



## ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS BOARD MINUTES

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**  
Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

**Voting Members:** Laura Marie Davis (chair), Robin Emmons (vice chair), Chi Vo (secretary), Donald Addu (ex officio), Wafa Khalil, Matthew Kopac, Juilee Malavade, Melanie Allen, Chastan Swain, Roberto Valle Kinloch, Wilson Salls, Ethan Case, Aissa Dearing

**Excused Absences:** Jennifer Hill, Tyjuanna LaBennett

**Ex Officio Members/Staff:** DeDreana Freeman (City Council), Heidi Carter (County Commissioners), Paul Cameron (General Services), Tobin Freid (Durham County Sustainability Manager), Scott Whiteman (City & County Planning), Summer Alston (Economic & Workforce Development), Jonathan Baker (Stormwater Quality), Vicki Westbrook (Water Management), Jina Prost (General Services), Stacey Poston (General Services), Celeste Burns (Open Spaces)

Attendees & Panelists Total: 41

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- I. Call to Order at 6:01 PM
  - II. Approval of Minutes: Approval (13-0)
  - III. Announcements
    - a) Next EAB meeting is scheduled for April 7th
    - b) Community Health Assessment includes a chapter on Climate Change: <https://healthydurham.org/health-data>
    - c) 11 local NC governments signed on to the Duke IRP; this has been the largest group of governments who have signed on: <https://starw1.ncuc.net/NCUC/ViewFile.aspx?Id=bf1e6203-0b2b-410d-9917-132ffbda49a6>
    - d) EPA \$250 million dollars for environmental justice grant: <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-justice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-0>
    - e) Creek Week: <https://keepdurhambeautiful.org/creek-week>
    - f) EAB Survey for GDS: <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ehngwamzklsc4kih/a00cklu2mzna/questions>

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Staff Contact: Paul Cameron, Sustainability and Energy Analyst  
919.560.4197 x21244 ▪ [Paul.Cameron@DurhamNC.gov](mailto:Paul.Cameron@DurhamNC.gov)

#### IV. **New Business and Continuing Business**

##### a) **Topic: GDS Updates – City of Durham Renewable Energy and Carbon Neutrality Plan**

*Presenter(s): Angela Strickland, Managing Director, GDS Associates*

- Energy efficiency, renewables, electrification, other
- Intentional focus on equity and social justice
- EAB Input Survey: Please complete by March 19<sup>th</sup>

#### **Comments:**

**R. Valle:** How is this work being conducted through an equity lens – is there a framework that is shaping this work and the strategies? For example, in energy efficiency, one of the direct connections is the materials that are used.

- We are still finalizing our matrix now. We are looking at costs, greenhouse gas reduction impact, timeframe, ease of implementation, feasibility, technology. Included in these are equity considerations and the impact this will have on vulnerable or underserved communities. A lot of these levers are positive or negative, but we are still building out the final matrix.

**M. Allen:** What are you thinking about regarding market-based approach, offsets, circular economy, and climate impact holistically?

- The final draft will be due in June, and we will provide more opportunities for input.

**E. Case:** How are you addressing issues with Durham Housing Authority (DHA) standards?

- This is a topic of discussion. This is a part of the city's internal portfolio; there are certain responsibilities for those appointed to that board. There are separate responsibilities for DHA. This scope doesn't cover DHA standards.

*\*Questions to Stacey and Angela from GDS can be routed to Paul.*

##### b) **Topic: County of Durham Renewable Energy and Carbon Neutrality Plan**

*Presenter(s): Tobin Freid, Sustainability Manager, Durham County*

- Updates will be in April.

##### c) **Topic: Update on Durham's Comprehensive Plan**

*Presenter(s): Laura Marie Davis, Jennifer Hill, & Scott Whiteman (City & County Planning)*

- City Planning has had to make a lot of adjustments and continue commitment to the equitable engagement blueprint.
- We produced draft goals from November – February from 2019-2020 input and feedback.
- Environmental objectives had the most comments.
- March 9<sup>th</sup>: Comprehensive Plan draft community goals and objectives presented to Planning Commission: <https://durhamnc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/37055/PC-memo-info-item-20210309>
- April 27<sup>th</sup>: Special meeting to discuss these priorities
- Final adoption in June

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- If there's anything missing from the objectives, then EAB members can submit them.
- EAB will be a part of the policy and implementation steps.
- There are gaps in Latinx/Hispanic, youth, and rural community members.
- Youth Listening Project: City Planning will work with the Youth Council.

**d) Topic: Landscape Plan Resolution**

*Presenter(s): Don Addu & Celeste Burns (Open Spaces)*

- Interconnecting wildlife areas: increase connectivity between open space and wildlife space in Durham and amplifies our biodiversity
- This will require a lot of significant work from City Planning and General Services.
- Durham Open Space and Trails Commission (DOST) drafted a resolution and has asked EAB to support it.
- [DOST Resolution Draft here](#)

**Comments:**

**W. Salls:** It would be useful to look at lower income communities that would benefit from this resolution.

- There will be a GIS analysis, and there are definitely considerations for this.
- This sort of data could be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan around land use, wildlife habitats, and recreational values.

**M. Allen:** How have people thought about equity and impact; not allowing development in areas where there is still open space and wildlife corridors. What are considerations for storm water and connectivity as well as considerations for navigating this without burdening communities who have been historically burdened? (Particularly looking at longer range impact on this policy.)

**A. Dearing:** I'm not seeing community associations, BIPOC organizations, or NCCU in the partnerships.

- This was geographically focused, so NCCU was not included.
- It included Chatham County and Wake County watershed area.
- Celeste will connect with the Eno-New Hope Project and DOST leadership about who they are connecting with. (Not too late to work with NCCU.)

**Motion and second to accept resolution and work with DOST for due diligence. (Approved 13 – 0)**

Adjourn 7:31 PM

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