

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AND
FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL JOINT MEETING
APRIL 8, 2008, 8:00AM
CROWN CENTER

PRESENT: Chairman Breeden Blackwell
Vice Chairman Jeannette Council
Commissioner Kenneth S. Edge
Commissioner John T. Henley, Jr.
Commissioner Ed Melvin
Commissioner Billy R. King
Commissioner Diane Wheatley
James Martin, County Manager
Amy Cannon, Asst. County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Harvey Raynor, Deputy County Attorney
Marie Colgan, Deputy County Clerk
Sara VanderClute, PIO
Thanena Wilson, Community Development
Sonja Green, Community Development
Marsha Fogle, Clerk to the Board
Mayor Anthony Chavonne
Councilman Keith Bates
Councilman Charles Evans
Councilman D.J. Haire
Councilman Bobby Hurst
Mayor Pro Tem Wesley Meredith
Councilman Theodore Mohn
Councilwoman Valencia Applewhite
Dale Iman, City Manager
Karen McDonald, City Attorney
Kyle Sonnenburg, Assistant City Manager
Candice White, City Clerk
City Staff

The respective Boards were called to order.

1. Discussion – Parks & Recreation Master Plan Priorities and Proposed Funding

Mr. J.D. Pone, Chair, Parks and Recreation Department reviewed the master plan and proposed funding options. The list of projects, prioritized, includes projects for joint funding and projects for separate funding (city and county). He noted the number one priority as the Senior/Aquatic Center. The prioritized projects are listed below:

PROJECT	PRIORITY	ESTIMATED COST
Aquatic/Senior Facility (joint city/county funding)	1	\$ 10,000,000
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 funding)	4	\$ 2,000,000

PROJECT	PRIORITY	ESTIMATED COST
Stoney Point School/Park Swimming Pool(county funding)	5	\$ 3,000,000
MLK Park (joint city/county funding)	6	\$ 500,000
Lake Rim Regional Park Lake Trails, Shelters & Boating Access (City funding)	7	\$ 2,000,000
TOTAL COST		\$ 23,500,000
Total City Funding		\$ 12,250,000
Total County Funding		\$ 11,250,000

The Parks and Recreation Commission recommend a bond referendum be held in November to fund the above projects.

In response to questions regarding the above projects, it was noted that the above figures do not include operational costs. In addition, no recommendations have come forward regarding upgrading existing facilities. Approximately 9 cents of the City's ad valorem tax is used for its parks and recreation program. The County's funding for parks and recreation comes from the designated 5 cent recreation tax. A bond referendum if passed would likely cause the recreation tax to go up in the County.

Commissioner Edge said timing is important in holding a referendum. He noted that because we are having a referendum on the ¼ cent sales tax in May, and if it passes the County will decrease the property tax 2 cents, he did not believe the public would likely vote for a \$23 million bond referendum that would likely increase taxes.

Some information that the two governing boards want the Parks and Recreation Department to bring back to them are:

- (a) Operational costs for the projects
- (b) Marketing the bond issue
- (c) Optimum time for a bond issue

2. Discussion: Regional Transit System

Mr. Charles Glover, consultant with RLS & Associates, Inc. presented an overview of a Consolidated Transportation Development Plan for the Cumberland County area.

The study work program includes:

Phase I Tasks

- (1) Initial project meeting (3/13/08)
- (2) Prepare draft for public involvement plan
- (3) Meet with CTDB Committee
- (4) Key stakeholder interview (includes Ft. Bragg)
- (5) System reviews
- (6) Assess coordination activities
- (7) Meet with CTDP Committee
- (8) Organizational alternatives
- (9) Detailed Analysis of Governance and Funding
- (10) Meet with CDTP (draft report; go/no-go decision to continue)

Phase II Tasks

- (11) Transition Plan
- (12) Five Year Capital & Operating Plan
- (13) Meet with CTDP Committee
- (14) Final reports/presentation

Phase III Tasks

- (15) Regionalization Options

The Study Schedule will run from March 2008 – August, 2008.

No action needed.

3. Discussion/report on the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness

Mr. Victor Sharpe, Community Development Director for the City of Fayetteville, reviewed the ten-year plan.

Mr. Sharpe noted that homelessness is a national problem with local solutions. The Interagency council on Homelessness, comprised of 20 cabinet-level secretaries, was revived by President Bush. A nationwide push has been implemented to garner support from cities and counties to adopt local ten-year plans to end chronic homelessness. The City of Fayetteville and County of Cumberland adopted resolutions in 2005 supporting the development of a 10 year plan. In July 2006, the City Council and County Commissioners appointed a 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness Steering Committee comprised of county officials, community stakeholders, business/civic leaders, faith-based organizations, hospital administrators, homeless shelter providers and law enforcement officials. This committee has elected to hire a consultant, J-Quad & Associates, to assist in developing a plan. Community forums have been held to obtain input on solutions to homelessness. As a result of community input, work by the consultant and guidance of the steering committee, a draft plan has been prepared. Mr. Sharpe noted that several factors contributing to homelessness are lack of transportation to and from work, affordable housing, unemployment, under-employment and substance abuse. He said the homeless problems continue to grow.

The ultimate goal of the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness is to bring together through coordination, collaboration and cooperation, individuals, businesses, elected officials/local government and non-profit agencies to meet the needs of the homeless citizens in our community.

Mr. Sharpe shared the following statistics regarding the homeless:

- 46% are single men
- 10% are families with children
- 31% are children
- 9% are single women
- 19% are veterans
- 59% have resided in Fayetteville over 10 years

The 10 Year Plan Recommendations are:

- Community Awareness & Education Campaign
- Lobby Congress for Special Appropriation
- Identify Additional Funding Support for Local Programs
- Create Day Resource Center
- Establish Childcare Subsidy
- Provide Additional Shelter Space
- Improve Access to Transportation

Family Reunification Program
Develop Additional Affordable Housing Options
Expand Outreach Network

Total Cost to the do the above is: \$344,000

If the county and city invest \$344,000, it could leverage \$3.9 million in additional resources. No funding would be required until FY09-10.

The next step in this process is for the City and County to adopt the Plan.

No action needed today.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:35AM.

Clerk to the Board