



ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS BOARD

MINUTES

October 12, 2022
Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Voting Members:

Juilee Malavade (chair), Wilson Salls (vice chair), Sherry Taylor (secretary), Katie Barnhill-Dilling (at large), Ethan Case, Chi Vo, Wafa Khalil, Matt Kopac, Corie Hlavaty, Miran Bhima, Jennifer Carrigan, and Cooper Norris.

Excused Absences:

Ex Officio Members/Staff:

Paul Cameron (General Services), Tobin Freid (Durham County Sustainability Manager), Summer Alston (General Services), Jonathan Baker (Public Works), Scott Whiteman (City & County Planning), Sydney Miller (Water Management), and Wayne Fenton (Solid Waste).

Attendees & Panelists Total: 24

-
- I. Call to Order at 6:05PM
 - II. Approval of September 07, 2022 Minutes
 - III. Announcements
 - a) Next EAB meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2022, 6-8 pm.
 - IV. **New and Continuing Business**
 - a) **UDO Amendment Process**

Presenter(s): Scott Whiteman, Community Planning Mgr., City & County Planning Department

 - The City/County Planning Department has a Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) amendment process that has to be followed by staff or applicants. UDO is collection of zoning

Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act - A person with a disability may receive an auxiliary aid or service to effectively participate in city government activities by contacting the ADA Coordinator, voice 919.560.4197 or ADA@DurhamNC.gov, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the event or deadline date.

Staff Contact: Paul Cameron, Sustainability and Energy Analyst
919.560.4197 x21244 ▪ Paul.Cameron@DurhamNC.gov

standards, planning regulations, infrastructure standards, etc. Current UDO became effective in 2006 (it gets amended frequently). Any amendments must be adopted by the City Council or County Commission (shared UDO and Comprehensive Plan). In rare circumstances, parts of UDO are approved by one and not the other. For any change, amendments are required to go before the Joint City/County Planning Committee (its an oversight board due to the merger of city and county planning departments). The Committee consists of three City Council members, three County Commissioners, and the Chair of the Planning Commission. Next, amendments go before the Planning Commission (they provide an opinion). Thirdly, the amendment goes to the City Council and County Commission for approval.

- Most amendments are generated by staff through requests from the JCCPC. Privately initiated amendments are also permitted to be submitted. Often times these are minor revisions, but they can be large like the current application for SCAD (an expansion of Expanding Housing Choices ordinance). The Planning Commission can also initiate an ordinance amendment.
- The new Comprehensive Plan is ready to be adopted. It will include recommendations for updating the UDO (new and amendments). A complete rewrite of the UDO will happen after the Comprehensive Plan is adopted. City Council has a request for funding for a consultant to start the rewrite process of the UDO.

Comments:

Matt Kopac: Can you please let folks know about the role that the EAB played in the evolution of Trees Durham and to support the planting of trees/preserving the tree canopy.

- S. Whiteman: Trees Durham lead the way on that amendment and got a lot of support from EAB. Two of the main things that came out of that work is was for new development to preserve trees first instead of replanting. Also requiring new residential streets to have trees planted in the right-of-way to help with heat island affect. Former Mayor Schewel was also a big advocate of this ordinance.

Jennifer Carrigan: What is the timeline for the rewrite of the UDO? What will be the best way for the EAB to be engaged with the UDO rewrite process? Will the consultant be required to do community outreach or is this something we should partner with the planning staff on?

- S. Whiteman: I am not sure, as we are waiting on the funding request. We hope to start the rewrite fall of 2023.
- Planning will do community engagement but we haven't sorted it all out yet. Just stay tuned, as it is a little early to tell. There is definitely a roll for the EAB in the process.

Sherry Taylor: What type of community engagement process do major amendments to the UDO have to go through?

- S. Whiteman: There are no official major or minor amendments to the UDO. We do acknowledge that engagement could have been better in the past. We are going to be looking at that before the new rewrite process begins. We want applicants to do a better job at community engagement as well.

Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act - A person with a disability may receive an auxiliary aid or service to effectively participate in city government activities by contacting the ADA Coordinator, voice 919.560.4197 or ADA@DurhamNC.gov, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the event or deadline date.

Staff Contact: Paul Cameron, Sustainability and Energy Analyst

919.560.4197 x21244 ▪ Paul.Cameron@DurhamNC.gov

Katie Barnhill-Dilling: We keep hearing about community engagement. Can you please let us know what you mean by those words?

- S. Whiteman: For the comprehensive plan, we had all different types of events and outreach. We also did standard planning workshops and tried to figure out how to events during Covid. We are using the equitable engagement blueprint to reach people who are not normally engaged with planning processes. We need to keep finding new ways to go things.

b) New Topic: Climate Resilience Planning in Durham

Presenter(s): Jason Elliot & Rachel Gordon, Sustainable Duke

There is a lot of climate information and data that has been gathered by groups in Durham. We asked the question “What if Durham community members, organizations and officials worked collaboratively to incorporate community wants and needs around climate resiliency?” We partnered with the Open Design Studio at Duke University to answer these questions about open and transparent solutions that the community develops. We are going to be completing the project over the next 10 months. Here are the challenges we have come up against: What does climate resiliency mean and what does that look like in Durham? What are equitable strategies for climate resiliency for all of Durham?



What if . . .

What if Durham community members, local organizations, and policymakers collaboratively develop inclusive and actionable climate resiliency solutions that incorporate the community's wants and needs?

OPEN DESIGN Studio

We are working with stakeholders of all types and partnered with local government sustainability offices. One of our goals is connecting groups that are working on similar projects. Duke is also going to help with identifying grant sources locally and nationally. The project will also be focused on community-based solutions to climate resiliency and projects that have a co-benefit of climate resiliency. Our interviews so far have shown that Durham organizations are already working on climate resilience. Interviewees have pointed out that flooding and extreme heat are

Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act - A person with a disability may receive an auxiliary aid or service to effectively participate in city government activities by contacting the ADA Coordinator, voice 919.560.4197 or ADA@DurhamNC.gov, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the event or deadline date.

Staff Contact: Paul Cameron, Sustainability and Energy Analyst
919.560.4197 x21244 ▪ Paul.Cameron@DurhamNC.gov

the most important issues in Durham. Next steps for the project, finishing interviews, summarize findings, and share findings with key partners.

Comments:

Juilee Malavade: The Durham Environmental Coalition would be a good one to add to your list. Is there a report or output from this first round of research?

- J.Elliot: We will probably not have a report, but will be doing presentations to share our findings. We can come back to the EAB at the end of next semester.

Katie Barnhill-Dilling: Thank you for your presentation. How are you identifying the players and relevant groups to speak with?

- R. Gordon: It started with the City and County and who they regularly partner with, we also looked for NGOs in the area, and then started asking for recommendations from interviewees. It's a big challenge to find everyone and also being on a school schedule is limiting.
- J.Elliot: We also use the Compass data to help us focus on communities and groups in Durham.

Matt Kopac: What are you seeing with data in Durham and the most marginalized communities when it comes to climate impacts of development?

- R. Gordon: That information is coming more from our qualitative data through interviews. Groups cannot compete with the prices that developers offer on land they would like to preserve and that could strengthen climate resilience in Durham. Development seems to be leading to more flooding including micro-flooding. Development has come up in every conversation thus far.

Melanie Allen: How are you all thinking about transit and interviewing transit-related groups?

- J.Elliot: If you have ideas of folks to talk, please let us know. We want to consider transit as well and how people relate to climate resiliency through it use.

c) New Topic: Role of the Environmental Affairs Board

Presenter(s): Juilee Malavade, Chair of EAB

- The goal of this presentation is to re-center how we are handling procedures and our work as the EAB in a post-covid world. EAB was founded in 1991 via an inter-local agreement through City and County. We act as an advisory Board to the City Council and County Commissioners on environmental issues. The EAB can write resolutions, craft memos, influence the budget, and comment at local government meetings. All EAB seats are at-large. The EAB has had focus areas (committees) in the past. We can have committees again that focus on the work that we bring forward and also focus on issues that the community brings to the board.

Adjourn at 8:00 PM

Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act - A person with a disability may receive an auxiliary aid or service to effectively participate in city government activities by contacting the ADA Coordinator, voice 919.560.4197 or ADA@DurhamNC.gov, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the event or deadline date.

Staff Contact: Paul Cameron, Sustainability and Energy Analyst

919.560.4197 x21244 ▪ Paul.Cameron@DurhamNC.gov

Page 4 of 4