



Board Topics of Interest Update

Public Policy Workshop

March 14, 2017



Board Topics of Interest: Status Update

Commissioner	Topic	Status
Commissioner Dunlap	Task Force Appointment Qualifications	March 14 public policy workshop
V. Chair Puckett	Fast Track Coordinator	
Commissioner Leak	Literacy Courses for Seniors	
Commissioner Dunlap	The Distribution of the ABC Revenue	
Commissioner Cotham	Unpaved Park Amenities for Seniors	
Chair Scarborough	Use of Empty Jail Cells for Homeless	
Commissioner Cotham	Parental Leave	March 21 Regular Board Meeting
V. Chair Puckett	Enticing Relocation without Tax Incentives	March 28 public policy workshop Business Investment Grants
V. Chair Puckett	Subcommittee to interview recently located businesses	
Commissioner Dunlap	Goal Based Incentives	



Task Force Appointment Qualifications

- **(Q):** I have a concern that when task forces are being formed for whatever the reason, we often don't have the right people at the table. I'm curious to know if there is something that the County can do to help address this concern?
- **(A):** This inquiry has been assigned to the Ad Hoc Boards Comprehensive Review Committee. The members of the committee are: Commissioners Dunlap (Chair), James, Leake, and Puckett.



Fast Track Coordinator

- **(Q):** Explore the creation of a position that handle obstacles or situations that require special intervention that a single point person with a “go to the head of the class” pass could provide assistance. “I would like staff’s opinion”
- **(A):** LUESA is continuously exploring improvements to better & more completely serve the customer: Recent Improvements include:
 - A Customer Service Center(CRC) – provides support for projects experiencing difficulty;
 - Project & Code Enforcement Managers – take the baton from the CSC if problems persist;
 - Pilot Program – testing 1 on 1 help for customers when a project enters its 3rd plan review cycle;
 - Mega-Multifamily Team – focus on large projects & mid-to-high rise multifamily projects;
 - OpenCounter – an online tool that ask small business owners that are considering opening/relocating to Charlotte a series of business related questions & provides a permitting checklist. A soft launch is scheduled for March
- The aforementioned improvements will be tantamount to the creation of a fast track coordinator.
Refer to the full written response in your packet.



Literacy Courses for Seniors

- **(Q):** Can the County offer fundamental reading, writing, & arithmetic courses for seniors at recreation centers or locations that provide meals? The courses should only be offered where there is a demand. (there may not be a need in some locations of the County) Are these type of courses currently available for seniors? Is it possible to identify retired teachers (seniors) that can instruct the courses?
- **(A):** CPCC offers the aforementioned courses at (3) of its campuses. The Associate Dean of College & Career Readiness is willing to send instructors to teach these courses at County facilities. The course would be free and each location would require a minimum of (12) participates for CPCC to teach the class. Also, the Public Library promotes adult basic literacy. Dana Eure, Associate Director of Lifelong learning (Public Library) is exploring options to partner with the public library on future programming. ***Refer to the full written response in your packet.***



The Distribution of the ABC Revenue

- **(Q):** A few things caught my attention while reading the 2016 Annual Report for the ABC Board. Under distributions to local governments, the City & County received the same amounts, yet have a different tax rate. The County pays more for incentive grants than the City because we are larger – would the same not be applicable for the ABC revenue? I'd like to know why this happens.
- **(A):** The ABC Revenue is distributed in accordance with NC General Statute. The distribution formula is provided by Chapter 835 of the 1947 Session Laws as amended by Chapter 331 of the 1971 Session Laws (which are local acts) as follows:
 - a) Five percent (5%) to the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County.
 - b) The remaining balance to be equally divided between the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. ***Refer to the full written response in your packet for more details about the distribution.***



Unpaved Park Amenities for Seniors

- **(Q):** I have heard from seniors with bad knees & feet that they walking paths that are not asphalt or concrete. Also, they want tennis courts – at least a few, that are clay courts so they can stay fit, but not have the added stress & pain in their joints. What is the cost and is this feasible?
- **(A): Unpaved Trails:** There are over 106 miles of unpaved trails throughout the County; most parks & nature preserves have some unpaved trails. Nature preserve trails comprise 50 miles of the total trail mileage. There are 45 miles of trail-free greenway properties. We have 2.3 miles of dirtways, which are future greenways that have been cleared to allow official public access prior to the paved trail installation. Installing a soft surface or rubberized trail surface would be extremely expensive and very hard to maintain due to the location of our greenways predominately in floodplains. However, McAlpine Greenway is an example of a trail that was recently renovated to provide a wider berm on each side so runners or walkers could use the dirt trail adjacent to the hard surface. This option is used on our greenway trails where practical.
- **(A) Clay Tennis Courts:** the County does not have any clay courts. Construction cost is higher than asphalt courts by \$25K-\$60K. An option is to build on an existing site. Maintenance is much more intensive and more expensive than asphalt courts. ***Refer to the full written response in your packet.***



Use of Empty Jail Cells for the Homeless

- **(Q):** Can empty jail cells be used to provide housing for the homeless?
- **(A):** The jail annex on Spector Drive is the only unoccupied space. It was opened in 2009 and closed as a detention facility in 2011. All operating cost & staff were eliminated at that time. Therefore, the Sheriff's Office has no funding associated with empty jail space. Currently, the County is using one section of the facility as storage space. The written response highlights conflicts of interest "if" housing the homeless at jail annex was the accountability of the Sherriff's Office. The facility was built for detention purposes with a basic layout of barracks. Due to location, transportation is a major challenge. The Sheriff is committed to being a part of the solution and welcomes the opportunity to be more involved in the conversation. ***Refer to the full written response in your packet.***



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