



Carrboro Connects – Task Force Meeting #9 Minutes

January 31, 2022 – Remote Meeting via Zoom | 6PM

Task Force Members	Public	Town Staff	Consultant Team
Catherine Fray (Chair)	n/a	Ben Berolzheimer (Planning)	Francie Sallinger
David Jessee (Co-Chair)		Patricia McGuire (Planning)	Lawrence
Wamiq Chowdhury		Richard J. White (Town Manager)	
Maggie Funkhouser			
Braxton Foushee			
Rachel Gaylord-Miles			
Elmira Mangum	Town Council		
David Markiewicz	n/a		
Jim Porto			
Eliazar Posada			
Soteria Shepperson			
Amy Singleton			
Jacqueline Thompson			
Anahid Vrana			

Task Force Members Not in Attendance: Lorie Clark, David Dixon, Miles Fitch, Quinton Harper, Jacqueline Helvey, Mariela Hernandez, Lauren Joca, Mark Moshier, Alyson West

OPENING AND TIMELINE OF PROCESS

- Final task force meeting for Carrboro Connects (most likely)
- Last few months have been spent preparing the draft plan for the Nov 16th Public Hearing
- Last Task Force meeting asked the Council to hold the hearing and accept public comments
- By April 19th will have a revised draft to Town Council

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK ON PUBLIC HEARING DRAFT

- 12 boards/commissions have completed review
- Over 82 comments have been received, touching on topics spanning from accessibility (readability and navigability of the document), feasibility, metrics, and much more
- 8 have voted on a recommendation for adoption
- Currently the team is consolidating all of these comments for Council to consider next steps

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RECOMMENDATION FOR ADOPTION

Summary of Task Force Discussion:

- How is it determined which comments get incorporated or not?
 - Trish: We have tried to incorporate all comments we receive; where comments are in conflict, we will try to present those
- A lot of comments have not been incorporated yet – important to bring those to the Council where there are decisions to be made and issues to be flagged
- Task Force wants to see the comments that have been made to assess whether or not the draft reflects these edits
 - Group feels extra responsibility to this plan and to getting it right
- This meeting is for the Task Force to discuss plan feedback and comments as a group – some of the members are not on an advisory board and thus have not had a chance to review and discuss yet.
- Important to understand the comments from the rest of the community in order to negotiate the outcome of the plan as one community
- Meetings / the plan need to have an outcome and action -- especially around zoning, building, density, affordable housing, reparations. Continue to emphasize these things
- Town Council is the arbiter of the process and their role is to consider all of the comments holistically and make decisions

Task Force Members Report-Back of Advisory Boards' Review:

- Anahid - NTA Board
 - Has had questions about zoning because development in their area will occur through Carboro zoning.
 - Asked for better definition of these areas and this was added to the plan in the previous version
 - We want to be sure that these areas are recognized for what they are. Goal was there would be a transition – NTA would retain rural feel as the town develops
 - Road safety conditions continues to be a concern
 - Development “pods” need to connect to other areas and help with connectivity

- David M. - Appearance Commission:
 - Still believes there is a lack of emphasis/priority on physical appearance of downtown
 - The word “appearance” does not come up in the current draft
- Amy – AHAC
 - Need for increased financial resources should be prioritized
- Maggie – RPCR Commission
 - Positive feedback, especially regarding the access to green spaces within a short walk
 - Commission appreciated the RPCR portion of the plan
- Economic Sustainability Committee
 - Jim Porto
 - Change the ratio of the tax base from 70-80% residential to business
 - With limited spaces for commercial development, best option is to focus on smart density
 - Appearance of the town is important to this as well
 - Parking to support businesses
 - David Jessee
 - Increasing density downtown, enhancing connectivity to the downtown
 - Streamline approval process so that entitlements are easier – process can make Carrboro unaffordable
 - Soteria
 - Providing masks, hand sanitizer to businesses
 - Community lawn care network
- Planning Board comments
 - Catherine summarized their comments
 - Inclusion/absence of previously suggested input
 - How would final language be determined
 - Land use planning should align with economic strategy
 - Conflict of hist. preservation and affordable housing
 - Removing “consider” items – action verbs
 - Implement changes to LUO more quickly
 - Infrastructure/LUO improvements to support affordable housing
 - Affordable housing section: more partners/resources relevant to goals

- Parking and density
 - Rezone appropriate areas to support commercial tax base
- Catherine personal comments
 - Process driven vs. political driven
- Wamiq
 - Balance the concern over softer language, while also recognizing that many of the issues are complicated and may actually require further consideration
- Jacqueline T.
 - Want to see more of what could be implemented in the plan first
 - Will all of the comments from community members also be shared?
- Rachel Gaylord-Miles
 - Highlighting which of the 35 priority projects carry the most weight – “force multipliers” for implementation
- Eliazar
 - Feedback form on the website doesn't translate into Spanish – team will fix

VOTE TO RECOMMEND ADOPTION OF CARRBORO CONNECTS DRAFT PLAN

Unanimous vote (14) to recommend adoption of Carrboro Connects subject to Task Force, Advisory Board, and public comments being incorporated into the next draft.

- Ayes: David M, Rachel, Jim, Elmira, Braxton, Jacque, Eliazar, Amy, David J, Wamiq, Anahid, Soteria, Maggie, Catherine