



Planning, Development & Inspections

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A Division of Community Services
P.O. Box 550 • Raleigh, NC 27602
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

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Wake County Planning Board

Wednesday September 5, 2018 (1:30 p.m.)
Wake County Justice Center
300 S. Salisbury St., Room 2800
Raleigh, North Carolina

Members Present: (7) Mr. Alan Swanstrom (Chair), Mr. Donovan Amos Clark, Mr. Bill Jenkins, Mr. Thomas Wells, Ms. Tara Kreider, Mr. Asa Fleming, Mr. Ted Van Dyk

Members Absent: (3) Mr. Jason Barron (Vice Chair), Ms. Susan Sanford, Mr. Phil Feagan

County Staff: (9) Mr. Tim Maloney, Mr. Steven Finn, Ms. Sharon Peterson, Mr. Bryan Coates, Ms. Terry Nolan, Mr. Tim Gardiner, Mr. Frank Cope, Ms. Jenny Coats, Mrs. Loretta Alston

Guests: (3) Ms. Leigh Anne King (Clarion Associates Consultant), Mr. Nate Baker (Clarion Associates Consultant), Mrs. Nicole Kreiser (Assistant County Manager)

County Attorney Present: (1) Mr. Kenneth Murphy (Senior Assistant County Attorney)

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – Mr. Alan Swanstrom called the meeting to order at 1:31 P.M.
2. **Petitions and Amendments** – None
3. **Motion to approve minutes of August 1, 2018** was made by Mr. Wells and seconded by Mr. Clark. The minutes were unanimously approved.
4. **Transit Plan Update**

Mrs. Nicole Kreiser, Assistant County Manager, gave an update of the Wake County Transit Plan Implementation.

Wake County voters agreed to fund a \$2.3 billion countywide transit plan in 2016. The plan includes a commuter rail system and expanded bus service. Representatives from Wake County, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), GoTriangle, the City of Raleigh, the Town of Cary, N.C. State University and the Research Triangle Foundation have worked together on the Wake County Transit Plan, which has four primary goals, or “Big Moves,” over the next 10 years to:

- Connect the region.
- Connect all Wake County communities.
- Create frequent, reliable urban mobility.
- Enhance access to transit.

Here are just a few of the highlights:

- **New Bus Service for 2018-2019** – Starting in January 2019, increase in GoRaleigh service including new routes in Southeast Raleigh.
- **Growing Ridership from First Year of Service** - Wake Transit Plan increased Sunday service and expanded mid-day service in GoCary and GoTriangle.
- **Youth GoPass Program Launched August 6, 2018** – Mrs. Kreiser reminded the Board of the progress made on one of their top 22 initiatives for 2018. Teens 13-18 years old can ride free on all GoRaleigh, GoCary, GoTriangle and GoDurham transit with a Youth GoPass. She shared the following statistics:
 - 7,400 Unique views
 - 672 Passes issued
 - 8,777 Rides from teens

Mrs. Kreiser detailed a few of the outreach and programs planned for this Fall and Spring. Some of these include:

- **Fall 2018: Public Outreach on Bus Routes and Phasing** - Mrs. Kreiser referenced a 100-page document on line available to be viewed by the public with exact bus routes.
- **Bus Phasing and Development Survey** – Transit partners engaged more than 2,000 people at more than 30 meetings and events, touching every Wake County municipality to collect feedback to help shape the bus plan – i.e. how to implement – 10 years of our service; what routes (now or later). This will be presented in the Spring. Approximately 75% agreed with the approach for services, but requested additional routes in Southwest Raleigh, earlier acceleration of an express route to RTP from North Raleigh, and additional service serving Apex.
- **BRT Spring 2018 Outreach Summary** - The public also weighed in on the BRT corridors which feed into the next step for BRT projects.
- **Additional FY 2019 Transit Investments** – Additional proposed transit investments for the next fiscal year will make it easier for people to access transit from different parts of the County. The City of Raleigh will submit the first project to the federal government for future funding consideration in the January/February 2019 timeframe.

Mrs. Kreiser stated there is still much to do on the priorities that the BOC submitted in their comments on the proposed 2019 Wake transit work projects. As these items, such as a coordinated fare strategy amongst all providers, and the recommendation for Human Services and Rural Transportation unfolds, we will update the BOC and BOC Transit Committee along the way. For more details, click on the following links:

[Sept 2018 Wake County Planning Board.pptx](#)

http://goforwardnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/November-2016-Wake-Transit-Plan_small.pdf

5. **Committee Reports** – No reports.

6. **Comprehensive Plan Update**

Ms. Leigh Anne King and Mr. Nate Baker, Clarion Associates Consultants, shared an update on the progress of the Comprehensive Plan for the Board members. They included public launching, messaging, upcoming meetings and a month-long outreach for the kickoff. The public outreach will include a survey tool to engage the public and allow feedback.

The Board members were then asked to participate in an exercise led by Clarion and staff. The mapping exercises sought to identify where growth should occur within Wake County in the next 10 years – allocation of 250,000 new residents – and where land should be reserved for open space.

7. **Staff Reports** – Ms. Peterson led the members through the survey results from public input of the PlanWake Project. An example of the public survey can be found at the links below. These are just a few of the survey results shared with Board members:

- Eight of 10 Planning Board members completed the survey. At the time of the Planning Board meeting there were 22 total respondents.
- 73% of them responded the County needed to make significant changes to prepare for future population growth.
- Increased traffic and growing cost of living (including affordable housing) were ranked highest among the respondents' concerns for the future as the County changes.

For more details, here is the link to the survey and also the PlanWake project website.

<https://publicinput.com/3025>

<http://planwake.org/>

8. **Chairman's Report** - None

9. Having no further announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

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REGULAR MEETING
WAKE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
September 5, 2018

Alan Swanstrom declared the regular meeting
of the Wake County Planning Board for
Wednesday, September 5, 2018 adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AS', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Alan Swanstrom
Wake County Planning Board

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Proposed Ordinance Amendment 02-18

Planning Board

Project Name: Native Plant UDO Amendment

Case Number: OA-02-18

Date:

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Staff: Terry Nolan, Planner III

Purpose:

To amend the Wake County Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to support use of native plants.

Background:

This initiative was first introduced by the Wake County Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee (OSAPAC). OSAPAC recommended moving the initiative through the Growth, Land Use and Environment (GLUE) committee. The Board of Commissioners expressed their support at the October 8, 2018 work session and on October 15, 2018 they adopted a resolution stating Wake County will review and revise the Wake County Unified Development Ordinance and the Wake County Design Guidelines and Standards ensuring that Wake County projects utilize native plants to the greatest extent possible.

Wake County staff worked with a broad spectrum of professionals and organizations to identify opportunities related to county operations as well as development policies. These professionals and organizations included the NC Botanical Gardens, landscape architects, NC Native Plant Society, landscape nurseries, and landscape contractors. Discussions resulted in a recommendation to replace the outdated list of non-native invasive species located in Appendix A with current references, and to more clearly emphasize the use of native plants when landscaping is required in the UDO.

The proposed amendment reads as follows:

16-10-3 Plant Material, Installation and Maintenance

(B) Plant Materials

(1) Existing Vegetation

Existing vegetation that meets or exceeds applicable screening requirements may be used to satisfy the requirements of this section, provided the bufferyard contains sufficient area surrounding the vegetation to ensure its protection from encroachments that may threaten its continued healthy growth. Due to their effectiveness in immediately

providing a more effective screen, the retention and protection of existing vegetation must be given preference over the installation of new plant materials in the achievement of the required screening. Existing vegetation that is in a healthy condition, meets the minimum planting size requirements, and will meet the required mature plant size must be given credit ~~plant for plant~~ toward meeting the required screening. Existing vegetation must be noninvasive in nature. If invasive plants are found within the buffer, they must be permanently removed through mechanical or herbicidal means. No disposal of these plants (whole plants, clippings, root masses, etc...) may occur within buffers, easements, open space areas, or along rights-of-way. ~~See Appendix A for a USDA list of nonnative invasive species.~~ Invasive species are those identified on the most current lists published by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and NC Invasive Plant Council.

(2) Location and Spacing

Plants must be staggered or clustered as necessary to maximize screening objectives and to meet the needs of the particular species of plants for root space, water, light, and circulation.

(3) General Standards

All ~~landscaping~~ required landscape plant materials, inclusive of trees, shrubs and groundcovers, must comply with the American Nurseryman's Standards. Neither nonnative nor invasive plant species may be used for planting in landscaping and bufferyards (~~see the USDA list of these species~~). ~~Native species used in replantings are encouraged over ornamentals. All species chosen for planting should be chosen from amongst those species that typically grow in our geographical area, Zone 7.~~ The ~~developer~~ designer is responsible for researching ~~the biological requirements of each proposed species utilized in the plantings and indicate on the plans that the material being used is native to our geographical area.~~

Additionally, the amendment would delete Appendix A which lists non-native invasive species.

Analysis

This amendment would require use of native plants in Article 16-10-3(B)(3), which contains general standards for landscaping and landscape bufferyards. The standards outlined in 16(B)(3) are applied to sections of Article 16 and 18 related to commercial development and signs. Landscaping requirements in the UDO are limited to the following development situations:

1. Off-Street Parking Areas (16-10-1) that contain 10 or more parking spaces or an area of 3,000 square feet or more. Parking lot perimeter landscaping requirements do not apply to places of worship.
2. Bufferyards (16-10-2) are required with the development of new nonresidential construction, high-density residential, change in land use to a more intensive class of use, or expansion of use.
3. Fences, Walls, and Berms (16-10-3 (C)) must be screened. This does not apply to residential homeowners.
4. Trash Storage Areas (16-11) must be screened with vines or other landscaping.

5. Permanent, Freestanding Signs (18-10), in both residential and nonresidential districts, if it is within 100 feet of road rights-of-way must have landscaping around the base. The amount of landscaping required is based on the size of the sign.

In discussions with landscape architects, nurseries, and contractors, it was the consensus that area nurseries have sufficient stock of native plants to meet the proposed amendments to the UDO. The impact of the proposed change is considered minor because the county has very limited requirements for landscaping that will not impose a hardship on developers. It should be noted that the UDO bufferyard requirement in Article 16 currently does not allow non-native or invasive plants; this provision of the code has been in effect since 2006.

Staff Findings

The proposed amendments:

- 1) Support the Board of Commissioners' goal to promote sustainability efforts throughout the county.
- 2) Fulfills the direction provided by the Board of Commissioners, as stated in their October 15, 2018 resolution supporting increased use of native plants.
- 3) Replace references to non-native invasive species with resources that are regularly updated.

MOTION FOR CONSISTENCY (1ST MOTION)

MOTION IF TEXT AMENDMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE LAND USE PLAN AND UDO

In the matter of OA-02-18, I move that the Planning Board adopt and offer to the Board of Commissioners the following recommended statement finding that these proposed text amendments are consistent with the Wake County Land Use Plan and Wake County Unified Development Ordinance because:

- 1) The purpose of the Wake County Land Use Plan, and of the Unified Development Ordinance as seen in Article 1-11, is to provide a guide for the physical development of the County, preserve and enhance the overall quality of life of residents, and establish clear and efficient development review procedures. These purposes are advanced by the proposed text amendments' mandate that native plants must be used where plantings are required to meet the UDO's requirements for landscaping and bufferyards in connection with the development of land in Wake County, and by the replacement of the outdated list of non-native invasive plants in Appendix A with references to the most current lists of invasive plants published by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and the North Carolina Invasive Plant Council.

- 2) The proposed text amendments are reasonable and in the public interest because they provide a clear and consistent guide for physical development, and because they were developed in consultation with a broad spectrum of professionals and organizations including the NC Botanical Gardens, NC Native Plant Society, and landscape architects and contractors. In addition, the impact of these proposed changes is minor because the UDO only requires landscaping in limited instances, and the current UDO bufferyard requirements already do not allow non-native or invasive plants to be used in bufferyards.

MOTION FOR APPROVAL (2nd MOTION)

In the matter of OA-02-18, I move that the Board finds that the adoption of these proposed text amendments are consistent with the Wake County Land Use Plan and Wake County Unified Development Ordinance and is reasonable and in the public interest and hereby make a motion to recommend approval of these proposed text amendments to the Wake County Board of Commissioners.