

Board of Commissioners Working List of Discussion Items

Topic	Sponsor	Date Added to List	1 st Discussion	2 nd Discussion	3 rd Discussion	4 th Discussion
Agenda Setting of Community Interest Administrative Report Topics	Snyder	20 AUG 09	19 NOV 09 3 rd THU			
<p>What I'd like to see, while folks like Jim Dolan are still there (he's told me he will probably attend for public comments), is that rather than wait until whatever late hour for staff to provide Admin updates/comments, we have Keith provide the update immediately after Jim makes comments. If Jim is not there to make comments, then we can wait until the end. I know this approach is out of the norm, but I think it's a customer service we can provide to better our process.</p> <p>For Council consideration: when we have "like" situations in the future, I'd like to see us discuss adopting a policy along these lines. Please put on the agenda.</p>						
Pugh House Disposition/Plans	Council	25 AUG 09	26 JAN 10			
<p>TC started some discussion around the future of the Pugh House. The primary question is, "Does the town desire to restore the house as a public facility?" or "Is it better to surplus the property for sale with deed restrictions?"</p>						
Transparency	Murry	2 SEP 09	23 FEB 10			
<p>Thanks for taking a look at this and for your efforts to improve public access to information. I would like to see enhanced transparency placed on the discussion list for the Town Council. In the short term, where on the Town website can a citizen find how many employees work at the Town of Morrisville? I get that question a lot and Council Members also routinely ask that question. My hope is that through web-based transparency, the Town staff would save time by putting frequently requested items on the Town website. The Columbus, NC website is a good model.</p>						

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ITEMS BELOW: BOC DISCUSSION COMPLETED - REMOVED FROM THE LIST WITH NEXT PUBLICATION						
Fast Track Development Project Review	Snyder	16 JAN 07	18 OCT 07	15 JUL 08	15 JAN 09	8 SEP 09
<p>(18 OCT 07) DDS discussed with the BOC the current procedural review underway to document and improve the routine review process. There are a number of customers desiring to have the town process their projects in an expedient manner. Another expected improvement will be the granting of authority to staff to approve more requests without board review. The Planning Department will be renewing this effort soon to present the BOC with a proposed text amendment. This item will not be discussed again prior to the BOC considering the text amendment related to increased staff authority being proposed. (15 JUL 08) DDS presented explanation of the current processes and how the directorate is changing some aspects of the process to achieve improvement. It was agreed that in benchmarking Morrisville’s development review and approval processes that jurisdictions such as Raleigh, Durham, and Cary are not appropriate for comparison. <u>However, the Board expressed interest in comparing the Town’s review procedures with those of other more comparable jurisdictions, such as Apex, Holly Springs, Wake Forest, and Garner; staff will prepare a report and present it to the Town Council this fall.</u> The staff continues to work on recommended revisions to the ordinances permitting more authority for administrative review and approval, thus reducing the time for minor and non-controversial projects to be approved. [Delay continued discussion to 15 JAN 09 due to Tim Gauss not being available in OCT 08]</p> <p>(13 OCT 09) 2009-083 Report – Tim Gauss reported the results of a study commissioned by Holly Springs. The consultant compared the development review process of a number of municipal jurisdictions, including Morrisville. Morrisville took about 7 to 8 months while other towns took from a few months up to 10 or 11 months. One reason for variation was the types of review completed administratively. Morrisville’s typically went through staff, Planning Board and Elected Official review prior to going to the Construction Drawing Review (CDR) phase. Most did not perform expedited review. The Planning Board and Town Council usually reviewed all these. The Planning Staff was working on a Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) that would include consideration of and the nature of submittals. Making use of technologies was a trend as well. Full submittal electronically was being considered. The Planning Board was appreciative, supportive and enjoyed being part of the review process. Some jurisdictions had other types of training and education sessions for the Planning Board and elected officials. Most towns manage their own stormwater program like Morrisville. Almost all towns permitted minor changes to approved plans at the staff level. Once consideration was to have different levels for different projects with some items being approved at staff or Planning Board level. There was one area where the time where the time-frame was compressed. After political approval the time at the preliminary and engineering level was done at the same time. Having more complex submittals initially and less follow up reviews would be helpful. This was a good thought and was a goal but was not always feasible if something was found later in the process. A predictable process with high standards was the goal. There was a checklist created that defined what was needed for initial submittal.</p> <p><i>Council Member Murry made a motion to receive the report. Council Member Snyder seconded the motion that was unanimously approved. Mr. Gauss noted that they were planning on discussing this topic with community members at the Chamber’s annual meeting. Council Member Snyder stated that when it occurred, Council should be notified. Sharon Rosche, Chamber Representative stated that they would be doing a survey of the development community and providing that in a report.</i></p>						

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Fast Food Outlets vs Formal Dining Experience	Snyder Martin	14 JUL 09	27 OCT 09			
<p>During briefing of the KFC/Taco Bell at Bethany Village rezoning request CM Martin asked staff what can be done to get more formal dining restaurants in Morrisville versus continuing to consider and approve additional “Fast Food” establishments. Staff responded that the town does not recruit businesses but that town’s do recruit via their economic development function which in Morrisville is provided by the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce by contract with the Town.</p> <p>(27 OCT 09) Morrisville Chamber of Commerce President Sharon Rosche and Planning Director Ben Hitchings gave a presentation on attracting fine dining and options for limiting fast food thus expanding healthy dining choices. Sharon classified dining options as Casual and Fine Dining. Currently there are 55 dining options in Morrisville. Most are causal. Only Nikkos, Saffron, and two Mexican food restaurants meet the fine dining definition. Morrisville’s ethnic foods choices are ample with eight Indian, five Mexican, four Chinese, two Italian, one Greek, one Mediterranean, and one African food establishments. She also reported that three locations are promising for future fine dining opportunities, the future downtown area, the outlet mall, and the future Park West Village. Sharon suggested that maybe a three prong approach might improve the town’s opportunities to attack a greater variety in dining options. Morrisville might benefit from improved branding efforts, working with developers to encourage more dining options to be included in future developments, and providing incentives for small fine dining facilities. Ben Hitchings shared statistics about obesity and the public and private costs related to treating obesity related health situations. Ben reported that the town government can regulate food establishments thru zoning by restricting types of food establishments in designated zoning districts. Doing so may also inadvertently eliminate some desirable food establishments. He surmised that there are a variety of potential options and that policy choices should likely be based on community objectives.</p> <p>CM Murry noted that Raleigh’s downtown alliance does a restaurant week. It was for only after 5 but maybe Morrisville can do something like that. Was pretty successful. Mayor Faulkner stated that the education portion could be taken advantage of by all but also worried about limiting choices, but good to educate the public about their choices. She asked if there are any plans to bring to the MERC Committee into the discussion in regards to the home/community gardening thoughts. CM Murry suggested that maybe healthy lifestyle programs ought to be incorporated into P & R program. Mayor Faulkner also suggested that P & Z Board should be asked if they had any recommendations.</p>						