



Durham County
PAC-4 Meeting Notes
April 14, 2018
Campus Hills Recreation Center – 2000 S Alston Avenue

Attendees:

Chair Wendy Jacobs; County Commissioners Heidi Carter, Brenda Howerton and Ellen Reckhow; General Manager Claudia Hager; County Attorney Lowell Siler; County Clerk Michelle Parker-Evans; and Budget Director Keith Lane

The Commissioners made brief introductory remarks. The Chair introduced County staff in attendance and thanked the PAC 4 facilitators for the invitation to attend the meeting.

The moderator asked the Board how the light rail project would be beneficial to the minority community. Commissioner Reckhow explained that the station area had been extended to the NCCU area which would also help with job access and enable citizens to get to major employers faster.

Commissioner Howerton raised concerns about the lack of minority representation on the GoTriangle Board. Commissioner Carter responded that racial equity was always a challenge, but was always important to the Board of County Commissioners. She further discussed the development around the stations that would include affordable housing—a commitment by the Board.

Chair Jacobs offered to send the PAC leaders MWBE contract information regarding the project.

Another concern was gentrification. The question was posed as how would Durham be different and protect African-Americans?

Chair Jacobs responded that the City and County owned lots of property. She specifically spoke about the properties at 300 and 500 East Main Street (County owned), and the desire to leverage it for affordable housing and affordable office/retail space.

Commissioner Reckhow explained that North Carolina did not have “home rule” which meant we could only do what was listed in the State constitution. Other communities were using what’s known as “inclusionary zoning” for low and moderate-income housing. She suggested everyone needed to work hard in upcoming elections.

The group discussed recruitment efforts for Boards and Commissions as well as ways to find out about other meetings. Commissioner Reckhow passed out a sign-up sheet for those who were interested in receiving the Manager’s Weekly newsletter. The Clerk would also use that sheet to add those individuals to the Sunshine List and Vacancy List for Boards and Commissions as well

as add the PAC leaders to the list. It was also suggested that advertising be added to NCCU Jazz station, and gospel stations.

Commissioner Reckhow briefly spoke about the cradle to career priority of the Board---top priority. Commissioner Howerton spoke about the possible bond from the State for school construction. Commissioner Carter stated that schools would be her top priority for the budget. Chair Jacobs spoke about the commitment of having Durham residents ready for the jobs in Durham.

A citizen was concerned regarding the Chamber incentivizing some businesses who hired those who received certifications because they could hire them for less, and they were passing over people with higher degrees they felt they couldn't afford.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

V. Michelle Parker-Evans
County Clerk to the Board