



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

Town of Carrboro

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

July 14, 2020

7:00 PM

Remote Meeting

This meeting was held via Zoom teleconference and broadcasted live on cable television and the internet.

Present: Mayor Lydia Lavelle, Council Member Barbara Foushee, Council Member Jacquelyn Gist, Council Member Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Council Member Susan Romaine, Council Member Damon Seils, Council Member Sammy Slade

Also Present: Walter Horton, Acting Town Manager; Chris Milner, Deputy Town Clerk; Brady Herman, Town Attorney

MURAL UPDATE IN SUPPORT OF BLACK LIVES MATTER

The purpose of this item was for the Town Council to approve the logistics of painting a mural in support of Black Lives Matter.

Council Member Foushee asked for clarification about the recommendation of using Laurel Ave for the location of the mural.

Anita Jones-McNair, Recreation and Parks Director, stated that the recommendation was based on the request of the mural's artist, Sekou Keita.

Sekou Keita said the location is just as important as the message. He felt that it should be on a prominent location such as a street rather than a parking lot.

The Council proceeded to discuss logistics and funding for the mural as well as the proposed location.

Anita Jones-McNair provided information on the process for getting approval from the Federal

Highway Administration to put the mural on a street. She said this could take two to four months.

Council Member Gist asked whether flags supporting Black Lives Matter along with gel lights could be set up at Town Hall soon while the Town waits for the approval to paint the mural on the street.

Anita Jones-McNair felt that this would be possible and could be done at a reasonable cost.

MOTION WAS MAID BY COUNCIL MEMBER GIST, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER FOUSHEE, TO PROCURE BLACK LIVES MATTER FLAGS FOR DISPLAY ON TOWN HALL AND ALSO USE TOWN-OWNED GEL LIGHTS FOR THE DISPLAY. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SELLS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HAVEN-O'DONNELL, TO APPROVE THE MURAL PROJECT AND ALSO PROVIDE FUNDING OF UP TO \$5000 TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL.

CONSIDERATION OF NON-PROFIT CARES ACT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this item was for the Carrboro Town Council to consider recommendations to fund non-profits who provide direct assistance to households impacted by COVID-19 with the Town's CARES Act funds.

A motion was made by Council Member Foushee, seconded by Council Member Romaine, to approve the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING CARES ACT NON-PROFIT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

WHEREAS, in FY2019-2020 the Town of Carrboro received \$266,000 of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act money from Orange County to be used for eligible expenditures related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro allocated \$40,000 of CARES Act funds to support non-profit agencies that provide direct assistance to Carrboro households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, eighteen (18) agencies applied for funding through a special application process; and

WHEREAS, the total amount of funds requested by the eighteen (18) agencies is \$145,180; and

WHEREAS, the FY2020-2021 Adopted Town Budget includes the allocation of \$40,000 of CARES Act funds; and

WHEREAS, Housing and Community Services staff reviewed and scored all the applications for funding and made the following funding recommendations:

RENA	\$4,000
Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation	\$2,500
PORCH	\$2,500
Refugee Community Partnership	\$4,000
TABLE	\$3,750
Marian Cheek Jackson Center	\$2,750
OE Enterprises	\$500
Diaper Bank	\$2,500
Meals on Wheels Orange County	\$1,125
IFC	\$1,420
El Centro	\$4,000
EmPOWERment	\$4,000
Community Empowerment Trust	\$4,000
El Futuro	\$1,455
Club Nova	\$1,000
Orange County Rape Crisis Center	\$500
Bridge II Sports	\$0
The Arts Center	\$0
Total	\$40,000

Ayes: Mayor Lydia Lavelle, Council Member Barbara Foushee, Council Member Jacquelyn Gist, Council Member Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Council Member Susan Romaine, Council Member Damon Seils, Council Member Sammy Slade

UPDATE ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWN'S COMMUNICATIONS PLAN TO IMPROVE OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIES TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The purpose of this agenda item was to provide an update on a plan of action and strategies to increase access to information, resources and participation in civic processes by people of color, immigrant, refugee and other marginalized communities.

Council Member Foushee requested that the Town Communications Team become more diverse.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER FOUSHEE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAINE, TO ACCEPT THIS UPDATE. VOTE:

AFFIRMATIVE ALL.

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH AS A TOWN HOLIDAY

A motion was made by Council Member Foushee, seconded by Council Member Gist to approve this resolution:

**DECLARING JUNETEENTH AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY IN THE
TOWN OF CARRBORO**

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free; and

WHEREAS, this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation which freed slaves of this nation's original sin of human bondage and had become official on January 1, 1863 in these United States of America which included North Carolina and the Town of Carrboro; and

WHEREAS, even with nowhere to go, many slaves felt that leaving the plantation would be their first grasp of freedom; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Liberation Day and Emancipation Day is recognized in 47 states in a ceremonial fashion but only the state of Texas has recognized Juneteenth as an official state holiday since 1980; and

WHEREAS, Governor Beverly Eaves Perdue was the first governor to proclaim a Juneteenth observance in the State of North Carolina in June 2010; and

WHEREAS, Governor Roy Cooper, proclaimed Juneteenth in North Carolina on June 19, 2020 and created the Andrea Harris Social Economic Environmental Health Disparities Task Force to address longstanding, intersectional racial disparities; and

WHEREAS, Governor Roy Cooper also established the North Carolina Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice to end racially discriminatory law enforcement practices and promote a more equitable criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the annual observance of Juneteenth would provide community members and Town of Carrboro employees an opportunity to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture, as well as, reflect on the history and impact of slavery on us all;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Carrboro Town Council designates Juneteenth as an official paid Town holiday; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Carrboro Town Council urges our state and federal representatives to sponsor legislation to make Juneteenth an official state and federal holiday; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Carrboro Town Council directs the Town Clerk to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Orange County Board of County Commissioners, Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education, Chapel Hill Town Council and the Hillsborough Commissioners.

Approved this 14th day of July 2020.

Ayes: Mayor Lydia Lavelle, Council Member Barbara Foushee, Council Member Jacquelyn Gist, Council Member Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Council Member Susan Romaine, Council Member Damon Seils, Council Member Sammy Slade

UPDATE FROM CHIEF SCHMIDT ON COVID-19

Carrboro Fire Chief, Dave Schmidt, provided an update on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SLADE TO POST THE TOWN'S INTERNAL COVID-19 METRICS ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE.

Mayor Lavelle said she would prefer to speak with the Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) group to determine which data can be released prior to voting on this motion.

There was no second to the motion.

UNC ROADMAP BRIEFING BY PROVOST BLOUIN

Robert A. Blouin, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, discussed UNC Chapel Hill's plans for dealing with COVID-19 in the upcoming school year.

Council Member Slade shared a resolution entitled "*Resolution for Joining Faculty, Staff, Students and Community Members in Calling on the Administrators of UNC-CH to Move to a "Default On-Line" Teaching Mode, Allowing Exceptions as Needed and with Rigorous Face-Mask, Physical Distancing, Testing, Contact- Tracing, and Public Reporting Measures in*

Place.”

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SLADE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

The Council discussed this resolution but there was no second to the motion.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE FINAL AT-LARGE COMMUNITY SEATS ON THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TASK FORCE

The purpose of this item was for the Town Council to adopt a resolution appointing the final four at-large seats to the Comprehensive Plan Task Force.

The following ballot votes were cast via email directly to the Town Clerk:

Soteria Shepperson – Lavelle, Foushee, Romaine, Seils, Slade
Wamiq Chowdhury – Foushee, Romaine, Seils, Slade
Mariela Hernandez – Lavelle, Foushee, Haven-O’Donnell, Seils, Slade
Jacqueline Thompson – Lavelle, Foushee, Haven-O’Donnell, Seils, Slade
Gabriel Vinas – Lavelle, Haven-O’Donnell
Sekou Keita – Haven-O’Donnell, Gist
Ina Stern – Haven-O’Donnell, Gist
Lorie Clark – Gist
Misty Belser – Gist
Tamara Sanders – Romaine

The Town Clerk read that the applicants receiving the most ballot votes by email were Jacqueline Thompson, Soteria Shepperson, Mariela Hernandez, and Wamiq Chowdry.

A motion was made by Council Member Seils, seconded by Council Member Romaine, to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AND MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the Carrboro Town Council has planned for, funded, and obtained contractual service assistance for the development of a town-wide Comprehensive Plan, the first such effort in nearly 30 years; and

WHEREAS, a task force allows advisory board members, residents and neighboring jurisdictions to participate in guiding and informing the process of comprehensive plan development.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CARRBORO HEREBY RESOLVES:

Section 1. The Carrboro Town Council hereby appoints the following community members to the task force.

1. Jacqueline Thompson
2. Soteria Shepperson
3. Mariela Hernandez
4. Wamiq Chowdhury

Section 2. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

This, the 14th day of July, 2020.

Ayes: Mayor Lydia Lavelle, Council Member Barbara Foushee, Council Member Jacquelyn Gist, Council Member Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Council Member Susan Romaine, Council Member Damon Seils, Council Member Sammy Slade

THE 203 SOUTH GREENSBORO PROJECT - DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

The purpose of this item was to provide the Town Council with an opportunity to discuss some design considerations related to the 203 South Greensboro Project.

Trish McGuire, Planning Director, provided the staff report on this item.

A motion was made by Council Member Gist, seconded by Council Member Foushee, to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION – DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE 203 PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro, in partnership with Orange County, is pursuing design of a new multi-user building at 203 S. Greensboro Street to house the Orange County Southern Branch Library, Town of Carrboro Recreation, Parks and Cultural Resources Program, and other users; and

WHEREAS, possible inclusion of entrepreneurial space has been expressed as an interest; and

WHEREAS, in creating initial test fits of the building program, utilization of some portion of the Maple Avenue right-of-way may be needed to achieve design requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Carrboro Town Council has discussed these interests and possible design choices and decides accordingly.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Carrboro Town Council hereby:

1. Authorizes the utilization of some or all of the Maple Avenue right of way for the purposes of developing the 203 Project and acknowledges that any needed abandonment of the right of way would occur in conjunction with the appropriate statutory processes, and
2. The Council does not authorize the inclusion of 5,000 square feet of entrepreneurial space.

This, the 14th day of July in the year 2020.

Ayes: Mayor Lydia Lavelle, Council Member Barbara Foushee, Council Member Jacquelyn Gist, Council Member Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Council Member Damon Seils, Council Member Sammy Slade

Noes: Council Member Susan Romaine

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER GIST, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SEILS, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL

Town Clerk

Mayor