MINUTES OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina met in Informal Session at 5:03 p.m., and in Formal Session at 6:21 p.m. on Tuesday, September 21, 2021.

Due to the State of North Carolina’s Declaration of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and per NCGS § 166A-19.24, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners conducted a remote meeting using the WebEx application.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chair George Dunlap and Commissioners
Leigh Altman, Patricia “Pat” Cotham, Mark Jerrell,
Vilma D. Leake, Laura J. Meier, Elaine Powell,
Susan Rodriguez-McDowell, and
Ella B. Scarborough
County Manager Dena R. Diorio
County Attorney Tyrone C. Wade
Clerk to the Board Kristine M. Smith

Absent: None

Commissioner Leigh Altman was absent when meeting was called to order and until noted in the minutes.

-INFORMAL SESSION-

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dunlap at 5:03 p.m., followed by introductions, the invocation, led by Chair Dunlap, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, after which the matters below were addressed.

REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM CONSENT

The Board identified item(s) to be removed from Consent and voted upon separately. The items
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identified were Items: 21-7098, 21-7099, 21-7100, 21-7101, 21-7102, 21-7122, 21-7128, 21-7133 and 21-7136.

STAFF BRIEFINGS – NONE

21-7115 CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough and unanimously carried (8-0) with Commissioners Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to go into Closed Session for the following purpose(s): Land Acquisition, Consult with Attorney, and To Prevent Disclosure of Information that is Confidential.

Commissioner Scarborough did not attend the Closed Session.

The Board went into Closed Session at 5:14 p.m. and came back into Open Session at 6:21 p.m.

Commissioner Altman was present when the Board came back into Open Session. She entered the meeting during Closed Session.

Commissioner Scarborough was present when the Board came back into Open Session.

-FORMAL SESSION-

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dunlap called this portion of the meeting to order after which the matters below were addressed.

AWARDS/RECOGNITION

21-7098 PROCLAMATION - NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AND ACTION MONTH

Motion was made by Commissioner Altman, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to adopt a proclamation
declaring September 2021 as National Suicide Prevention and Action Month in Mecklenburg County.

Commissioner Altman read the proclamation.

Kathy Rogers, Director of Mental Health America, offered a few comments and received the proclamation.

Background: This proclamation was created in recognition of National Suicide Prevention and Action Month to raise awareness and to start the conversation about mental health, the impact of suicide, to help de-stigmatize the conversation, and help connect people with the appropriate support services.
Motion was made by Commissioner Cotham, seconded by Commissioner Meier and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to adopt a proclamation designating September 2021 as “National Kinship Care Month” in Mecklenburg County.

Commissioner Cotham read the proclamation.

*Background: During the month of September, Kinship Care Month is observed. This proclamation recognizes children and the grandparents, and other relatives who raise them. The Board is asked to adopt a proclamation to that effect in Mecklenburg County.*
Motion was made by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Jerrell and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to adopt a proclamation declaring September 15 through October 15, 2021 as Hispanic Heritage Month in Mecklenburg County.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell read the proclamation.

Rafael Prieto, Comité de Fiestas Patrias y Tradiciones de Charlotte (CFPTC) (Charlotte’s Patriotic Celebrations and Traditions Committee) received the proclamation and offered a few comments.

*Background:* This was being requested in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month. For decades, Americans have observed National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15th to October 15th by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens who are residents of Hispanic origin from Mexico, Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and Spain. This proclamation declared September 15th through October 15th as a 30-day commemoration and celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte recognized the extraordinary contributions made to this community by immigrants, residents, and citizens of Latino origin. The County’s character is enhanced by Hispanic Americans and other ethnic groups, all of whom contribute and play a vital role in sustaining the quality of life that we all enjoy.
21-7136  JOINT PROCLAMATION - UNC CHARLOTTE'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Motion was made by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Meier and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to adopt a Joint Proclamation declaring September 24, 2021 as UNC Charlotte Day in Charlotte/Mecklenburg County in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Chair Dunlap read the Proclamation.

Dr. Sharon Gaber, Chancellor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte offered comments and received the proclamation.

Background: This proclamation was to recognize the impact the University of North Carolina at Charlotte has had on the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County and the region.
The Board received a presentation on Public Art piece "Tribute" designed by Simon Donovan and Ben Olmstead, located at the American Legion Memorial Stadium.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell gave the presentation.

**Background:** On January 5, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners approved the addition of an agenda topic to the second Regular meeting of the month entitled Public Art Moment. The item, with the help of the Arts & Science Council, will highlight a piece of public art - a different
one each month. The purpose of this item is to raise public awareness and appreciation for the tax dollars that are spent on public art each year.

A copy of the presentation is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

21-71116  PUBLIC APPEARANCE

No one appeared to speak.

The following person signed up to speak but did not appear:

John Ashe    Topic - Redistricting

APPOINTMENTS

21-7041  STORM WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Cotham and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to reappoint Paul Cattieu to the Storm Water Advisory Committee for the Industry Category, for a 3-year term expiring June 30, 2024.

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Cotham and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to reappoint Richard Thigpen to the Storm Water Advisory Committee for the Financial, Accounting and Legal Professional Category, for a 3-year term expiring June 30, 2024.

21-7094  PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to reappoint Robert Combs to the Public Art Commission, for a 3-year term expiring June 30, 2024.
21-7109  SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP ADVISORY BOARD

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to reappoint Kenneth Fields, Brian James, Matthew King, Latecia Manuel, and Sona Oliver to the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Advisory Board, for 3-year terms expiring June 30, 2024.

21-7129  LAKE NORMAN MARINE COMMISSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to appoint Robby Maschhaupt to the Lake Norman Marine Commission, for a 5-year term beginning October 1, 2021 and expiring September 30, 2026.

21-7130  CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The vote was taken on the following nominees for appointment to the Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee:

Philip Carey  Commissioner Elaine Powell
Kealin Coffin  Commissioner Vilma D. Leake
Alison Mangels  Commissioners Leigh Altman, Elaine Powell, Laura Meier, Susan Rodriguez-McDowell, and Chair Dunlap
Emmanuel Meggett  None
Victoria Moreno  Commissioners Leigh Altman, Pat Cotham, Mark Jerrell, Laura Meier, Susan Rodriguez-McDowell, and Chair Dunlap
Jacqueline Ylverton  Commissioners Pat Cotham, Vilma D. Leake, Mark Jerrell

Chair Dunlap announced the appointment of both Alison Mangels and Victoria Moreno to the Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee to fill two (2) unexpired terms expiring July 31, 2023.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE
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ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS – NONE

MANAGER’S REPORT

21-7092 FINAL DRAFT REPORT FROM BOCC COVID-19 RECOVERY AND RENEWAL TASK FORCE

The Board received information on the final draft report and recommendations on the activities of the COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Task Force.

Dr. Jerome Williams, Senior Vice President with Novant Health, and Victoria Avramovic, Co-chairs of the Mecklenburg County COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Task Force gave the presentation.

Background: On June 2, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a resolution creating the COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Task Force. The resolution charged the Task Force with developing a plan of action across ten impact areas including:

- Access to health care and eliminating health disparities
- Mental and emotional health
- Economic recovery including help for small businesses
- Jobs and workforce development
- Housing and homelessness
- Working families and vulnerable populations
- Arts and culture
- Non-profit recovery and human services
- Education and childcare
- Food security

In addition, the Task Force adopted a purpose statement: “The Task Force will bring forward a series of action plans, based on comprehensive analysis of the COVID-19 impact areas, in order to promote a County-wide coordinated effort to support recovery and renewal for Mecklenburg County residents. Recovery and renewal must address issues of equity that have been laid bare by the impact of the crisis. Action Plans will present recommendations that will focus on immediate response efforts for impact areas as well as long term actions that can affect systemic issues that must be addressed to ensure health and prosperity for all residents.”
The Task Force created three subcommittees focused on Health, Economy and Community. An ad hoc committee was also created that focused on educating the community on topics of interest.

The Task Force held 21 meetings, over 40 subcommittee meetings and five community engagement sessions. The result of all this work is a comprehensive approach with goals, strategies, and actions.

The following topics were covered:

- COVID-19 impacts in Mecklenburg- Disproportionate impacts
- Our Charge-Develop a Recovery and Renewal Plan of Action across 10 impact areas.
- Principles
- Our task force process
- Recommendations structure
- Health Impact areas
- 7 Health Strategies
- Economy- Impact areas
- 3 Economy Strategy
- Community Impact areas
- 2 Community Strategies
- Next Steps Together

A copy of the presentation is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

Comments

County Manager Diorio said the Board was being asked to adopt the recommendations. County staff would be working on implementation and would come back to the Board with the metrics.

Commissioner Altman asked if there was one or two initiatives the Task Force wanted the Board to focus on.

Ms. Avramovic said one would be workforce development and housing with regard to second-chance workers. She said work to create a pathway to reduce recidivism. She said the public sector should start to expand workforce development opportunities and map out career pathways for entry level positions.
Dr. Williams response was Healthcare access. He said not just mental and physical, but also engagement with healthcare providers and access to understanding the needs outside of medical care (social determinants), access to upward mobility via jobs, housing and food.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell thanked the Task Force. She asked if the Task Force needed to be continued or if it ended with the recommendations. She emphasized not returning to business as usual. She said with regard to the metrics, how would the Board know a year or two or five years from now if the County was successful in this process. She said the County would be facing challenges like this in the future, along with climate crises. She said equity, healthcare and access issues had to be addressed.

Commissioner Leake thanked Dr. Williams for his participation in the Task Force. She thanked County Manager Diorio for the idea of putting the Task Force together.

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Cotham, and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to support the recommendations of the COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Task Force.

Commissioner Powell thanked the Task Force for all their work in recognizing the disparities and reducing inequities in their respective fields. She commented how engagement needed to continue.

County Manager Diorio said this plan was not ready for the Board’s consideration and action at this time. She said this was only an update for the Board.

Chair Dunlap said the Board should be proud of itself. He said the Board’s highest priorities were workforce development and reducing health disparities and the work of the Task Force reaffirmed what the Board set out to do at the beginning of the year.

Chair Dunlap said the Board was just to accept the recommendations and would adopt pieces as they come about by the County Manager. He said it would possibly be multi-year funding.

Commissioner Jerrell recognized former Commissioner Trevor Fuller who brought forth the idea of implementing this Task Force. He thanked the Task Force and everyone who gave their time and talent to work on the task force.
County Manager Diorio said nearly 75% of Mecklenburg County employees were vaccinated. She said based on the helpful feedback received from employees during an employee town hall that was held the previous week, she modified the testing program to help improve compliance for unvaccinated employees, while the County continued to protect the safety of its workforce.

County Manager Diorio discussed the specific changes made to the policy.

The Board then received an update on the COVID-19 Response from Public Health Director, Gibbie Harris.

The following topics were covered:

- COVID-19 Cases and Deaths for Mecklenburg as of Sept 16, 2021
  - 92% of Hospitalized were unvaccinated, 96% of deaths were unvaccinated residents
- Daily COVID-19 Cases Reported to MCPH by date
- Daily % Positive of Laboratory COVID-19 Tests
- Daily Hospital Census of Patients with Laboratory Confirmed COVID-19
- Daily COVID-19 Testing
- COVID-19 In School Settings
- COVID-19 Vaccine Update
- COVID-19 Vaccination progress
- COVID-19 Deaths as of Sept, 2021
- Total COVID-19 Deaths in Mecklenburg County between March 1, 2020-Sept 15, 2021 (by Date of Death) in the Community and Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF)
- COVID-19 Deaths in Mecklenburg County Percent Distribution by Age between March 1, 2020-Sept 15, 2021
- Update on Covid-19 Support for CMS
  - Public Health was working to hire additional in-school team members to support and coordinate COVID-19 response activities.
  - Funding from North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is available for at least one COVID-19 contact tracing school-based coordinator reporting to each school principal or their designees for this school year. The Coordinators would be hired over next several months.

Director Harris discussed the skills, requirements, salary and how to apply.

*A copy of the presentation is on file with the Clerk to the Board.*
Comments

Commissioner Powell commented on the issues of the recent testing and non-compliance issues. She said she received several calls from employees who asked for help and communicated that to County Manager Diorio.

Commissioner Powell asked if there was a way for employees to communicate when they couldn’t reach Human Resources and if employees were being terminated for something they had confusion about.

County Manager Diorio and the Commissioners further discussed the employee COVID testing policy.

County Manager Diorio said that although there were some “bumps”, the vast majority of employees were able to comply with the policy. She said the only employees at risk of termination are those who have not complied nor responded which was 86 employees.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell requested a motion to reinstate the pay of people who had trouble trying to comply with the policy.

County Manager Diorio said in terms of how employees got paid was within the purview of the County Manager and not the Board. She said employees had ample time to ask questions when the policy was rolled out in August.

Chair Dunlap said all employees, with the exception of 5, worked for the County Manager. He said there was a process in place if an employee felt they were wrongfully suspended.

County Manager Diorio stated that those employees could file a grievance if they felt they should have their pay reinstated.

Commissioner Cotham thanked Director Harris for her presentation and asked if there were any personnel from FEMA or ambulances or anything being given to the County to assist with COVID as part of Governor Cooper’s new executive order.

Director Harris said Emergency Management has had conversations with the State regarding support specifically for MEDIC.

Commissioner Cotham thanked County Manager Diorio and her team for getting the vaccine policy issues worked out.
Commissioner Meier commented on the employees still not adhering to the testing mandates, and thanked Health Director Harris for her efforts in partnering with the schools for testing protocols.

Commissioner Altman commented on President Biden’s efforts and actions to have the country turn the corner on the pandemic. She commented on hating to see the loss of work force with County employees. She stated it would take strong leadership to get the economy back on track. She asked if 54% of the population was vaccinated and excluded the children percentage what would it mean. She asked what percentage of the eligible population was vaccinated.

Director Harris said 64 - 65% if you took those who were not eligible for vaccination at this point.

Commissioner Jerrell asked what was considered a cluster.

Director Harris said a cluster was a combination of 5 or more.

Commissioner Jerrell asked how many people were part of boots on the ground with Action NC.

Director Harris said 18-20 people. She said there were also other small non-profit organizations assisting in these efforts.

Commissioner Jerrell asked for an estimate of accumulative total of people that the County was coordinating with. Director Harris said she would get that number for the Board.

Commissioner Jerrell asked if there was a way to measure the level of progress by the census tracts and how many there were had in the area pushing it.

Director Harris said she could go back and look at the census tracts and would get back to the Board.

Commissioner Leake made comments regarding the employee COVID testing policy.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell commented on employees who were suspended due to not submitting testing requirements. She asked if a demographic breakdown of the 86 employees who were currently non-compliant to insure they were just being defiant.

Chair Dunlap said that it would be a violation of an employee’s rights if they were identified due to the demographic breakdown. He asked about different scenarios of employees who were suspended and did not receive pay.
County Manager Diorio answered his questions based on information she had obtained from Human Resources.

Chair Dunlap said the Board wanted Human Resources to validate that the people who complied with the policy and had proof of documentation weren’t docked for their pay or improperly terminated.

Commissioner Powell commented on understanding that a strong position needed to be taken to protect Public Health and thanked Chair Dunlap and County Manager Diorio.

**21-7110 REALIGNMENT WITH ALLIANCE HEALTH**

The Board received a presentation on the Realignment with Alliance Health.

Rob Robinson, Alliance CEO provided a presentation that offered an overview of Alliance's service approach; and outlined the realignment process with Mecklenburg County.

*Background: Alliance Health (Alliance) is the managed care organization (MCO) providing public behavioral health services in Durham, Wake, Cumberland, and Johnston counties in North Carolina for residents who receive Medicaid or are uninsured.*

*On August 6, 2021, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services approved Mecklenburg County's request to realign with Alliance from Cardinal Innovations Health Care. The transition date for Mecklenburg County to realign with Alliance is December 15, 2021.*

The following topics were covered:

- Tailored Plan Regions
  - Would go live July 1, 2022
- Tailored Plan Population
  - Would be responsible for 15,535 projected tailored plan members in the County
- Supporting Access to Care
- Initial Goal: Ensure a Seamless Transition
- Current Activities
  - Would hire over 450
- Alliance Board Governance Structure
- Supporting Local Voices
A copy of the presentation is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

Comments

Commissioner Altman asked about the number of county residents that would qualify for state and county funds.

Mr. Robinson said on the Medicaid side this was about 15,000 members.

Commissioner Cotham commented she hoped this new organization (Alliance Health) would be as involved in the community as Cardinal Innovations was.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell commented on the number of staff Mr. Robinson introduced during his presentation. She was appreciative of all the future involvement the County would have with this merger.

Chair Dunlap commented on some providers expressing concern with wanting to be in network. He said the staff that Mr. Robinson introduced throughout his presentation seemed diverse and inclusive. Chair Dunlap asked if all appointees were required to go thru the Advisory Board.

Mr. Robinson said no, County Commissioners were welcomed to attend.

21-7103   HISTORIC LATTA UPDATE

Lee Jones, Director of Park and Recreation presented the Board with an update on the progress toward the eventual reopening of Historic Latta at Latta Nature Preserve.

Background: In June 2021, Mecklenburg County opted not to renew its Annual Performance Agreement with Historic Latta Place, Inc. (HLP), a private, non-profit organization. HLP had managed the Historic Latta site since its public opening in 1976.

With goals of equity, inclusion and compassionate programming in mind, Park and Recreation staff are currently assessing potential partnerships and best practices for the activation of the former plantation site for intentional educational experiences for all ages.

To date, the Department has initiated conversations with community partners including museum professionals, local historians, and experts in the interpretation of African American
experiences during the antebellum period. The project team is also consulting with scholars from around the country in order to ensure that next steps are informed by current research.

The following topics were covered:

- Site Overview
- Scope of Project
- Site Assessment
- Project Stakeholders
- Project Timeline

A copy of the presentation is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

Comments

Commissioner Meier thanked Director Jones for his work so far, and the information that was presented.

Commissioner Powell asked if as part of the initial stakeholder meeting, was there discussion regarding this being done in-house.

Director Jones said a variety of different ways were being discussed. He stated the County didn’t have the bandwidth to do it alone. He said they were looking at opportunities to partnership and were reviewing other entities that had done so successfully.

Chair Dunlap asked if the previous partnership was required to do the maintenance on the property.

Director Jones said no, but based on them being providers of the service they had the lions share.

Chair Dunlap asked if the previous organization was to reorganize under a different name could they run this venture again.

Director Jones said at this point it was too premature to say.

Chair Dunlap thanked Director Jones.
ARTS AND SCIENCE COUNCIL FY2022 PROGRAMS

The Board received information regarding adjustments to the County-funded Arts and Science Council programs for FY2022.

Adrian Cox, Budget Director and Krista Terrell with the Arts and Science Council presented the matter to the Board.

Background: For FY2022, the Board of Commissioners approved a total of $2,172,500 in funding for the Arts and Science Council (ASC). This funding includes $1,092,500 for Cultural Blocks, $600,000 for Operating Support Grants, $225,000 for Cultural Vision grants, $225,000 for Creative Individuals Grants, and $30,000 in one-time funding to support creative start-up entrepreneurs.

After the budget was adopted, the City of Charlotte finalized its funding plans for the arts and culture sector, which included providing the Operating Support Grants. Based on this change in the funding, the ASC is requesting to use the $600,000 allocated for Operating Support Grants to fund the following: $25,000 for Seed/Mentoring Grants, $55,000 to increase Cultural Vision Grants, $65,000 for Technical Assistance, and $455,000 to reinstate School Funding Opportunities. These changes to the programs provided by the ASC would have no impact on the funding allocated by the County. Attached, is a summary of the proposed adjustments.

The ASC School Funding Opportunities Grant Program provides opportunities for schools to apply for experiences from a listing of 100+ pre-approved arts, science, and history education programs that adhere to the Common Core State Standards and NC Essential Standards. The ASC ended the program in FY2021 due to the pandemic and lack of funding. The Technical Assistance and the Seed/Mentoring programs both serve to support artists to develop their craft. Descriptions of these three programs are attached.

In FY2022, the Board has funded a total of $3,167,500 to the art and culture sector through the ASC and other organizations.

The following topics were covered:

- FY22 Funding Adjustment Request
- Funded Program Proposed Adjustment
- Research Guiding Our Work
- Building Social Capital Seed/Mentoring Grants
- Building Organizational Capacity / Technical Assistance Grants
- Cultural Vision Grants
- Responding to Residents
- Building Creative & Critical Thinkers / School Funding Opportunities

A copy of the presentation is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

Comments

Commissioner Leake commented on her concerns for low performing schools having access to this proposed increase Arts funding.

Commissioner Jerrell commented on the allocations on high poverty schools and having more information around those numbers.

Commissioner Cotham commented on not taking away from a school to give to another when it came to Arts funding.

Commissioner Powell commented on the small amount given to high poverty schools.

Chair Dunlap commented on how much of an increase was needed in order for all the schools to get funding.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Meier and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to approve adjustments to the County-funded Arts and Science Council programs for FY2022.
DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORS’ MONTHLY REPORTS

21-7119 DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT MONTHLY REPORTS

The Board received the department directors’ Monthly Management Reports.

Background: The County Manager has requested department directors develop department management monthly reports highlighting key activities and initiatives within the departments and that reports show relevant performance indicators of departmental activity.

A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

STAFF REPORTS & REQUESTS – NONE

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORTS & REQUESTS – NONE

21-7115 CLOSED SESSION - LAND ACQUISITION

Motion was made my Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Powell and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to authorize the County Manager to negotiate and execute all documents necessary for the acquisition of Tax Parcel 051-061-97 (+/- 27.340 acres) from Copper Beech Townhome Communities Thirty One, LLC, a Pennsylvania limited liability company, for a purchase price of $2,560,000.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Altman and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to approve the following item(s):

21-7036 MINUTES

Approve minutes of the August 4, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.
BUDGET AMENDMENT - FY22 SMART START CHILD CARE (DSS)

Amend the 2021-2022 Annual Budget Ordinance to recognize, receive, and appropriate an increase in revenue and expenses of $5,040 from State childcare allocations in the General Fund (0001) within the Department of Social Services.

Background: Mecklenburg County contracts with Child Care Resources, Inc. (CCRI) to provide administrative services for processing applications and determining eligibility for the Smart Start Child Care Subsidy Program. These changes reflect changes in actual State allocations received from NC Division of Child Development & Early Education and Smart Start and is the first increase received this fiscal year.

RIGHT-OF-WAY ABANDONMENT - ENDERLY PARK

Authorize the County Manager to file a Right-of-Way Abandonment Petition with the Charlotte Department of Transportation ("CDOT") requesting the closure of +/- 0.617 acres of unopened Coker Avenue right-of-way that bifurcates County-owned Enderly Park; and upon approval of the above petition by CDOT, accept ownership of the residual +/-0.617 acres into Enderly Park.

Background: The Park and Recreation Department is developing a master plan, Meck Playbook, that will guide the future of the park system for the next ten years. Through the Meck Playbook process, all park facilities were assessed to determine current conditions and levels of investment needed. To address the needs of sub-standard parks, the Board provided enhanced funding to Park and Recreation during Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022.

As a result of Meck Playbook assessments, Enderly Park which is in west Charlotte was identified as a park in need of improvement to meet the Department's standards. Subsequently, $700,000 was budgeted for future upgrades at the park. The Department has begun community engagement sessions for the renovations and will determine the final project scope, schedule, and planned upgrades following the community engagement sessions.

As part of its pre-design activities, Park and Recreation is requesting the abandonment of +/- 0.617 acres of Coker Ave. that bifurcates the park. While unopened, elimination of this section of the right-of-way will allow Park and Recreation to achieve greater design flexibility and amenities placement because the department will not face the possibility of a street being built within the boundary of the park. Additionally, it will add to the cohesiveness of the park by having a permanent and continuous stretch of parkland and buffer area on the park’s perimeter.
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21-7125   TAX REFUNDS

Approve refunds in the amount of $22,444.25 as statutorily required to be paid as requested by the County Assessor.

*Background: This Board action is necessary to approve tax refunds resulting from clerical errors, audits and other amendments, including revaluation appeals. There is no accrued interest associated with the $22,444.25 Meck refunds. Refunds total $22,444.25.*

*A list of the taxpayer recipients is on file with the Clerk to the Board.*

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THIS CONCLUDED ITEMS APPROVED BY CONSENT

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21-7117   PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioners may remove agenda items from the Consent Agenda for a separate vote, to bring public awareness or to make comments. The following items were pulled and voted upon separately:

21-7100   GRANT APPLICATION FOR NORTH CAROLINA SENIOR CENTER GENERAL PURPOSE- EASTWAY SENIOR CENTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Jerrell and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to approve submission of an application for the North Carolina Senior Center General Purpose grant funding for Eastway Senior Center in the amount of up to $16,000 to continue existing programming; and if awarded, recognize, receive and appropriate such funds in the General Grant Fund (G001) within Park and Recreation Department for the grant period.

*Background: Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation requested approval to apply for and receive, if awarded, the North Carolina Senior Center General Purpose grant for Eastway Senior Center in the amount of up to $16,000. Grant awards distributed in FY22 would be used to continue existing programming at Eastway Senior Center. The required 25% match would be fulfilled by Eastway Senior Center costs paid by Mecklenburg County dollars. The application*
must be submitted to the Area Agency on Aging by September 30, 2021; grant covers costs back to July 1, 2021.

21-7101 GRANT APPLICATION FOR NORTH CAROLINA SENIOR CENTER GENERAL PURPOSE- TYVOLA SENIOR CENTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Jerrell and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to approve submission of an application for the North Carolina Senior Center General Purpose grant funding for Tyvola Senior Center in the amount of up to $6,000 to continue existing programming; and if awarded, recognize, receive and appropriate such funds in the General Grant Fund (G001) within Park and Recreation Department for the grant period.

Background: Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation requested approval to apply for and receive, if awarded, the North Carolina Senior Center General Purpose grant for Tyvola Senior Center in the amount of up to $6,000. Grant awards distributed in FY22 would be used to continue existing programming at Tyvola Senior Center. The required 25% match would be fulfilled by Tyvola Senior Center costs paid by Mecklenburg County dollars. The application must be submitted to the Area Agency on Aging by September 30, 2021; grant covers costs back to July 1, 2021.

21-7102 GRANT APPLICATION FOR NORTH CAROLINA SENIOR CENTER GENERAL PURPOSE- WAYMER SENIOR CENTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Jerrell and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to approve submission of an application for the North Carolina Senior Center General Purpose grant funding for Waymer Senior Center in the amount of up to $6,000 to continue existing programming; and if awarded, recognize, receive and appropriate such funds in the General Grant Fund (G001) within Park and Recreation Department for the grant period.

Background: Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation requested approval to apply for and receive, if awarded, the North Carolina Senior Center General Purpose grant for Waymer Senior Center in the amount of up to $6,000. Grant awards distributed in FY22 would be used to continue existing programming at Waymer Senior Center within David B Waymer Recreation Center. The required 25% match would be fulfilled by Waymer Senior Center costs paid by
Mecklenburg County dollars. The application must be submitted to the Area Agency on Aging by September 30, 2021; grant covers costs back to July 1, 2021

21-7122  ALLIANCE HEALTH LEASE - VALERIE C. WOODARD CENTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Altman and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to adopt a resolution titled "Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners Resolution Declaring Intent to Lease Property to Alliance Health, a Political Subdivision of the State of North Carolina.”

Background: At its June 1, 2021 meeting, the Board approved the County disengaging with Cardinal Innovations Healthcare and realigning with Alliance Health as the Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization (LME/MCO) for Mecklenburg County. Subsequently, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) approved the County's request and set a timetable of December 15, 2021 for Alliance to assume responsibility as the LME/MCO for Mecklenburg County. In its role as LME/MCO for the County, Alliance Health will manage behavioral health and intellectual/developmental disability services for residents who receive Medicaid or who have no health insurance.

In preparation for the transition to Alliance Health, the County and representatives of Alliance Health have discussed allowing staff with Alliance Health to occupy office space at the County-owned Valerie C. Woodard Center. The proposed lease with Alliance Health includes the following major business terms:

Location - The Valerie C. Woodard Center, 3205 Freedom Drive Suite 1800 Charlotte, NC 28208

Square Footage - +/- 14,250 SF

Term - Five (5) years

Renewal Option - The County will have the unilateral right to grant one (1) renewal option for an additional five (5) years provided Alliance Health is not in default of any lease terms.

Rent - One Dollar ($1.00) per year

Parking - Alliance Health employees and visitors are allowed use of the parking lot that serves the Woodard Center
Utilities and Services - The County shall be responsible for paying water, sewer, natural gas, and electricity. Alliance Health shall be responsible for paying for its telecommunication services, including but not limited to telephone and data.

County’s Responsibility - The County shall be responsible for repair, replacement, maintenance, and operation of HVAC, structural components, electrical, and plumbing systems. The County shall be responsible for all maintenance and repair of the exterior of the buildings, including the parking lot and grounds.

Tenant’s Obligations - Alliance Health shall accept the Premises in its as-is condition. Alliance Health shall make no alterations to the Premises without first seeking the review and approval of such alterations by the County.

Prior Access - Prior to lease commencement, Alliance Health shall access to the Leased Premises for pre-programming activities.

Relocation Clause - The County reserves the right to relocate Alliance Health to another space at the Woodard Center or another County location if it is determined by the County that the Leased Premises is needed for other County purposes.

Termination - The County may terminate the lease by providing at least twelve (12) months' notice for reasons other than default. For default reasons, the County may terminate the lease if such default is not cured within thirty (30) days of the County giving notice.

WHEREAS, the Mecklenburg County Board Commissioners approved disengagement with Cardinal Innovations Healthcare (“Cardinal”) as the Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization (“LME/MCO”) for Mecklenburg County (“County”); and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (“NCDHHS”) approved the County’s request to disengage with Cardinal and align with Alliance Health (“Alliance”) as the LME/MCO for the County; and

WHEREAS, NCDHHS set a timetable of December 15, 2021 for the County to transition to Alliance to manage behavioral health and intellectual/developmental disability services for County residents who receive Medicaid or who have no health insurance; and
**WHEREAS**, in preparation for the transition to Alliance, the County and Alliance have agreed to allow Alliance to lease County-owned space at the Valerie C. Woodard Center based on the following proposed business terms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>The Valerie C. Woodard Center, 3205 Freedom Drive Suite 1800 Charlotte, NC 28208</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Square Footage</td>
<td>+/- 14,250 SF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Five (5) years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewal Option</td>
<td>The County will have the unilateral right to grant one (1) renewal option for an additional five (5) years provided Alliance Health is not in default of any lease terms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>One Dollar ($1.00) per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>Alliance Health employees and visitors are allowed use of the parking lot that serves the Woodard Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities and Services</td>
<td>The County shall be responsible for paying water, sewer, natural gas, and electricity. Alliance Health shall be responsible for paying for its telecommunication services, including but not limited to telephone and data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County’s Responsibility</td>
<td>The County shall be responsible for repair, replacement, maintenance, and operation of HVAC, structural components, electrical, and plumbing systems. The County shall be responsible for all maintenance and repair of the exterior of the buildings, including the parking lot and grounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenant’s Obligations</td>
<td>Alliance Health shall accept the Premises in its as-is condition. Alliance Health shall make no alterations to the Premises without first seeking the review and approval of such alterations by the County.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior Access</td>
<td>Prior to lease commencement, Alliance shall access to the Leased Premises for pre-programming activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocation Clause</td>
<td>The County reserves the right to relocate Alliance Health to another space at the Woodard Center or another County location if it is determined by the County that the Leased Premises is needed for other County purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Termination</td>
<td>The County may terminate the lease by providing at least twelve (12) months’ notice for reasons other than default. For default reasons, the County may terminate the lease if such default is not cured within thirty (30) days of the County giving notice.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WHEREAS**, the County’s Asset and Facility Management Department has determined that the space that Alliance desires to lease will not be needed by the County during the term of the lease; and
WHEREAS, pursuant to G.S. 160A-272 the Board of Commissioners has determined that it would be in the public interest for it to agree to the arrangement proposed by Alliance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners does hereby declare its intent to enter into a lease arrangement with Alliance, as described above, and directs the Clerk of the Board to publish a notice of the Board’s intent to approve the lease arrangement with Alliance, at the Board’s November 3, 2021 meeting a required by law.

Resolution recorded in full in Ordinance Book 50, Document #____.

21-7128 APPOINTMENT OF REVIEW OFFICERS

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Gotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, to amend "Resolution Designating Review Officers to Review Each Map and Plat Recorded in the Register of Deeds Office pursuant to N.C.G.S. 47-30.2" to include Paul Lowe, and Kayleigh Mielenz and remove Sierra Saumenig.

Background: on July 8, 1997, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 875, which required that each Board of County Commissioners designate by name one or more persons experienced in mapping or land records management as a Review Officer to review each map and plat presented to the Register of Deeds for recording. On September 16, 1997, the Board adopted the attached resolution appointing representatives from Mecklenburg County, the City of Charlotte and other municipalities in Mecklenburg County. These individuals were chosen by their respective jurisdiction based on their expertise in mapping and land use planning within their jurisdictions (a list of those departments and/or municipalities is attached).

The original resolution has been amended multiple times since its adoption to add or delete names of appointees. The need to add or delete names occurs for various reasons such as changes in staffing (e.g. resignations, retirements) and/or changes in the duties and responsibilities of related positions within the respective jurisdictions. In these instances, a replacement Review Officer is identified from within the department or municipality in which the change has occurred.

From time to time, and for various reasons, the City of Charlotte Planning Design and Development Department receives requests to update the Review Officer roster from various agencies within Mecklenburg County. This update will remove staff members who are no longer employed with the entity and add new staff in charge of plat and map reviews by the respective agencies. Sierra Saumenig is no longer employed with the Town of Huntersville and will be replaced by Paul Lowe, Senior Planner and Kayleigh Mielenz, Planner 1, both from the Town of
Huntersville Planning Department. Paul Lowe and Kayleigh Mielenz will assume the duties of final record plat review.

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION DESIGNATING REVIEW OFFICERS TO REVIEW EACH MAP AND PLAT RECORDED IN THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE PURSUANT TO N.C.G.S. 47-30.2

WHEREAS, on September 16, 1997 the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution entitled “Resolution Designating Review Officers to Review Each Map and Plat Recorded in the Register of Deeds Office Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 47-30.2”; and

WHEREAS, the Resolution has been amended multiple times to accommodate additions and deletions; and

WHEREAS, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners now desires to amend the Resolution to make additional modifications. Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners that the Resolution adopted on September 16, 1997, as amended on prior occasions, be amended and the same hereby is further amended as follows:

1. Paul Lowe and Kayleigh Mielenz from the Town of Huntersville are hereby designated as Review Officers in addition to those persons so designated in the Resolution of September 16, 1997, and other appointees as amended on prior occasions; thus the Resolution is accordingly amended to add these names.

2. Sierra Saumenig shall be deleted from the Resolution adopted on July 2, 2019 from the Town of Huntersville.

Resolution recorded in full in Ordinance Book 50, Document #____.

21-7118 COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners shared information of their choosing within the guidelines as established by the Board, which included, but was not limited to, past and/or upcoming events.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Cotham and unanimously carried (9-0) with Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier,
September 21, 2021

Powell, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough voting yes, that there being no further business to come before the Board that the meeting be adjourned at 10:33 p.m.

______________________________ ____________________________
Kristine M. Smith, Clerk to the Board       George Dunlap, Chair