

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
PRE-MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2019 AT 1:00 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on December 17, 2019, in the Commission Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 1 p.m. where and when the following business was transacted:

The Chairman called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Brownie Newman, Chairman
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Commissioner
Joe Belcher, Commissioner
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner
Robert Pressley, Vice Chair
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Mike Fryar, Commissioner, was absent from the meeting.

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Tim Love, Business Officer; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Staff Attorney; Heather Hockaday, Attorney

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

During the meeting, the Board and staff will review and discuss agenda items and receive staff updates with discussions as noted:

Staff Updates:

Tobacco Ordinance- Proposed Amendments and Authorization of Study Committee. Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director, explained information about vaping and tobacco use as it relates to County employees and the community. The committee will review all policies relating to the tobacco ordinance.

Greenway Master Plan Overview and Woodfin Project Update. Josh O'Conner, Recreation Services Director, presented an update on the progress of the greenway master plan. He explained that the greenway projects take a lot longer to construct than staff anticipated due to some complex issues. The projects are classified into the completion criteria of high, medium, and low depending on the difficulty of work that is necessary. Some of the commissioners expressed the completing of top priority projects first to show progress.

Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Advisory Board Application Review. The Commissioners selected individuals out of a pool of 25 applicants that they plan to interview within the first few weeks 2020.

Strategic Partnership Grants Committee. Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director, reviewed the timeline for the strategic partnership grants selection process. The eligibility criteria of whether to allow public organizations to apply for the grants was discussed and considered. Ms. Nygaard expressed to the Board the need to have the committee established as soon as possible in order to begin the process.

Catholic Charities Request. Avril Pinder, County Manager, explained the request for signing the consent for allowing refugees to settle in Buncombe County and introduced Sandy Buck, who is the Regional Director for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Charlotte. Ms. Buck informed that new procedures were to be considered by the end of the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS