

301 W. Main St. Town Hall Carrboro, NC 27510

February 13, 2024

7:00 PM

Town of Carrboro Meeting Minutes – Work Session

Town Council

Council Chambers - Room 110

Present: Mayor Barbara Foushee, Council Member Jason Merrill, Council Member Danny Nowell, Council Member Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Council Member Eliazar Posada

Remote: Council Member Catherine Fray

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Also Present: Marie Parker, Interim Town Manager; Wendy Welsh, Interim Town Clerk; Nick Herman, Town Attorney

EVALUATION OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Wendy Welsh, Interim Town Clerk, gave a presentation on Advisory board consolidation including status of all current boards and proposed consolidation.

Council Member Haven-O'Donnell gave a recommendation to embed the Environmental Advisory Board into the Climate Action Team. Discussed with the goals and budget it makes sense that broader umbrella is the Climate Action Team. Environment Advisory Board is more focused on policy and regulation and can be a subset within the Climate Action Team.

Council Member Nowell stated he's amenable to that suggestion. Asked to hear obstacles for more effectively fulfilling charter and if they need more guidance from Council.

Council Member Haven-O'Donnell stated last year the Climate Action Team requested expansion for more people to do the work. Proposed consolidation based on the comprehensive plan, goals and the way budgeting and community engagement is going.

Discussion ensued between Council and Staff about joint review, keeping them under the Land Use Ordinance, and possibly changing the name and charter if consolidated.

Council Member Fray gave observations as serving on advisory board, the Council should consider updating and merging charges and avoid subcommittees. That might look like changing the name to Climate Action Board but serves joint review purposes. Climate Action Board can do both duties climate action team and joint review. Discussed that lots of people feel they have trouble meeting commitment. Appointments are long and some groups meet a lot and some have irregular schedules which causes quorum issues. It's hard to stay engaged, there have been hiccups with guidance on appointment with applicants with long wait times, so lots have withdrawn.

Mayor Foushee reiterated that the Council might need to take a broader view of boards and commissions outside of consolidations and take a deeper look at boards.

Council Member Fray recommended to look at charges and see if still fit for purpose or if they need to be broadened or narrowed. Look to see if there are subgroups that need to meet separately in sub segments of larger group. Need to look at size, terms, applications and the appointment processes.

Council Member Posada asked about the thought process about subcommittees and how the work.

 Wendy Welsh, Interim Town Clerk, gave examples of different boards and sub-committees, why they were formed, and when they meet.

Council and Staff discussed possible mergers, how they would work and merger of charges.

Having boards decide subcommittees and assigning extra duties amongst the members. Also,

65 getting input from boards.

Mayor Foushee discussed the next steps and the way ahead. Also asked about staff working groups.

Wendy Welsh, Interim Town Clerk, discussed doing all the next steps while reassessing board make ups. Agreed that staff liaisons need to be involved in how the new charges will be formed because they are the ones implementing the agenda.

Council and Staff discussed how this would impact Staff and whether it would reduce staff time in the future.

Council Member Haven-O'Donnell highlighted that the Truth Plaque Task Force doesn't have a charge and could merge with Race Equity Commission and become a subcommittee. Discussed the Greenways commission, since 1994, was under recs and parks.

Council Member Fray agreed with Council Member Haven-O'Donnell to chat with different staff liaisons about Greenways. Looking at the history, the charge stretches across many boards.

Council and Staff discussed how boards and commissions stretch across multiple categories and having Staff looking into the charters to see how they can be properly divided.

Council Member Fray recommended addressing with public engagement and start socializing some ideas to boards while staff working on details. Inform chairs to inform them that Council is looking at merging charges, so no one lose seat and looking at ways to make it less onerous to serve. We need to loop them in early in the process.

Mayor Foushee stated she agrees, and asked Staff how can they start getting this conversation out to the advisory boards. Directed to share some information about tonight to relieve some angst about how we plan to move forward.

Council Member Posada recommended to share this presentation and thinks it's good to get them involved sooner than later.

Wendy Welsh, Interim Town Clerk, asked about how to proceed with new appointments and reappointments. Thinks reappointments can just happen but would appreciate guidance on new appointments and what you would like to happen.

Council Member Nowell asked if it would cause real problems to pause new appointments until this gets worked out. Pointed out that in almost all cases we are appointing to vacant seats, except for the Rec and Arts Committee where there is a backlog.

Council Member Posada favored halting new appointments but doing reappointments until they finalize what boards will look like. Explained doesn't want the charge to change and people find out that's not what they signed up for.

Council Member Merrill concurred with halting new appointments but wants new applicants to be kept in the loop. Stated proactive communication is best.

114 Council Member Haven-O'Donnell mentioned this is an opportunity to reenergize people about 115 boards in community. Wants to know from folks currently on boards what they see are obstacles 116 and come up with a way to read the pulse of current members.

Wendy Welsh, Interim Town Clerk, discussed engaging the boards that can't meet due to quorum and putting together a survey.

121 122 123	Council Member Fray generally agrees about holding on new appointments, but highlighted several boards can't make quorum or have key members with institutional knowledge term limiting out. Thinking if we do some target appointment to keep them operating or be consistent
124 125	and put hold on all new to keep additional confusion.
126	Mayor Foushee doesn't want to see boards that are not able to meet because of quorum.
127	Recommends if going to appoint, then appointment goes across the board and don't want to
128	cherry pick. Doesn't want to bring new people on while working it out. Asked if it is possible to
129	put this as agenda item at board/committee meetings to set aside time for them to discuss this
130	presentation.
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132	Council discussed doing reappointments only and the need for communication to new applicants.
133	Discussed coming back to a work session to further discuss board consolidation. Recommended
134	an agenda item to address the Climate Action Team and the Race Equity Commission's tasks
135	going forward.
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139	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>
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141	A motion was made by Council Member Posada, seconded by Council Member Merrill to
142	adjourn the meeting.
143	The meeting consideration and an entire condu
144	The motion carried unanimously.
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