



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

**Town of Carrboro
Meeting Minutes
Town Council**

April 12, 2022

7:00 PM

Council Chambers Room 110

This meeting was broadcasted live on cable television and the internet.

Present: Mayor Damon Seils, Council Member Susan Romaine, Council Member Barbara Foushee, Council Member Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Council Member Danny Nowell, Council Member Sammy Slade

Also Present: Richard White, Town Manager; Wesley Barker, Town Clerk; Mary Bryant, Deputy Clerk; Brady Herman, Town Attorney

POETRY READING

Fred Joiner, the Town's Poet Laureate, read a poem by Quentin Collins entitled, "Praise for my Father's Hands."

PUBLIC COMMENT

Diana Newton, Carrboro resident, asked the Council to take up a resolution to change the Town's "Feel Free" slogan to something more descriptive of the realities, stating some residents do not "feel free" of affordable housing issues, needed services, developers making bad decisions, racial tensions, and a free and fair election. Ms. Newton also spoke on elections signs being stolen and asked the Council to use their leadership to speak and address this issue.

Cary White, Carrboro resident, spoke on Town owned property on Pathway Dr. that backs up to his property on Rock Spring Ct., with concerns on slope and stormwater of this property with

proposed development. Mr. White states he was under impression this was to be a town-owned green space. Mr. White asked if Town reviewed this site in person before selecting the site. He also referenced a February 8, 2022, document stating there was no significant slope according to development plans. Mr. White asked why his neighborhood was not included in notifications and why was this property was selected.

Mayor Seils stated the process includes preliminary research and public engagement on this property before next steps are taken, and there is much more to come on this project.

Council Member Slade stated this property was selected from the Affordable Housing Task Force upon research of available Town properties to know what land is available for possible housing development, but still in the preliminary stages.

Council Member Foushee spoke on the recent racially charged incident at Present Day on Main as discussed at last week’s public comment by the owners, asking for an update on the matter. Council Member Foushee stated there should be a response from the Town as this incident has been in the news. Town Manager White stated a formal complaint has been filed with the Police Department and is under investigation. Town staff has met with the owners of Present Day on Main, and a staff team will be meeting with them again to address some of their other concerns on the property.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 1, AND FEBRUARY 8, 2022

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER FOUSHEE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER NOWELL TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 1, AND FEBRUARY 8, 2022.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL

QUARTERLY REPORT (2022 Q1) FOR THE TOWN OF CARRBORO’S CDBG-CV GRANT NO. 20-V-3525

The purpose of this item was for the Town Council to receive the first quarter report for calendar year 2022, for the Town of Carrboro’s Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) award from the NC Department of Commerce.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER FOUSHEE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER NOWELL TO ACCEPT THE REPORT.

VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SCHOOLS ADEQUATE PUBLIC FACILITIES ORDINANCE (SAPFO) FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The purpose of this agenda item was to request that the Town Council review and accept the 2022 Annual Report on the Schools Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (SAPFO). The Orange County Board of County Commissioners has referred the 2022 draft report for review.

Planning Director Trish McGuire gave an overview stating the two components of this report were the Capital Investment Plan and Certificate of Adequate Public Schools. Trish stated COVID-19 was believed to have effected student population, which should be temporary. Also, Pre-K students are not included in this SAPFO report, which is an ongoing point of discussion. Trish stated projections do not show the need for any new schools over the next 10 years.

Following Council Discussion, A motion was made by Council Member Haven-O'Donnell, seconded by Council Member Nowell, to approve the following resolution, with suggested amendments.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Carrboro wishes to add the following comments given at the April 12, 2022 Town Council meeting. These comments include: 1) The need for reserving elementary school site at the Greene Tract because projected demand for facilities is longer than 10 years out, 2) School system awareness of the Town of Carrboro's Climate Action Plans, how they relate to transportation choices, and which might encourage redistricting so families could be within school walk zones, and 3) The PreK program and whether students should be included in the SAPFO membership and what discussions have occurred in the past.

This is the 12th day of April, 2022.

Ayes: Mayor Damon Seils, Council Member Susan Romaine, Council Member Barbara Foushee, Council Member Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Council Member Danny Nowell, Council Member Sammy Slade

UPDATE OF TOWN OF CARRBORO WEBSITE REDESIGN

The purpose of this item was to update the Town Council on the Town of Carrboro website redesign and related improvements.

Communications and Engagement Director Catherine Lazorko gave a presentation to the Council. Catherine stated the town website improvements were not a total redo, but provided new features and better functionality for users, while still within the town brand guidelines

and color scheme. A UNC journalism class was utilized to perform group user testing on website usability, with the results being included in these website improvements. Catherine also spoke on the website survey from August 2021, which received over 100 responses from citizens.

Council Member Haven-O'Donnell suggested to improve the searchability within the advisory board pages as well as the frequently asked questions page.

Council Member Romaine stated she would like to see more workers from around the Town featured on the website, more prominence of Council agendas and meeting videos links, business listings, and including the Carrboro logo with the different languages on website. Council Member Romaine suggested Recreation and Parks work to simplify information on the financial assistance application regarding recreation and parks classes.

Council Member Foushee asked Catherine to provide background information on the website testing groups conducted by UNC students.

CARRBORO RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS

The purpose of this agenda item was to provide the results of the Carrboro Resident Survey.

Communications and Engagement Director Catherine Lazorko gave an update to Council on the results of the resident survey on behalf of Chris Tatham from ETC Institute. Catherine stated the resident survey is conducted biannually and a total of 512 residents completed this survey.

Key points from the survey results included the following: 1) an overall high satisfaction with the Town of Carrboro, 2) the Town is delivering high quality services, 3) the Town is setting the standard for delivery of local governmental services, and 4) the Town's management of housing and economic development related issues should be a high priority.

Catherine stated ETC Institute ensured populations within Qualified Census Tracts were well-represented in this survey by oversampling these residents, which essentially focuses in on a group of residents that may be hard to reach, such as those in apartment complexes. Further, Catherine stated Carrboro ranks high in the Atlantic region when compared with the town's performance with regional and national norms.

Council Member Foushee asked how the questions were chosen related to on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding suggestions and bicycle riding. Also, it was suggested that ARPA funding updates be given to Council by town staff in May.

Catherine Lazorko responded by stating the ARPA questions were formatted to match federal language, and the bicycle riding question was a series of planning questions, which could also be used to compare the region on this activity.

Council Member Romaine asked about a staff survey on work satisfaction to ensure staff is feeling supported, based on the work load they have. Town Manager White stated this is in the works to be distributed in the next few weeks.

Council Member Slade suggested to gather information and feedback from advisory boards on needs of ARPA funding.

MATTERS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Slade spoke on mask wearing and possible mask mandates on a local level in lieu of following CDC recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER FOUSHEE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HAVEN-O'DONNELL, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE ALL

Town Clerk

Mayor