



Charlotte City Council
**Council-Manager
Relations Committee**
Meeting Summary for January 8, 2013

COMMITTEE AGENDA TOPICS

- I. **Subject:** **Mayor and Council Annual Retreat**
 Action: None.
- II. **Subject:** **Next Meeting Date**
 Action: To be scheduled as soon as possible with Retreat-Facilitator

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Present: Mayor Anthony Foxx, Council members Warren Cooksey, David Howard,
 Patsy Kinsey, and James Mitchell
Time: 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Agenda
2. Handouts: Draft Retreat Agenda

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DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Committee Discussion:

Mayor Anthony Foxx called the meeting to order.

I. Mayor and Council Annual Retreat

Julie Burch advised the Committee the Retreat will be February 7-8 at Whitehead Manor. Mike Whitehead recommended Barbara Riley as facilitator. Council member Howard asked why Mr. Whitehead could not facilitate the Retreat as he feels strongly about keeping the continuity of the facilitator. Ms. Burch said that Mr. Whitehead had a conflict and has chosen not to be considered. He believes Ms. Riley will be a good fit. Ms. Jennings added that our own Human Resources Department has worked with her in the past on some diversity training and also thinks highly of her and her abilities.

The Mayor asked about the scope of the agenda. Ms. Burch said she envisioned the Committee drafting up the objectives of the Retreat regarding certain topics, but the agenda itself will be pretty straightforward. Staff is suggesting a tour of success stories, with a staff panel making a presentation first. The facilitator will not be asked to draft the agenda.

Council member Howard noted the Economic Development Committee had discussed, as Council member Cooksey has brought up in the past, how Council looks at the Focus Area Plans as part of the Retreat. The Plans are set for the next year without knowing how we did. Because Council is meeting in town perhaps this would be a good time to bring in our partners. Council member Mitchell agreed. He added that our partners have some tough challenges going forward, but there has been a change in dynamics in the community. In the past, business leaders would drive the agenda, but now the City drives the agenda and it would be good for our partners to understand how we work. We had partners who chose not to help with the CIP; we need them to join us, and we need them to know we need their participation.

Council member Howard continued that the CIP discussion was frustrating because Council continued to hear “no” from people, but no one offered any solutions. The Mayor acknowledged the CIP process certainly exposed some issues. He asked Council member Mitchell what his vision was for that part of the Retreat. Council member Mitchell said it is about the relationships. It is about getting our partners to understand how we should work together. A small example is calendars. They often set meetings with an attendance expectation without checking the Council calendar.

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Council member Cooksey added with the CIP it is easy for groups to see through their own lenses, but it is important for Council to be able to explain how this is good for everyone and get help promoting it. It can't be a case of all no. Regarding the Focus Area Plans, Council member Cooksey agreed that he had been bringing up for years Council has been looking at this the wrong way. The Focus Area Plans should be more meaningful. Keep the overall statement and the narrative, but there should be three types of items 1) Council's work plan for a year or two; 2) expectations of staff; and 3) overall items that might not be simple like crime rate in community safety, review planning documents or unemployment rate in economic development. Three categories would be easier for everyone. The Focus Area Plans have lost their sense of unity across all five.

The Mayor noted maybe that's the point of the conversation on the Focus Area Plans – how to change them going forward.

[Agenda Discussion Starts - handout]

Ms. Jennings said the first block on the agenda is to discuss transformative development. Some can be done virtually, with a plan to highlight good things in every district. This would be followed by a tour of three or four areas. There would be a 30-minute panel discussion and then a bus tour. This could be a way to get some private sector support.

The second block of the day in the afternoon is a presentation by Jeff Boothe on the 2030 Transit Plan. The remainder of the afternoon is an overview of Budget and an update by Finance followed by a reception and dinner. Friday is a half day to discuss the Focus Area Plans.

Ms. Jennings added the first block of the day has not been fully vetted – staff wanted a nod from the Committee to go forward with the idea. Some examples might be SouthEnd to Scaleybark highlighting: Triple C Brewery, Greater Galilee Historic District, Lowe's, Carson Boulevard, Ashley Park. Look at things in clusters – by stopping or staying on the bus but showing the impact of sustainability in an area. Ms. Burch added this is an opportunity to celebrate success in the community. Council member Kinsey requested not being overscheduled. Council member Howard noted it is important to show challenges as well as successes. He also suggested it would be good to see areas in South Charlotte. Council member Cooksey reminded the Committee South Charlotte has not had a general obligation bond since 1997; however, there are changes in patterns that could be shown from Blakeney to Raintree.

Council member Cooksey continued that he thought the challenges are important and it would be important to show lessons learned – for example – Independence Boulevard. He continued there should be discussion around the limitations

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imposed by the 2030 Transit Plan. We can't just do roads; we can't just do transit and we can't ignore the Committee of 21 report that said our road network will collapse in 20 years. Transportation is sidewalks, bike lanes, fixed route mass transit, variable route mass transit and roads. We have revenue issues that we need to talk about.

The Mayor agreed it would be good to look at things holistically. He asked if Council member Cooksey was suggesting doing more or doing things differently. Council member Cooksey said we are not doing enough of all of it. We need to look at this in its entirety. We always have a crisis-oriented approach. There's a bike accident, so we need more bike lanes. We need an opportunity to think bigger.

Council member Mitchell suggested the morning be all virtual. We should look at 1) how do we determine what investment to make and 2) what is a successful model. The City can be a catalyst, so it would be good to understand the model to create success. Property taxes are increasing, the quality of life is changing, and corridor development is misunderstood. I think the time factor would make a virtual presentation more beneficial. This should be a high-level discussion; no bus tour – virtual; keep us engaged.

Council member Kinsey agreed. She also suggested allowing Council members to talk about their neighborhoods. Not that staff isn't knowledgeable, but Council members know their districts too.

Ms. Burch asked what success will look like at the end of the Retreat. Council member Howard responded that every other year Council drills down in the details; he felt success is having stronger ties and being more wedded to the Focus Area Plans. Back to Council member Cooksey's point, we do have a system for roads; we don't have a system for transit and that's why it gets all the attention. If we went point-by-point it would be very telling how much time we spend on transportation. Council member Kinsey said that Council members Cooksey and Howard are both right about transit. The bottom line is there is no history with transit. We have a history with roads. Nobody questions money spent on roads or sidewalks, but there is not a history or understanding yet about transit.

Ms. Burch asked for clarification on the discussion point and Council member Cooksey suggested a 1) here's where we are; 2) short-medium-long-term needs; 3) discussion about whether that is sufficient.

Mayor Foxx added that it might be a good idea to see if Mayor Reed from Atlanta could come to the Retreat. They had multi-modal funding on the ballot that failed. The Committee agreed that a discussion about transit issues would be beneficial while acknowledging there is only so much time during the Retreat that

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could be allotted without throwing off the balance with the other focus areas. The Mayor advised the Committee he had invited Jeff Boothe, from Holland & Knight, to come to the Retreat to give the Council an overview of transit from the Federal level. Mr. Boothe will discuss sales tax; why certain modes are considered; the value certain modes create; how it is paid for in other places. This does start to bring us back to the CIP though – is that a place we want to go? Council member Howard concurred that explaining the reality of transit is a good idea. Perhaps the MTC should also be invited.

The Committee spent some time discussing how the conversation would be controlled and agreed this would be a speaking engagement by Mayor Reed and Jeff Boothe, not open conversation. They finally agreed that a suggested layout would be lunch from 12:00 to 1:30 with Mayor Reed from Atlanta and Jeff Boothe, with no question and answer period; however, pending their schedules there could be time for interaction after lunch. The Retreat would resume at 2:00 p.m.

Council member Mitchell restated his interest in having outside partners attend the Retreat: Sierra Club, Chamber, Regional Partnership, Housing Partnership, Housing Authority, Men Who Care Globally. The Committee then discussed “who” would be invited and how would that be determined and would that cause any problems and would there be an expectation of them speaking to Council. Council member Mitchell continued that he wanted there to be relationship building. Council member Cooksey said that he liked the idea, but was concerned this might be too tactical for the Retreat. Perhaps there would be a better opportunity for strategic partners to come to Council. Council member Kinsey noted that she doubted our partners would come without an opportunity to speak.

Ms. Burch advised that the FY14 Focus Area Plans were being drafted through Committee and would just be presented as food for thought at the Retreat. The Chairs will highlight the mid-year achievements and will ask for a recommendation to send these to Committee and back to Council for adoption. This will be the bulk of the Friday morning discussion. Council member Mitchell said this is where he thought the partners would benefit from attending. The Chamber invites Council to their annual meeting to hear what they are doing; this would give them an opportunity to hear what we are doing.

The Committee continued to discuss possible logistics including dinner on Wednesday evening and then Council member Cooksey suggested this might be suited for a Monday workshop. Perhaps the first workshop in May could be dedicated to a Council driven presentation of the Focus Area Plans with the goal being the City presenting what we are doing.

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The Mayor then recapped how the agenda would look. Breakfast at 8:30; 9:00 start with staff panel and virtual tour; ending by 11:30-11:45; lunch with Jeff Boothe and Mayor Reed ending at 1:30; reconvene at 2:00 with Budget and Finance overviews and then break around 5:00 for reception and dinner. The Mayor said he hoped there would be some unstructured time for discussions so Council members can engage each other.

Council member Howard said that it will be important to establish ground rules at the beginning for respecting each other. The Mayor said they had previously adopted ground rules that could probably be reused.

Ms. Burch asked the Committee if they wanted to meet the Facilitator prior to the Retreat and they did. She then asked if the Committee wanted to update Council at the January 14 meeting on the status of the agenda. They agreed and selected Warren Cooksey as spokesperson. Council member Cooksey suggested reviewing the agenda at the end of dinner and asking for feedback at the end of the meeting, to give folks a chance to think about it.

II. Next Meeting Date

To be determined as soon as possible around Committee and Facilitator's schedule.

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Tuesday, January 8, 2013 – 11:45 a.m.

Room 280

Committee Members: Anthony Foxx, Chair
 Warren Cooksey, Vice Chair
 James Mitchell
 David Howard
 Patsy Kinsey

AGENDA

I. Mayor and Council Annual Retreat

Staff Resource: Julie Burch and Carol Jennings

Staff will discuss and seek direction on the proposed facilitator and draft agenda for the Retreat (February 7-8).

II. Next Meeting Date

Monday, January 28, 2013 at 11:45 a.m. in Room CH-14

**DRAFT MAYOR AND COUNCIL RETREAT AGENDA
FEBRUARY 7-8, 2013
WHITEHEAD MANOR**

Thursday February 7

8:30 Breakfast

Opening comments, welcome, and introduction of Facilitator by Mayor Foxx

Review of Agenda and Setting Retreat Context by Facilitator

Opening comments by Julie Burch

Panel and Tour - Creating a Foundation for Long Term Economic Health and Competitiveness

- **Panel**

Opening Speaker: Michael Gallis

Panel: Debra Campbell, Danny Pleasant, Pat Mumford, Jeb Blackwell and Rodney Monroe

Highlighting themes and best practices from the 5 Focus Areas and showing virtual public/private projects and initiatives that are transformative; Projects in each Council district would be covered either virtually or via the tour

- **Tour of 3 or 4 project areas**

Lunch

2030 Transit Plan

Jeff Boothe of Holland and Knight will discuss the 2030 Transit Plan, funding, cost/benefit of each mode of the transit plan, etc.

Budget Overview

Randy Harrington will provide a general budget overview and discuss possible federal program cuts

Financial Update

Greg Gaskins will discuss State tax reform, Federal tax changes, County revaluation status, and expected revenue estimates.

Reception and Dinner

Friday February 8

8:30 Breakfast

Focus Area Plans Review by Committee Chairs

Facilitated Discussion of Open Items

Adjourn – Boxed Lunch