

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL/CUMBERLAND
COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
CROWN CENTER, HOSPITALITY SUITE
1960 COLISEUM DRIVE
APRIL 8, 2008
8:00 A.M.**

Present: Mayor Tony Chavonne

Council Members Keith A. Bates, Sr. (District 1); Charles E. Evans (District 2); Darrell J. Haire (District 4); Bobby Hurst, (District 5); Valencia A. Applewhite (District 7); Theodore W. Mohn (District 8); Wesley A. Meredith (District 9)

Absent: Council Members Robert A. Massey, Jr. (District 3); William J. L. Crisp (District 6)

Commissioners J. Breeden Blackwell, Chairman; Dr. Jeannette M. Council, Vice Chairman; Billy R. King; Kenneth S. Edge; Diane Wheatley; Dr. John T. Henley, Jr., Edward Melvin

Others Present: Dale E. Iman, City Manager
 Kyle Sonnenberg, Assistant City Manager
 Stanley Victrum, Assistant City Manager
 Doug Hewitt, Assistant City Manager
 Karen M. McDonald, City Attorney

Ron Macaluso, City of Fayetteville Transit Director

Robert Barefoot, Parks and Recreation Director

J. D. Pone, Fayetteville-Cumberland Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Chair

Tom Cain, Fayetteville-Cumberland Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Victor Sharpe, City of Fayetteville Community Development Director

Thanena Wilson, Cumberland County Community Development Director

Sonya Green, County Community Development and Housing Manager

James Martin, County Manager

Amy H. Cannon, Assistant County Manager

Grainger Barrett, County Attorney

Harvey Raynor, Assistant County Attorney

Sara VanderClute, County Public Information Officer

Marsha Fogle, County Clerk

Marie Colgan, Deputy County Clerk

Candice H. White, City Clerk

Members of the Press

J. Breeden Blackwell, Chairman of the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners, and City of Fayetteville Mayor Anthony G. Chavonne called the meeting to order. Commissioner Blackwell offered the invocation.

1. Discussion: Parks and Recreation Master Plan Priorities and Proposed Funding Option

J. D. Pone, Fayetteville-Cumberland Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Chair, stated the Fayetteville Cumberland Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission approved at their meeting on April 1, 2008 a prioritized list of projects for review by the City Council and Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Pone provided an overview of the Projects and Funding Committee's recommendations and stated the Senior/Aquatic Center was the unanimous priority of the Advisory Commission. Mr. Pone clarified the intent of the Senior/Aquatic Center is to provide senior programs as well as attract and be beneficial to other age groups. Mr. Pone reviewed estimated costs and funding for the various projects.

Project	Priority	Estimated Cost
Aquatic/Senior Facility	1	\$10,000,000
Joint City/County Funding		

Fields Road Sports Complex Joint City/County Funding	2	3,500,000
Gilmore Therapeutic Center Joint City/County Funding	3	2,500,000
Cape Fear River Park (City Funded)	4	2,000,000
Stoney Point Park/School Swimming Pool (County Funded)	5	3,000,000
Martin Luther King Park Joint City/County Funding	6	500,000
Lake Rim Regional Park, Lake Trails, Shelters and Boating Access (City Funded)	7	2,000,000
TOTAL PROJECTS		\$23,500,000
City Funding	\$12,250,000	
County Funding	\$11,250,000	

Commissioner Wheatly asked whether operating costs had been included in the estimated costs. Mr. Pone responded in the negative.

Council Member Haire asked about specifics included in the \$500,000 estimated cost for Martin Luther King Park. Mr. Barefoot stated the \$500,000 was to stimulate a matching grant to complete the \$1 million project and specifics had not been identified.

Council Member Bates asked whether the Fields Road Sports Complex was to be developed and operated by a private company. Mr. Barefoot stated although an investment entity had not been identified for the project, there were several private companies that could operate the complex if constructed. Mr. Barefoot spoke to the potential for regional and national partners for the project following the initial capital investment.

Amy H. Cannon, Assistant County Manager, provided an overview of the bond issues to include a bond referendum and interlocal agreement to share debt service. Discussion ensued. James Martin, County Manager, asked whether the bond referendum would include the entire list of projects. Mr. Pone responded in the affirmative. Dale E. Iman, City Manager, inquired about a marketing plan. Mr. Pone stated a marketing plan to sell the projects to the voters would have to be developed prior to the bond referendum.

Council Member Hurst asked whether the estimated costs included upgrades to existing parks. Mr. Barefoot stated the estimated costs only included new projects; however, renovation projects were covered under the master plan.

Commissioner Wheatley stated the public should be made aware of the maintenance and personnel considerations and that taxpayers favored privately funded marketing. Commissioner Wheatley and Commissioner Edge expressed concern about the timing of the bond referendum.

Mayor Chavonne asked about the proposed schedule. Mr. Pone stated the Advisory Commission had hoped to have the matter on the November ballot. Grainger Barrett, County Attorney, stated a decision would likely need to be made by late July so the Board of Elections could have wording for the ballot by August.

Council Member Bates expressed concern for the burden placed on the city and county with regard to operating costs. Mr. Barefoot stated city and county annual operating budgets would have to be derived from fees, taxes and other sources. Mr. Barefoot further stated part of the rationale behind the projects selected was the opportunity to partner with other agencies to help defer some of the operating costs.

Commissioner Blackwell stated the County Commissioners had not had an opportunity to collectively discuss the proposal but were willing to do so in conjunction with County

management.

A brief discussion ensued about the generation and obligation of tax revenues for the jointly funded projects.

2. Discussion: Regional Transit Study

Ron Macaluso, City of Fayetteville Transit Director, introduced Charles Glover, Senior Associate with RLS and Associates, Inc. Mr. Glover provided an overview of the consolidated transportation development plan for the Cumberland County area beginning with the NCDOT regionalization initiative in 2002 and study goals and strategies as follows: 1) provide rider benefits such as better and increased services that cross county lines; 2) provide the most efficient, effective and safe countywide transportation services; 3) create more effective mechanism to address countywide problems such as traffic congestion and air quality; 4) create greater opportunities for creation of local dedicated funding sources for transit; 5) develop capital, operating and administrative economies of scale; and 6) develop specialized staff, i.e., training, drug and alcohol testing compliance, DBE, procurement, and safety.

Mr. Glover stated when NCDOT initially considered ways to improve public transportation services across the state, they started at the city and county level, which would eventually lead to regionalization opportunities. Mr. Glover further stated NCDOT did not want the availability of local funds to be an obstacle, so state funds were made available for planning and implementation.

Mr. Glover outlined Phases I-III of the study work program and provided a study schedule for tasks and deliverables.

Phase I – Coordination Consolidation Feasibility: 1) initial project meeting; 2) prepare draft public involvement plan; 3) meet with CTDP Committee; 4) key stakeholder interviews; 5) system reviews; 6) assess coordination activities; 7) meet with CTDP committee; 8) organizational alternatives; 9) detailed analysis of governance and funding; and 10) meet with CTDP to draft report and go/no go decision.

Phase II – Detailed Implementation Plan: 11) transition plan; 12) five year capital and operating plan; 13) meet with CTDP committee; and 14) final reports/presentation.

Phase III – Regional Coordination Feasibility: 15) regionalization options.

Mr. Glover stated the study is just getting started with coordination, consolidation and feasibility as outlined under Phase I and a decision by local government officials would be needed before entering into detailed implementation under Phase II.

Mayor Chavonne asked about Ft. Bragg's involvement in the study. Mr. Glover replied Ft. Bragg was one the stakeholders to be interviewed and Ft. Bragg would also be involved in the planning process to determine their transportation needs.

Mr. Glover requested input on public involvement or public participation. Commissioner Blackwell suggested community centers and high school districts.

3 Discussion: Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

Victor Sharpe, City of Fayetteville Community Development Department, introduced Thanena Wilson, Cumberland County Community Development Director, and Sonya Green, County Community Development and Housing Manager. Mr. Sharpe provided an overview of the history, stakeholder steering committee and planning process involved with the ten-year plan. Mr. Sharpe then reviewed statistics regarding the local homeless population and provided information regarding factors that contribute to homelessness in the Fayetteville/Cumberland County area.

Mr. Sharpe reviewed priorities and recommendations for the ten-year plan as follows: 1) community awareness and education campaign; 2) lobby congress for special appropriation; 3) identify additional funding support for local programs; 4) create day resource center; 5) establish childcare subsidy; 6) provide additional shelter space; 7) improve access to transportation; 8) family reunification program; 9) develop additional affordable housing options; and 10) expand outreach network.

Mr. Sharpe provided a synopsis of local government annual shares totaling \$344,000 and explained local shares would leverage more than \$3.9 million in additional resources. Mr.

Sharpe concluded by stating the next steps would be to adopt the plan and recommendations and develop a working group to implement the plan.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the availability of funds and budget requests for the next year.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.