

Durham Compact Board of Advisors

**Virtual Meeting
9:00 AM-10:30 AM
Monday, July 13, 2020**

MINUTES

Attendees: Dr. Joyce B. Johnson, Board Chair; Dr. Christa Washington, Vice Chair; Lisa Jackson, Recorder; Grace Dzidzienyo, Office of Economic and Workforce Development Representative; Board Members: Robert Doreauk, Sandeep Chauhan, Eric Guckian, Adri Maisonet-Morales, and Camryn Smith; Pheon Alston, Administrative Analyst, Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Call to Order

A virtual meeting of the Durham Compact Board of Advisors was held on July 13, 2020. It began at 9:05 a.m. and was presided over by Chairperson Joyce B. Johnson who also served as Recorder.

Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was unanimously approved by the attendees.

Introductions

Chair Johnson thanked each member for her or his willingness to serve on the Durham Compact Board of Advisors, adding that their wealth of experience, knowledge and expertise would certainly help the Durham Compact achieve its goals and realize its mission. Dr. Johnson then asked all attendees to introduce themselves by first stating their name and then providing some information about themselves. Each attendee did so.

Old Business

There was no “Old Business” since this was the inaugural meeting of the Durham Compact Board of Advisors.

New Business

Purpose of the Meeting

Chair Johnson stated that the meeting had a two-fold purpose: (1) to provide each Board member with a brief Orientation, which would include an overview of the Board’s governance structure, official documents that Board members may use in order to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, and the Durham Compact Board of Advisors Bylaws that would need their approval; and (2) to have a discussion with Board

members regarding their current community work in addressing the challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. She also said that she would end the meeting with dates of future Board meetings and information about the upcoming Mini-Retreat. She also thanked Dr. Christa Washington for agreeing to serve as Vice Chair of the Board. Dr. Johnson said that they were still in need of a Recorder. She also said that she would like to record the July 13 meeting, if they were okay with it, so that her Minutes would be accurate.

Overview of Built2Last, Durham Compact and the Office of Economic and Workforce Development: The Interconnection

Grace Dzidzienyo provided information on the events leading to the development of the Durham Compact. She said that when Andre Pettigrew first arrived as Director of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, he had a conversation with Mayor Schewel and others about “shared economic prosperity.” However, she noted, people had different meanings of “shared economic prosperity.” According to Dzidzienyo, Mayor Schewel later outlined in his first State of the City Address in 2018 an agenda that included a shared prosperity economy and asked the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) to take the lead in developing a plan. OEWD then hired Cedar Grove Institute for Sustainable Communities, led by Dr. James Johnson, of UNC’s Kenan-Flagler Business School, to collaborate with OEWD to develop such a plan. She reminded the attendees that many of them had participated in the stakeholders meeting held by the Built2Last and OEWD Team. The end result was the *Built2Last Roadmap*, a comprehensive plan on how to create a more inclusive and equitable economy in Durham (both City and County). Prior to the development of such a plan, Ms. Dzidzienyo thought of creating a Durham Compact modeled after the United Nations Global Compact because it was so important for them to engage with the private sector, financial sector, community and educational sector. How can we leverage our resources to have a greater impact? The government has a tendency, based on research performed by the World Economic Council, not to ask for resources or assistance from the private sector. The Durham Compact would have private sector employees and other organizations to leverage their resources to help the City of Durham secure strategic alliances who would assist the City in the development of some of the Built2Last initiatives. This action, she acknowledges, would help Durham achieve a major goal of achieving a more inclusive and equitable community with the support of partners. She also said that the Durham Compact would inform how they work in Durham and have a greater impact. She reminded the attendees that many of them had participated in stakeholders’ meetings that the Built2Last and OEWD team had held. Dzidzienyo ended by providing some background information on OEWD. OEWD focuses on implementing strategies that ensure Durham has a strong and diverse economy, which includes talent development and small business development. The office focuses on workforce development and economic development.

Review and Discussion of Durham Compact Documents

Dr. Johnson led a review of the *Durham Compact*, Memorandum of Understanding and the Organizational Chart that attendees were sent the prior week to review and be prepared to discuss at the meeting. She reviewed each of the documents with attendees—highlighting key information in both the *Durham Compact* and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). She stated that the Durham Compact Office was responsible for securing strategic alliances from the corporate sector, educational sector, philanthropic/financial sector, the small business sector, and community leadership and activists focused on equitable and inclusive development in Durham. Dr. Johnson first focused on the Durham Compact’s

organizational structure, focusing primarily on the roles and responsibilities of the Executive Committee and the five committees. She then provided them with the names and background information on the members who were chairing the five committees. She then briefly spoke about the Board and its roles. Dr. Johnson asked if there were questions. Grace Dzidzienyo responded that Mayor Schewel was excited about the Durham Compact. Dr. Johnson then highlighted the four major areas of the *Built2Last Plan* that the *Durham Compact* would focus on—they being talent development, inclusive supply chain management system, financial empowerment, and small-, women- and minority- owned businesses. She then spent time explaining each of the focus areas. She also mentioned that the Board would address challenges resulting from COVID-19. She spoke about the Compact's role of securing strategic alliances who would leverage their resources to assist the City with its many initiatives. She concluded her discussion of the Durham Compact by referencing the Logic Model listed on the last page.

Next, Dr. Johnson asked them to review their Bylaws and asked if they had questions. She then highlighted certain sections of the Bylaws (e.g., Functions and Duties of the Board; Board Membership; Committee Descriptions; Board Meetings; Robert's Rules of Order; Conflict of Interest; Bylaws Amendments).

Dr. Johnson also briefly focused on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and its significance to the work being done. She also spoke about the responsibilities of the Durham Compact Office and the strategic alliances. She also mentioned the letter of commitment that would need to accompany the MOU and its significance. However, Dr. Johnson shared with them that they would not necessarily need the MOU because they would be sending to the Durham Compact Office for onboarding any potential partners that they secured. They would complete the MOU during their conversation with the Durham Compact Manager and/or Assistant Director of OEWD. She then explained how additional strategic partners would be secured and who would be doing most of that work. She, in other words, explained how the Durham Compact Office and Board worked in tandem with one another, and provided a detailed account of how the MOU would be used—giving examples. She concluded this section discussing the annual report required of all members.

Dr. Johnson asked Grace Dzidzienyo to discuss the Innovation Lab with the 501(c)(3) that is referenced in the *Built2Last Roadmap*. Grace Dzidzienyo spoke about the training lab and the status of the 501(c)(3). She also talked about the work that The Consortium is currently engaged in for the RDU businesses.

Covid-19 and Post-Covid-19 Discussion

Grace Dzidzienyo said that Andre Pettigrew, Director of OEWD, wanted to know how Board members were addressing COVID-19 in their respective businesses—what's working as well as possible challenges, especially as it relates to small businesses.

Dr. Christa Washington began the conversation by sharing how she is working to assist individuals and companies through her consulting firm and as an educator.

Lisa Jackson said that her bank had closed, for the most part, and saw customers by appointment only. They also set up criteria for those visiting the bank. She added that they are very much taking care of their existing clients.

Camryn Smith spoke about her work in collaboration with Self-Help. Her agency is also looking at a different, more sustainable model for black and brown businesses. She also discussed forming cooperatives and fundraising efforts to sustain black and brown businesses.

Sandeep Chauhan discussed how his company was assisting new and existing customers, PPP and other initiatives.

Robert Doureauk spoke about his business' partnerships with school systems in the counties over which he provides oversight. He also talked about his institution partnering with Durham Public Schools to provide meals for students.

Eric Guckian said that his company set up a Rapid Response Fund and raised about \$1.5 million. He said that they had been very responsive to the community, assisting them with their needs. He spoke of several other initiatives that they were involved in as part of the Rapid Response Fund. (some of what Mr. Guckian said was inaudible)

Grace Dzidzienyo ended this discussion by thanking everyone for sharing their experiences in coping with COVID-19.

Dr. Johnson also thanked Board members for the work that they were doing to address the challenges of COVID-19.

Next Steps

Dr. Johnson shared with the Board the next steps. First, they will have a Mini-Retreat in August, from 8:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Time will be spent developing goals and strategies.

Second, the dates of Board meetings for 2020-2021 are as follows:

- October 15, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- February 18, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- June 17, 2021 (Annual Meeting—Committee and Strategic Alliances Reports Due), Time to be determined

Third, Dr. Johnson will send them a copy of the Newsletter, which includes the work that they have been engaged in for the last few months. She also mentioned that their service on the Board was a two-year commitment. She thanked them.

Questions and Answers

There were no additional questions or comments.

Adjournment

Dr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Joyce B. Johnson

Joyce B. Johnson, Ph.D.