

DECEMBER 11, 2012

**MINUTES OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in Budget/Public Policy Session in Conference Center Room 267 of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center located at 600 East Fourth Street at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11, 2012.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Chairman Patricia Cotham and Commissioners Karen Bentley, Dumont Clarke, George Dunlap, Trevor Fuller, Vilma Leake, Kim Ratliff and Matthew Ridenhour  
County Manager Harry L. Jones, Sr.  
Clerk to the Board Janice S. Paige

**Absent:** Commissioner Bill James

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***Commissioner Clarke was absent when the meeting was called to order and until noted in the minutes.***

***The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cotham, after which the matter below was addressed.***

**2012 QUALITY OF LIFE STUDY UPDATE**

The Board received a report on the 2012 Quality of Life Study.

County Manager Jones made opening remarks and then turned the presentation over to Assistant to the County Manager Timothy Tibbs.

Assistant to the County Manager Tibbs was assisted in the presentation by Dr. Owen Furuseth from the University of North Carolina Charlotte and Dashboard Creator Tobin Bradley with the County's GIS Department. The following was noted:

- Background of how this effort came about
- Quality of Life Project Goals

***Commissioner Clarke entered the meeting.***

- To build greater collaboration between all local government entities
- To expand the geography of the Quality of Life study countywide
- To create a user-friendly Web-based dashboard
- Quality of Life Local Government Partners
- Project Team
- 2012 Quality of Life Improvements
- How the Study can be used
- Comprehensive Coverage-Finer Grained Neighborhoods
- Expanded Scope of Quality of Life Variables, 2000-2010
  - Social Dimension
  - Physical Dimension
  - Crime Dimension
  - Economic Dimension

- 2012 Quality of Life Variables/Dimension Framework
  - Community Character
  - Community Engagement
  - Community Economics
  - Education
  - Environment
  - Community Health
  - Housing
  - Community Safety
- New Analytical Framework
- Next Steps

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

#### Comments

Commissioner Leake asked about the involvement of Johnson C. Smith University in this effort. *Assistant Tibbs said going forward there would be an opportunity for other community engagement by entities that weren't involved originally.*

Dr. Furuseth from the University of North Carolina Charlotte said the University had a cooperative agreement with Johnson C. Smith University in terms of the Quality of Life Study for the University.

Commissioner Bentley asked was the Community Cabinet and Project Partners the same. *Assistant Tibbs explained that they were two different groups. He said the Community Cabinet was mainly staff representatives from the various partners.*

Commissioner Bentley asked about the Community Health variable and was there any way to drill down further to determine specific health issues by zip codes. *Dr. Furuseth said it was his understanding that this would be one of the next steps in this process.*

Commissioner Bentley asked about the American Community Survey, which was addressed.

Chairman Cotham asked how would this study and data benefit the average citizen, which was addressed.

Assistant Tibbs said the Study was developed for two users, the average citizen who wanted to know about their neighborhood and wanted to work with their neighborhood groups to see how they might be able to effect change in their neighborhood. The other user was decision makers who would be making decisions regarding public policy.

Commissioner Fuller asked how often would the Study be updated. *The response was every two years.*

Commissioner Bentley asked if it was known whether the Centralina Council of Governments planned to use this data or other possible community partners. *Associate General Manager Leslie Johnson said there had been discussion amongst the non-profit agencies that were members of the Community Cabinet, such as the Housing Authority, United Way, The Foundation for the Carolinas and that they were excited about possibly using the data.*

This concluded the presentation. No action was taken or required.

The above is not inclusive of every comment but is a summary.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Bentley, seconded by Commissioner Fuller and unanimously carried with Commissioners Bentley, Clarke, Cotham, Dunlap, Fuller, Leake, Ratliff, and Ridenhour voting yes, that there being no further business to come before the Board that the meeting be adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

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Janice S. Paige, Clerk

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Patricia "Pat" Cotham, Chairman