

Attachment E

Planning Commission Written Comments Following Hearing on November 11, 2008

Female Chickens (TC0800006)

Mr. Brine. At the request of staff, the planning commission considered this case as a "city only" text amendment. It is still not clear to me where the county stands on this text amendment. I voted to recommend approval with three changes (in 5.4.12.B.5.b, 5.4.12.B.7.b, and 5.4.12.B.10.b) suggested by Durham HENS with the further provision that, if the alternative fencing method is used, that the fencing on the ground be secured to the ground.

Ms. Brown. I voted to deny.

My vote was not against HENS. I believe they will follow the rules my vote was against those who never follow rules.

I sure hope people keep their compost piles turned properly so it won't cause a fire!

Mr. Edens. I voted approval.

Ms. Giles. I voted against this item because this activity is permitted in two zones and I believe those zones are appropriate versus allowing this activity in more urban areas. I have questions about enforcement of this item as well as the previous one on bees.

Mr. Greene. I support this amendment for the city's jurisdiction and urge the county to support a similar amendment.

Ms. Jacobs. I am in support of this text amendment and the grassroots effort of citizens in our community to produce food in a local and sustainable manner. I see the importance of this text amendment being that the ordinances will be in place in the case that citizens are not treating their animals humanely, creating a nuisance or health hazard for their neighbors, etc. With these ordinance in effect, our local government can now address situations that may be currently taking place. This text amendment also allows law abiding citizens to lawfully raise chickens for personal use.

Mr. Martin. Yes, at the request of citizens.

Mr. Moffitt. Community members had several positive suggested changes that should be incorporated.

- Allowing more than 1 composter (I have 2 operating now) (5.4.12.B.10.b)
- Delete last 3 words of 5.4.12.B.5.b, to allow produce to be given away. I appreciate staff's diligence but it will be impossible to enforce and is over regulating the issue.
- Proposed additional predator exclusion manner of fencing the pen (5.4.12.B.7.b)

It's time for Durham to join the rest of North Carolina, to allow citizens access to an inexpensive, high protein, safe food source

Ms. Smith. This seems like a very well-considered amendment. It is restrictive but probably has to be if it is to work where populations are dense.

Ms. Summers. Durham, with the exception of Cary is unique in the state not allowing this in the city. For health and education reasons, I would support this.