

**November/December Delegate Meeting
InterNeighborhood Council of Durham
December 10, 2024**

Attending the meeting were:

Neighborhoods

Burch Avenue – Cristen Jones

Cross Counties – Pat Carstensen

Long Meadow – Pakis Bessias

Morehead Hill – Bruce Mitchell

Old North Durham – Mimi O'Brien

Trinity Park – Mimi Kessler

Tuscaloosa-Lakewood – Susan Sewell

Watts Hospital Hillandale – Tom Miller

President Mimi Kessler called the meeting to order, and folks introduced themselves.

Mimi moved and Tom seconded to approve the October minutes with a correction of the place of the meeting. This passed.

The General Assembly has a bill (S382) to strip powers from Council of State offices that will be held by Democrats to ones held by Republicans; it is called a bill for Hurricane Helene Relief – and hasn't a penny for western NC. It also contains a clause that takes away municipal powers to initiate down-zoning, which would give property owners a veto over anything except giving them more options to make money. It would mean that changes in zoning could not add requirements. The bill was quickly thrown together so has significant logical issues. What this would mean for Durham is that the re-write of the UDO we are doing now can only contain relaxations.

Concepts (that is, no released text) of UDO revisions from the consultants came out at the end of October. What is there is pretty slight. It has 1 residential city-wide zone with 3 options. One is basically the current single house, one allows very small lots with small houses and the third allows multi-family with the number of units limited by the size of the lot. This gives an incentive to tear down houses to put up apartments to the benefit of the people who have money to invest in apartment-building and thus will keep a lot of people as renters forever.

Cristen and Mimi K. have been working hard on creating a website more appropriate to our needs. None of the publicly available templates worked completely. Cristen created a

Wordpress-based model and Mimi did two google-software models (one with pictures from Durham and one with more clip art). Word Press allows things like sidebars, menu items that have submenu items, a calendar feature and so on, but takes a certain amount of expertise. Others use the ionos WebBuilder tool for their neighborhood website. Tom has been assembling Neighborhood Hero records. We should be using our google drive for archiving. David Harris sent pictures from 2015 Hero Awards. We need to start working on content. The group concluded we should stick with a Google design because it will be easier to update in the near term. We also decided to have a mix of graphics and photos

The meeting adjourned.

Off the public minutes: The consultants feel like they are working blind because they are just seeing the Planning Department's version of the public comment. Tom and Mimi K will try to get Bonita and perhaps others to form a group to try get a meeting with Planning and with some of the JCCCP members.