



ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS BOARD MINUTES

August 4th, 2021
Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Voting Members: Chi Vo (chair), Juilee Malavade (vice chair), Wafa Khalil, Matthew Kopac, Chastan Swain, Jennifer Hill, Katie Barnhill-Dilling, Sherry Taylor, Bill Busa, Jillian Riley

Excused Absences: Wilson Salls, Melanie Allen, Aissa Dearing

Ex Officio Members/Staff: DeDreana Freeman (City Council), Heidi Carter (County Commissioners), Tobin Freid (Durham County Sustainability Manager), Scott Whiteman (City & County Planning), Summer Alston (Economic & Workforce Development), Vicki Westbrook (Water Management), Jina Propst (General Services), JV Loperfido (Public Works), Wayne Fenton (Solid Waste)

Attendees & Panelists Total: 19

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- I. Call to Order at 6:04 PM
 - II. Approval of Minutes: Approval for July Minutes (edit Heidi was present, adjustment of Michelle's title)
 - III. Centering and Reflection: Acknowledging Indigenous Stewardship, Land Acknowledgement
 - IV. Announcement

Vicki Westbrook: Watering schedule

SWCD grants: FY2022 Agricultural Economic Info session Aug 10th, 12th, 17th,

<https://www.dconc.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/35275/637626521473200000?fbclid=IwAR30XYZxR-OMGQomHra8RiBmbxbU1r7FAloNaQu7QOxWvVZFRveVjmm89A8>

https://www.dconc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/soil-water-conservation-district/ag-economic?fbclid=IwAR3wAY3UMZO56VBA0inITVlaShYKvr_pXf_1-2iHvkRUouN5uVQ3vGK3FEI

Next EAB meeting is scheduled for Sept 1st 2021

IV. **New and Continuing Business**

- **New Topic: Jordan Lake Watershed Rezoning by EPCON Developer**
Presenter: Barbara Taylor

Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act - A person with a disability may receive an auxiliary aid or service to effectively participate in city government activities by contacting the ADA Coordinator, voice 919.560.4197 or ADA@DurhamNC.gov, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the event or deadline date.

Staff Contact: Paul Cameron, Sustainability and Energy Analyst
919.560.4197 x21244 ▪ Paul.Cameron@DurhamNC.gov

- Developer EPCON want land in the Jordan Lake Watershed district rezoned as residential
 - Work session tomorrow
 - Contested approval: 7-5 critical piece of land in watershed turned into development
 - Agenda Item 14 Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Stream Bank Stabilization, Agenda Item 18 Annexation Courtyard Southpoint II
 - Concern issues with watershed and critical drinking water supply, clearing out land for homes without concern for water issues
 - Motions for annexation:
 - Motion #1: To adopt an ordinance annexing 'Courtyards at Southpoint II' into the City of Durham effective September 30, 2021; and to authorize the City Manager to enter into a utility extension agreement with EPCON Southpoint, LLC;
 - Motion #2: To adopt an ordinance amending the Unified Development Ordinance by taking property out of the Residential Rural (RR)/Falls/Jordan Lake Watershed Protection District-B (F/J-B) and establishing the same as Planned Development Residential 1.682 (PDR 1.682)/ Falls/Jordan Lake Watershed Protection District-B (F/J-B); and
 - Motion #3: To adopt a Consistency Statement as required by NCGS 160D-605.
 - City Council's decision to approve or deny annexation, Aug 16th
 - **JV Loperfido:** Email following up on this issue
 - **Chastain:** Try consulting Natural Heritage Program
- **Continuing Topic: Letter of Support to the Council in Support of the Carbon Neutrality and the Renewable Energy Action Plan**
 - **Jennifer:** Concern that support is only for city and need for action plan or initiatives in support of global climate action not just limited to city, adding a line in the letter, acknowledge interest in work at local level
 - **Tobin:** Think about components of a climate action plan, what the government can do and nonprofits can do, advocacy at state level, bring in students to help with plan or consultants
 - **Scott:** Copy of updated plan covering community is beyond scope of plan, but building processes, greenhouse plan may be
 - **Sherry:** Question for Tobin, bring in consultants and not students to help with Renewable Energy Plan
 - **Tobin:** Borrow from other city plans and strategies are similar, for robust community engagement, NIS and other consultants
 - **Chi:** University Research Team
 - **Chi:** Letter writing first draft
 - **Continuing Topic: Community Forum and Community Engagement (Chi Vo)**
Presenter(s): Chi Vo

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- Current Engagement Initiatives: Usually in person events like festivals, Farmers Market, schools but currently schools do not allow visitors due to COVID
 - Potential Initiative: A community forum, special meeting
 - Making sure access to EAB is equitable, from an issue standpoint
 - **Katie:** What are the strategies we have and goals we have for community engagement?
 - Regular meeting or special meeting: Our meeting time is inconvenient
 - **Sherry:** What are the issues to host this forum around, how to be orderly
 - Energy consumption public health
 - What do residents want to know about?
 - Something beneficial to the community: tell the community what we do
 - **Katie:** Phased process, how do we identify priorities
 - **Juilee:** Have a space (virtual forum) where EAB issues live on so that we engage more people
 - **Jillian:** Neighborhood associations, resident leaders, environmental issues in communities, build a community leader network
 - **Heidi Carter:** Interneighborhood Council
 - **Ajax:** In person events and engagements are the best, neighborhood associations may not include communities with issues that are the most pressing
 - **Working Group:** Sherry, Katie, Bill Juilee, Chi
- **Continuing Topic: Public Housing Environmental Review Process**
Presenter(s): Juilee Malavade
 - Understanding where we as a board can guide the Department of Community Development
 - Several rules and regulations, complying is difficult and how to make the process as a community more transparent
 - Getting common ground on this issue with the Department of Community Development
 - **Continuing Topic: Interlocal Agreement Comments**
Presenter(s): Chi Vo
 - Correction for staff liaison just the City General Services Department
 - **Tobin:** Implementation question if we are switching everyone to at large seats, how to go about application process
 - i. **Matt, Juilee:** Mention expertises in call for application process, vet applications by expertise
 - ii. **Wafa:** At large is best, personal connection was that she did not have much experience with water resources seat, but did bring her knowledge on education and energy
 - **Continuing Topic: Construction Recycling Ordinance**
Presenter(s): Jennifer Hill
 - **Feedback:** Learning lessons from municipalities that are similar
 - **Feedback:** Concern about placement of facility near residential areas

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- i. Materials being recycled coming from old buildings with lead and asbestos
- **Feedback:** Local Developer, thought ordinance was excellent addressed waste chain, targets commercial market, should address beyond developers as well
- **Feedback:** Requires materials to be recycled but do they have value? One developer has many asphalt shingles, this may need to be paired is there is surplus of a certain material, legislation has to source materials with recycled content in addition to recycling materials
- **Aug 18th internal deadline on construction recycling ordinance**

Adjourn at 7:53 PM

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