



Town of Carrboro

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

Meeting Minutes Board of Aldermen

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

7:30 PM

Board Chambers - Room 110

Present: Mayor Lydia Lavelle, Alderman Bethany Chaney, Alderman Barbara Foushee, Alderman Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Alderman Sammy Slade, Alderman Damon Seils

Absent: Alderman Jacquelyn Gist

Also Present: David Andrews, Town Manager; Catherine Dorando, Town Clerk; Bob Hornik, Town Attorney

POETRY READING, RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Susan Spalt, a member of the Carrboro Poetry Council, read a poem called "Ukulele" by Sandra Beasley.

PROCLAMATION - COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH

Mayor Lavelle proclaimed the month of October as "Community Planning Month" in the Town of Carrboro.

A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING MARRIAGE EQUALITY DAY IN CARRBORO

The Town of Carrboro Board of Aldermen voted unanimously in 2014 to recognize October 10th each year as "Marriage Equality Day." Please take the time to read the resolution below.

A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING MARRIAGE EQUALITY DAY IN CARRBORO

WHEREAS, discriminatory marriage laws in the United States deprive same-sex couples of over 1000 federal rights and benefits automatically bestowed by civil marriage including, among others, health care coverage, tax benefits, divorce, domestic violence protections, privileges under immigration and naturalization law, inheritance rights, survivor benefits and child custody; and

WHEREAS, the denial of such benefits has been demonstrated to have significant psychological and social impact on the physical, social, and economic well-being of gay and lesbian couples and their families; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court recognizes marriage as one of the ‘basic civil rights of man’ fundamental to our very existence and survival” and “one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness by free men”; and

WHEREAS, the love that brings and binds two people of the same, or opposite sex, together transcends gender; and

WHEREAS, as it is important for all to remember a foundational principle of our form of government: all are created equal. Consistent with the pursuit of liberty and justice for all, same-sex couples should have full and equal access to the rights and responsibilities bestowed by civil marriage; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro Board of Aldermen has long been a proponent of equal treatment for all; and,

WHEREAS, on October 11th 1994 the Town adopted a Domestic Partnership registry, extending benefits to same-sex partners of Town employees; and,

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2009, the Town adopted a “Resolution in Support of Civil Marriage for Same-Sex Couples” and called for the legal recognition of civil marriage for same-sex couples to share fully and equally the rights of marriage across our state and nation; and,

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2012 the anti-gay forces in North Carolina pushed through Amendment One, a constitutional amendment that excludes same-sex couples from marriage and prohibits same-sex couples from attaining any form of legal family status; and,

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2014, one day shy of the 20th anniversary of the implementation of Carrboro’s Domestic Partnership Registry, equal rights advocates were able to declare victory over the repeal of North Carolina’s Amendment One when Federal Judge Max Cogborn agreed that the ruling in favor of the freedom to marry in the 4th Circuit applies to North Carolina’s Amendment One; and,

WHEREAS, upon announcement of Judge Cogborn’s order, same-sex couples, and advocates for marriage equality in North Carolina, rejoiced and the Town of Carrboro celebrated alongside by victoriously hoisting the rainbow flags at Town Hall.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen do hereby joyfully declare that October 10th, the day that love won in North Carolina, shall be celebrated annually as “Marriage Equality Day” in the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 AND OCTOBER 2, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN SLADE, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN CHANEY TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 MEETING MINUTES AND TO TABLE APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 2, 2018 MEETING MINUTES UNTIL THE FOLLOWING MEETING. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE SIX, ABSENT ONE (GIST)

PRESENTATION ON THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL'S PUBLIC HOUSING MASTER PLAN

The purpose of this item was to share information with the Board on the development of the Town of Chapel Hill's Public Housing Master Plan.

The Town of Chapel Hill's Executive Director for Housing and Community, Loryn Clark, and the Town's Director of Public Housing, Faith Thompson, presented information on the development of the Town's Public Housing Master Plan. The purpose of the Public Housing Master Plan for the Town's public housing communities, including the Oakwood neighborhood in Carrboro, is to inform decisions regarding renovation, rehabilitation or potential redevelopment of our properties. They also responded to questions from the Board related to federal funding and community engagement. They will look into how funding could be used in Carrboro if additional homes are added to the existing public housing stock.

Alderman Slade asked that Carrboro's Affordable Housing advisory board work with Chapel Hill and update the Carrboro affordable housing plan if there are opportunities identified for adding to public housing and benefitting from federal funds and resources as an alternative to other methods we have identified for providing affordable housing in town.

HUMAN SERVICES APPLICATION FUNDING PROCESS

The purpose of the agenda item was to gather feedback/direction from the Board on possible changes to Human Services application funding process.

This item was postponed until the October 16, 2018 meeting at the request, in absentia, of Alderman Gist.

TOWN OF CARRBORO EQUITY DISCUSSION

The purpose of this agenda item was for the Board of Aldermen to discuss the topic of equity and determine how this standard integrates within our town governance.

Anita Jones-McNair, Recreation and Parks Director, and Rebecca Buzzard, Project Manager, provided the staff report.

Alderman Seils asked if there have been any formal conversations with Orange County about their work regarding equity. Rebecca Buzzard stated that Orange County's goal is to eventually have all departments use the tool kit and questionnaire. He expressed support to join GARE.

Alderman Foushee asked for staff to check in with Orange County on how the social justice impact review toolkit is going. She also stated that she is interested in GARE and getting involved with their network.

Alderman Slade stated that he agrees with Aldermen Seils and Foushee regarding joining GARE.

Alderman Haven-O'Donnell stated that she agrees with all that has been said in regards to joining GARE.

Alderman Chaney also expressed support for moving forward with joining GARE. She stated that it is important to her for the Board to discuss the definitions and language around equity openly and for this conversation to be ongoing so that the application of equity principles is fair and consistent. She stated that this is a long process and hopes that the long-term goal will include justice.

Mayor Lavelle expressed her support for joining GARE.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN HAVEN-O'DONNELL, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN SEILS TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE OF RACE AND EQUITY (GARE) AS A CORE MEMBER, FOR STAFF TO BRING BACK NEXT STEPS DURING THE NEXT BUDGET PROCESS, AND FOR AT LEAST ONE STAFF MEMBER TO ATTEND THE JANUARY GARE CONVENTION. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE SIX, ABSENT ONE (GIST)

DISCUSSION OF OPTIONS FOR THE 2019 BOARD OF ALDERMEN RETREAT

The purpose of this item was for the Board of Aldermen to discuss various options for a Board retreat.

After discussion from the Board regarding the topic for the retreat, the motion below was made.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN CHANEY, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN SEILS TO SCHEDULE THE MEETING FOR JANUARY 26, 2019 AND TO REAFFIRM THE MOTION FROM THE JUNE 12, 2018 WORK SESSION AS FOLLOWS: FOR STAFF TO ENGAGE THE ASSISTANCE OF A PROFESSIONAL FACILITATOR FROM OUTSIDE THE AREA THAT WILL LEAD THE BOARD'S CONVERSATION FOR HOW TO RESOLVE COMMUNITY CONFLICT IN AN ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE SIX, ABSENT ONE (GIST)

Staff will secure a meeting location and facilitator.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN SEILS, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN SLADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE SIX, ABSENT ONE (GIST)