

MARCH 9, 2011

MINUTES OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MECKLENBURG COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in Budget/Public Policy Session in Conference Center Room 267 of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center located at 600 East Fourth Street at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 2011.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Jennifer Roberts and Commissioners
Dumont Clarke, Harold Cogdell, Jr.
George Dunlap, Vilma Leake and Jim Pendergraph
County Manager Harry L. Jones, Sr.
Clerk to the Board Janice S. Paige

Absent: Commissioners Karen Bentley, Neil Cooksey and Bill James

Note: Also present was Charlotte City Councilman Warren Cooksey.

Commissioner Cogdell was absent when the meeting was called to order and until noted in the minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Roberts, after which the matter below was addressed.

(1) CHARLOTTE CROSSROADS-GET REAL 2011 CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

The Board received a report from Crossroads Charlotte on "Get Real 2011," a citizen involvement initiative.

Tracy Russ, Executive Director of Crossroads Charlotte gave the report. The following was noted:

Commissioner Cogdell entered the meeting.

- "Get Real 2011" is a non-partisan, non-profit effort that invites residents to engage in dialogue about the future of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Mecklenburg County is one of approximately 50 organizations participating with Crossroads Charlotte in "Get Real 2011."
- Information gathered during the "Get Real 2011" sessions throughout the county will be provided to the CMS Board of Education, Charlotte City Council, and Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners.
- The goals of the project
- Workshops held
- Workshop agenda
- Initial findings on priorities
 - K-12 Education
 - Crime/Public Safety
 - Economic Development/Job Creation
- The project ends Friday, March 11, 2011

MARCH 9, 2011

Comments

Commissioner Dunlap addressed the importance of demographic data.

Commissioner Leake asked was this a duplicate effort since there were other organizations that have done similar studies, such as the Community Building Initiative and the League of Women Voters. *Mr. Russ said there were efforts and organizations that have posed questions like these before but what had not been done was the integration of values discussion, choices, and budget priorities in one place. He said what they've also tried to give people was information that allows them to participate more fully in budget decisions moving forward, meaning who does what, when, and who's responsible for what and the elected bodies.*

Commissioner Leake asked were political parties delved into during this process. *The response was no.*

County Manager Jones asked about the involvement of the Towns. *The response was that there was not enough time or resources to involve the Towns at this point.*

Commissioner Leake asked about the cost of the project. *Mr. Russ said he would have a definite answer in a few weeks but probably around \$60,000, which would include salaries.*

Charlotte City Councilman Warren Cooksey asked if it was known whether participants took their priorities and concerns into account when they voted for candidates. *Mr. Russ said that specific question was not asked. He said they did ask people to think about what they're level of involvement has been and how they could increase that level of involvement, not just in elections but in budget hearings, workshops, etc.*

Chairman Roberts thanked Mr. Russ for his report.

A copy of handouts regarding "Get Real 2011" is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

Note: The above is not inclusive of every comment but is a summary.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Pendergraph and unanimously carried with Commissioners Clarke, Cogdell, Dunlap, Leake, Pendergraph, and Roberts voting yes, that there being no further business to come before the Board that the meeting be adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Janice S. Paige, Clerk

Jennifer Roberts, Chairman