

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission

Work Session Summary Minutes

November 8, 2021

Virtual Meeting

Attachment 1

Approved December 6, 2021

Attendance

Commissioners Present: Keba Samuel (Chairperson), Douglas Welton, Sam Spencer, John Ham, Erin Barbee, Peter Kelly, Andrew Blumenthal, Astrid Chirinos, Courtney Rhodes, Ronnie Harvey, and Wil Russell

Vice Chairperson Gussman arrived at 12:08 pm

Commissioner Absent: Elizabeth McMillan and Melissa Gaston

Planning Staff Present: Taiwo Jaiyeoba (*Planning Director*), Alyson Craig (*Deputy Planning Director*), Candice Rorie, Shavon Davis, Alysia Osborne, Kathy Cornett, Laura Harmon, Catherine Mahoney, Robyn Byers, Evan Lowry, Erin Hinson, and Chris McDonald

Call to Order & Introductions

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm, welcomed those present and went over the protocols of the virtual meeting.

Minutes and Reports

Approval October 4 Work Session Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Barbee and seconded by Commissioner Blumenthal to approve the October 4, 2021 minutes. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

New Business

FY 2022 Planning Commission Work Program Discussion and Adoption

Chairperson Samuel opened the discussion for the FY2022 Work program. She began with Item 1. Charlotte Future Comprehensive Plan and asked if there were any additions or edits to this item. In addition, she asked staff if the timeline still made sense in terms of the target schedule. Ms. Alysia Osborne replied there were some discussions at the council meeting about delaying the timeline for the adoption of the implementation strategy and the manuals and metrics, so that timeline may change.

Director Jaiyeoba confirmed there was a discussion to move the adoption, if there is one, of the implementation strategies and manuals and metrics to another time but that is not defined. He went on to say they should focus on the policy map and the UDO for now. Ms. Osborne added concerning the timeline, they would begin discussing the final map in January but requesting a recommendation from this body in February.

Chairperson Samuel announced the target schedule for Agenda item 1.1: *Emphasize engagement in the Charlotte Future 2040 Policy Map development and provide a recommendation to City Council for February 2022* and Agenda item 1.2: *Emphasize engagement in the Charlotte Future 2040 Implementation Strategy/Manuals and Metrics and provide a recommendation to City Council to March 2022* unless they hear otherwise from staff between now and then. Referencing item 3:

FY2022 Commissioner Suggested Focus Areas, Chairperson Samuel thinks a few of those items should be made a part of their 2022 work program, specifically speaking, the Environmental and Sustainability efforts and Interagency Plan Collaboration/Coordination are two items that she wants to see move forward. She commented Commissioner Blumenthal was working on an effort that would lead to an update of their adopted Environmental and Sustainability Statement.

Commissioner Blumenthal explained that he put a hold on it recently, just waiting to see what the work plan will look like, but he will be happy to pick up that effort once this is approved and moving forward.

Chairperson Samuel talked about why she believes the Environmental and Sustainability component should stand on its own based on the county's now adopted policies. Commissioner Blumenthal invited any other Commissioners to join him and Commissioner Chirinos in this effort; Commissioner Barbee volunteered.

Chairperson Samuel asked the Commission for their feedback and what they would like to see with the Mobility/Transportation/Accessibility and Affordable Housing items. Commissioner Russell thinks they should really focus on how the Transportation Plan works with the UDO. Commissioner Chirinos said with the Interagency Plan, it seems like they should connect all of the focus areas not only with the city but also with the county and CMS because she thinks it should be under an umbrella.

Vice Chairperson Gussman responded to Commissioner's Russell comment explaining the idea of the light rail and its intent to allow a community to expand its 10-minute circle. Commissioner Kelly commented that he shares Commissioner Russell's concerns and said that it seems like they should be using number 1 measurements and metrics because they are talking about what is success, so they need to clarify the success metrics for the overall plan and getting engaged more aggressively.

Chairperson Samuel began to close the discussion and wanted to confirm from the Commission what they will be including in Agenda item 3. She then asked do they move forward with Interagency Plan Collaboration/Coordination and Communication Strategies, combining these two and establishing objectives and measure of success there. She does think it worthy as she has heard at the annual retreat that they at minimum keep the lines of communication open amongst their CMS partners, Park and Rec partners and amongst the other county entities.

Commissioner Kelly reminded the Commission that they did an Intergovernmental and Collaboration Work program a year and a half ago at the same time they did an Environmental, so his question is do they resurrect and modify that or are they looking at something completely new. Chairperson Samuel responded no need to reinvent the wheel, like they are updating their Environmental and Sustainability statement, she thinks if they have already established that work, they can definitely strengthen that work. Commissioner Rhodes commented that she agrees with combining the Interagency plan and Communication Strategies and making sure that they come up with measurable goals and which agencies they want to communicate with.

The Commission discussed the possibility of resurrection of the affordable housing statement to see how it may be strengthened from the already existing document. Ms. Osborne suggested and wondered if it might be helpful if they did a major policy initiative one on one; a refresh or a quick dive as to what the Strategic Mobility Plan is and what it will do, also the UDO, Comp Plan and the Implementation Strategy. She said in listening, she hears a little confusion on what those things are expected to do. Lastly, she questioned the expectation of the engagement; is it around what the Commission will do or is it an expectation to provide guidance to staff.

Chairperson Samuel replied once the 2022 work program is established and adopted, she thinks it is worthy to bring forth a refresher of different initiatives that are currently in play. In terms of the public engagement, she does not think that will be a part of item number 3.

The chair went on to summarize the discussion. For Work Program Focus number 3, they will leave the Measure of Success as is. In terms of bullet points on number 3, they will keep the Environmental and Sustainability, combining the Communication Strategies and Interagency Plan Collaboration, removing Mobility/Transportation/Accessibility which will be baked into Item 1.2.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kelly and seconded by Commissioner Russell to adopt the FY2022 Work Program as just described including keeping the target schedule as is. The vote was unanimous to approve the FY2022 Work Program.

Charlotte Future 2040 Plan: 2040 Policy Map Update

Ms. Catherine Mahoney presented a slide presentation and provided a brief overview of the engagement process, a summary of what they are currently hearing from the community during phase 2, and an overview of the strategy they are putting together to address the comments they are currently receiving.

Commissioner Ham asked if the comments from the engagement captured demographic information of respondents such as ethnic background, age, and if so, are they segmenting those comments so they can see any potential trends of certain groups. Ms. Mahoney replied she believes the only information they have been able to collect with the online comment tool would be the zip codes, but she will have to check to see what their zoom registration collects.

Charlotte Future 2040 Plan: Implementation Strategy

Ms. Robyn Byers introduced her team and shared a slide presentation discussing the purpose of the Implementation Dashboard, showing a live dashboard demonstration, and the next steps.

Commissioner Welton asked if anyone on the Commission knows their Neighborhood Profile Area (NPA). Ms. Byers stated that she still appreciates the NPAs and she does think if they keep using them and they explain what they are, hopefully they could get that more into the vernacular of the public. She noted that she will add in the definition and where to find it.

Commissioner Kelly commented that he would like for the Commission to consider prioritizing this to the City Council to improve the quality on timeliness of the metrics.

Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Engagement Update

Ms. Harmon shared a slide presentation and briefed the Commission on where they are with the UDO engagement and shared key UDO schedule dates.

Chairperson Samuel thanked staff for their efforts with the community engagement events and publicly reminded the Commissioners to please continue to share this information; anything they can do to assist in this effort would be greatly appreciated.

Commissioner Welton asked Ms. Harmon if she could tell them how many unique visitors does Charlotteudo.org gets a month. Ms. Harmon replied she does not have the information with her, but she is sure they can find out.

Vice Chairperson Gussman expressed how important it is for the Commissioners to help become the voice for these two efforts. Many communities feel like they are not being heard in this process, so this is their chance to try to fix that.

Chairperson Samuel commented as she is listening to the virtual sessions or getting asked questions directly, there sometimes is a misunderstanding about the content that is the topic of that session. She has heard folks with UDO comments come to Policy Map sessions and vice versa. She wonders at minimum, is it worth adding a link to the UDO and Charlotte Future 2040 website that ties one to the other.

Director Jaiyeoba shared they are working with Corporate Communication to put all of these initiatives on one page. Ms. Osborne confirmed that it is live, also there is a graph on every page of the UDO that cross references the policy map and on the Policy Map page, it cross references the UDO. Deputy Director Craig added they have heard comments concerning all of the different deadlines for these initiatives so on that main landing page, they are going to have a master calendar where you can see all of the different dates in which comment periods ends or close for all of the different initiatives.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:52 pm.