

MINUTES

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 18, 1995

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called meeting at 8:00 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Henderson County Public Library. The purpose of the meeting was a Board Retreat. The Goal of the Retreat was "Community Stewards: Developing the Community's Vision".

Those present were: Chairman Renee Kumor, Vice-Chairman Vollie G. Good, Commissioner J. Michael Edney, Commissioner Bob Eklund, Commissioner Don Ward, County Manager David F. Thompson, and Clerk to the Board Elizabeth W. Corn.

Also present were the following members of the Management Team: Assistant County Manager David E. Nicholson, Staff Attorney Angela M. Skerrett, Finance Director J. Carey McLelland, and Planning Director Matt Matteson. Ms. Nancy Zimmers was present, Facilitator for the Retreat.

INTRODUCTION of Facilitator

Ms. Nancy Zimmers, Facilitator for the Retreat was introduced to the Board and then she proceeded to have each of the Commissioners give a brief but outlined self introduction. It was a fun and enlightening session of learning personal interesting things about each other as Commissioners. It set the tone for the morning session of informality and openness.

Through an exercise, led by Nancy Zimmers, the Commissioners also learned things about their own and each others personalities and how to deal with different personalities.

During this morning session the County Manager and the Management Team held their own session in another room.

OVERVIEW OF RETREAT: Purpose, Process, and Benefits

During this session the Commissioners listed some of their expectations for the Retreat as:

- Better Understanding of Each Other.
- Direction For Where We Want To Go.
- Understand What We're Really Saying.
- Improve Communication So I Know What Board Members Want.

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Consensus - We're Here to Serve.
To Work As A Team To Create A Vision.
Respect For The Job of Government.

DEVELOPING A VISION AND MISSION FOR HENDERSON COUNTY

Following much discussion and much deliberation, the Board came up with the following mission statement:

OUR MISSION IS TO GUIDE OUR COMMUNITY TOWARD EXCELLENCE AND COMMITMENT TO OUR ENTIRE CITIZENRY BY GUARANTEEING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EACH AND EVERY INDIVIDUAL, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE, BALANCING THE PRESERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF ALL OF OUR RESOURCES.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM CONCEPT

David Thompson led this part of the day.

County Challenge:

To Focus on What is Truly Important for the Future of our Community.

Budgetary Definitions were reviewed. It was explained how a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) can smooth out the operational budget of the county.

There was much discussion with many plans discussed. It was the consensus of the Board that the top priorities were:

Jail/Law Enforcement Center
Water & Sewer Master Plan
Economic Development Plan
Renovation of Old Courthouse
Schools
Solid Waste Plan
Recreation Plan
Mass Transit

Following this session, the following direction was given to the County Manager and the Chairman. The top four priorities are in bold:

* **Yes, to CIP.**

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- * Yes, to meeting with the Recreation Board.
- * Yes, to inter-local agreement.
- * Yes, to setting parameters to water/sewer authority agreement.
- * Yes, to study for how State and Federal impacts county budget>staff direction.
- * Yes, to studying of incentive program>staff direction.
- * Yes, to mid-March agenda - consultant to study depts.

Saturday's session was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, February 19, 1995

Sunday's session began at 8:30 a.m. with informal discussion and a recap of yesterday's session.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR BASIC PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES

A 20 page report entitled Possible Inter-Local Agreement Between Henderson County and the City of Hendersonville for a Basic Level of Parks and Recreation Services was presented to the Board and reviewed.

The presentation was made with the intent of responding to the Henderson County Board of Commissioners' request for the County Manager to study and make recommendations for the possible consolidation of the City of Hendersonville's Recreation Department and Henderson County's Recreation Department. The reasoning behind the Board's request was that a combined department may result in lower tax dollar support of the separate departments, lessen current and future duplication of City and County Recreation efforts, and provide for the equitable delivery of recreational services throughout Henderson County. One of the major concepts pushing this review was that of cost effectiveness. The Board has usually found that there is an economy of scale in delivering services. That is, as more users of a service come on line, the costs per user decrease.

The current situations with the City Recreation Program and the County Recreation Program were reviewed in regards to number of personnel, programs offered, number of parks operated. Then a recommendation for consolidation/merger was presented and reviewed in detail.

The steps recommended in the proposed consolidation/merger plan for

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recreation were:

- * Execute an inter-local agreement with the City of Hendersonville to provide the same level of recreation services currently provided to County residents or planned to be provided over the next 5 years.
- * The County should continue trying to expand recreation services to the outlying areas of the County.
- * Seek reimbursement from the City of Hendersonville in the amount of \$230,361 for the upcoming Fiscal Year. Reduce this amount by 20% (\$46,072.20) each year over a 5 year period as services are developed that are equitable in the outer areas of the County.
- * Exchange the Trust Building for the surplus Edneyville School. Part of this recommendation was for the Board of Education to relocate the alternative school to this campus.

CONCLUSION: It was the feeling of the County Manager and the Recreation Director that our citizens' needs could be best met by a Henderson County Recreation Department that contracts out its services with the City of Hendersonville. One central agency for recreation can allow for better planning of facilities and recreation programs in order to meet the needs of residents in all areas of the county. Improved outreach to rural areas will then be accomplished by providing a county-wide perspective. The goal is the creation of a recreation department which responds to the needs of its citizens and therefore increases the level of recreation services to outlying areas of the county, which have been neglected in the past.

HENDERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS - Facility Needs Presentation

Dr. Dan Lunsford showed a short videotape of present school facilities and pointed out needs for replacement of some of the older buildings.

The Schools top five priorities were:

- * Replace main building at Balfour Elementary
- * Replace main building at Etowah Elementary
- * Replace main building at Fletcher Elementary
- * New Elementary School to serve students, located between Fletcher and Mills River.

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* Additional classrooms at North Henderson.

The School Board has authorized and expects to get a report back in 8 weeks regarding construction and enrollment. When the report is complete, the School Board will revise the long range facilities plan and priority plan.

Dr. Lunsford suggested that each Commissioner visit all twenty (20) school campuses.

FUNDING CHOICES

Carey McLelland, Finance Director, made a presentation on possible funding choices.

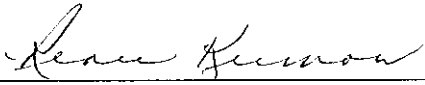
To fund the top five priorities discussed with the School Board today, the cost would be \$20 - \$24 million. Just to replace the main buildings at the three elementary schools, cost would be about \$16 million.

Sunday's session was adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

ATTEST:



Elizabeth W. Corn, Clerk



Renee Kumor, Chairman

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