held with Chatham County. Neither of these items will be an expense to the County.

Beth Timson, Senior Planner, Durham City-County Planning Department, was present to answer any questions of staff regarding the request.

The Commissioners asked several questions and made comments about the two requests.

County Manager David F. Thompson responded to the questions and comments.

Vice-Chairman Reckhow moved, seconded by Commissioner Bell, to approve that the County support the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission's request for the City to lease the corridor from NCDOT for a continuation of the American Tobacco Trail.

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Grant Agreement for \$750,000 from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund

Last fall, Durham County was awarded up to \$750,000 for the New Hope Creek corridor acquisition effort from the State of N.C.'s Clean Water Management Trust Fund. Durham County was one of 13 recipients to be awarded funds out of 141 applications in the first round of this new statewide program. The funds would supplement the County's remaining \$150,000 to be used for this project, bringing the total to \$900,000 available for land acquisition. The grant agreement would formalize this relationship between Durham County and the State.

The funds would be provided to the County as parcels are acquired and would provide an 83 percent reimbursement match for acquisition costs. The grant requires that the County provide a permanent conservation easement to the state for those lands acquired with grant funds.

October 12, 1998

Jane Korest from the City-County Planning Department was available to answer any questions.

County Manager's Recommendation: Authorize the County Manager to execute the grant agreement.

The Commissioners asked questions and made comments about the agenda item. Ms. Korest responded.

Commissioner Heron moved, seconded by Commissioner Bowser, to authorize the County Manager to execute the grant agreement.

The motion carried unanimously.

Employee Health Insurance

Following an extensive Request for Proposal (RFP) process to solicit proposals for the health insurance carriers for the next three years, the following recommendations were made: (1) authorize the County Manager to enter into a contract with WellPath Select Inc. to become a Point-of-Service (POS) plan provider for County employees; (2) authorize the County Manager to enter into a contract with Healthsource North Carolina Inc., a CIGNA Healthcare Company, to continue as a Point-of-Service (POS) plan provider for County employees; and (3) authorize the County Manager to enter into a contract with Doctors Health Plan Inc. to continue as the HMO plan provider for County employees.

Resource Persons: Jackye Knight, Director of Human Resources, and Donald Sherrod, Benefits Administrator.

County Manager's Recommendation: Pursuant to a question raised by Vice-Chairman Ellen Reckhow on the possibility of offering more than one POS option, and the Board of Commissioners' unanimously expressed concern for the best possible benefits offerings for County employees, Human Resources negotiated an agreement between all three carriers for a simultaneous offering. Employees will now have the ability to choose the level of coverage that best suits their individual needs from the plans selected as the best offering by the Employee Benefits Committee. The County Manager recommended that the Board agree to HR's request for the authority to enter into a contract with these three carriers.

Mr. Sherrod presented an overview of the three health insurance plans.

The Commissioners asked questions and made comments about the plans to which Mr. Sherrod responded.

Commissioner Bell moved, seconded by Commissioner Bowser, to authorize Human Resources' request for the authority to enter into a contract with the three carriers.

The motion carried unanimously.

Request to Set a Public Hearing for the Consideration of Providing Parking Spaces for the West Village Development

Staff requested that the Board of County Commissioners set a public hearing for October 26, 1998 to consider approving a shared parking lease agreement between Durham County and Trakside Group LLC, developers of West Village.

The developers of West Village proposed to adaptively reuse five vacant Liggett & Myers buildings adjacent to the Carmichael facility (300 North Duke Street) into a mix of

October 12, 1998

apartments, retail shops, and office space. The proposed development requires additional parking facilities for residents during the evening and weekend hours. The lease agreement between Durham County and Trackside Group LLC would provide West Village with 75 parking spaces at no cost during the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m., Monday through Friday, and whenever County operations are closed, such as weekends and holidays.

The County will retain the right to use the parking spaces during the times mentioned above if the County requires the spaces for a special event or function. Trackside Group LLC will bare the sole responsibility to regulate the use of the parking spaces by residents of West Village during the specified hours and will be required to issue parking decals and install a gated entrance with restricted card access. The lease agreement can be terminated by the County upon 30-days written notice if the County considers that the shared parking arrangement limits or impairs County operations or if the County decides to sale the property.

David M. Powell presented the Commissioners an overview of the proposal concerning a shared parking lease agreement between Durham County and Trackside Group LLC, developers of West Village.

The Commissioners asked questions and made comments about the proposal to which Mr. Powell responded.

County Manager David F. Thompson assisted with some of the questions.

Commissioner Bell moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Reckhow, for approval to set a public hearing for October 26, 1998 to consider approving a shared parking lease agreement between Durham County and Trackside Group LLC, developers of West Village.

The motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Vice-Chairman Reckhow moved, seconded by Commissioner Heron, to adjourn into Closed Session to discuss a personnel matter as provided for by N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

The motion carried unanimously.

Reconvene Into Open Session

Chairman Black said no action is required as a result of the Closed Session.

Adjournment

Chairman Black adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garry E. Umstead, CMC
Clerk to the Board

GEU:VCS