

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

DURHAM COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

January 31, 2011

MINUTES

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

Attendees: Dr. Tyrone Baines, Facilitator; Chairman Michael Page; Vice Chair Ellen Reckhow; Commissioners Joe Bowser, Becky Heron, and Brenda Howerton; County Manager Mike Ruffin; Management Team members, Deputy County Manager Wendell Davis, County Attorney Lowell Siler, Finance Director George Quirk, Human Resources Director Marqueta Welton, Assistant County Managers Deborah Craig-Ray and Drew Cummings; Sr. Budget Analyst Keith Lane; Assistant to the County Manager Michael Davis; and Clerk to the Board Michelle Parker-Evans.

Chairman Page called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm. Deputy County Manager Wendell Davis gave an overview of the strategic plan process. He explained that the purpose of the meeting was to engage in exercises to define the mission and vision for the organization.

Mr. Davis pointed out important and necessary steps. The Board must develop performance measures. Those measures would have to be revisited and tweaked over time.

The Plan design includes having 5-7 community forums in different areas of the county. Community leaders will be interviewed. A citizen survey will also be conducted by consultants.

The Board discussed making sure that citizens in rural areas were included in the process.

Mr. Davis concluded by reiterating the importance of the commitment of starting anew today. No old visions and mission statements would be used. He offered the challenge to the elected officials to determine their legacy.

Dr. Baines thanked the Commissioners for their participation. He stated that this would be the first time the County developed a countywide strategic plan. He stressed the importance of developing a mission statement first and then developing a vision statement.

The Commissioners all characterized the climate they would like to work in. Characteristics included: participatory, productive, honest, respectful, open to ideas, visionary, successful, engaging, and fun.

After further brainstorming, the Board agreed on the following Mission Statement:

Durham County provides fiscally responsible, quality service necessary to promote a healthy, safe, and vibrant community.

The Board agreed on the following Vision Statement:

Durham County: a thriving, vibrant, diverse community with abundant opportunity for all residents to live, work, learn, play and grow.

Dr. Baines outlined the next phase of the process. A consulting firm will drive the next steps which involve goals and objectives.

Manager Ruffin stated that Zelos is the company that will assist with the next phase. Zelos worked with the City on developing a strategic plan.

There will be further discussion on which community leaders will be interviewed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



V. Michelle Parker-Evans
Clerk to the Board