

Durham City-County Planning Commission

UDO Committee Draft Charge

Recognizing recent popular movements in Durham and around the country to address the climate crisis, systemic racism, public empowerment, the Planning Commission UDO Committee is charged with the following:

- To formulate targeted amendments to the UDO that address key equity and sustainability zoning issues and propose those amendments for adoption by City Council, with the goal of simultaneously creating more just and sustainable development outcomes and enabling a more predictable and transparent development review process.
- To propose recommendations to City Council and County Commission regarding other land use policy, and community planning, and public engagement needs and priorities.

To operate under the following principles:

- To meet the moment, act with urgency and expediency, operate with transparency, and help empower residents and build trust in local government
- To recognize racist and classist origins of certain existing zoning regulations and their continued impacts on exclusionary and unsustainable present-day development outcomes.
- To account for the historical marginalization and disproportionate needs of low wealth, black and brown, rural, immigrant, undocumented, youth, elderly, and disabled people.
- To focus initially on new growth and development rather than existing neighborhoods, where more robust public engagement is necessary.
- To ensure residents are the primary benefactors of our work, while balancing the needs of the development community as they relate to creating a more just and sustainable built and natural environment.
- To report to and advise the Planning Commission.

Additional Notes From Meeting:

Santiago: Not a Spanish translation for planning documents in general; how do we really include non-English speakers

Staff: City has a language access plan adopted last year for each department – outlines a series of priorities + on-call services

Miller concern: UDO governs both current and future development; need to be aware of future consequences

Williams: focus on going forward but also look at development a new UDO; maintain existing neighborhoods; simplify how the UDO reads and make it more accessible

Committee is charged by the planning commission (or the Chair) under the Rules of Procedures; Send this back to the Commission

Need ground rules for committee meeting

Resident comments:

To many communities, the government is not a comfortable entity to work with; there is distrust of government; we need to create friendly experiences – simplify the development review process – transparency and helping people understand things that can be complex)

Find a way for the community to be proactive

Community is always in a reactive mode and there should be a way for the community to express what they want proactively

Urban Tier is quite expansive; includes a lot of undeveloped forest

Typically residents see developments late in the process and didn't have a chance for meaningful input

Mechanism for signing up for residents to provide early input to proposed development

Need unintimidated methods of public engagement; remote participation even after COVID 19