



**Board of Delegates Meeting Minutes  
August 8, 2018**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Represented By</b>	<b>Jurisdictions Not Represented</b>
Albemarle	Martha Sue Hall	Anson County
Badin	Deloris Chambers	Ansonville
Bessemer City	Kay McCathen	Belmont
Cramerton	Will Cauthen	Cabarrus County
East Spencer	Deloris High	Charlotte
Gaston County	Ronnie Worley	Cherryville
Gastonia	Walker Reid and Dave Kirlin	Cleveland
Granite Quarry	Bill Feather	Cornelius
Huntersville	John Aneralla	Dallas
Lincoln County	Martin Oakes	Davidson
Matthews	Jeff Miller	Faith
Midland	John Crump	Hemby Bridge
Mooresville	Bobby Compton	Iredell County
Mount Holly	Perry Toomey	Kings Mountain
Ranlo	Effie Locklear	Landis
Spencer	Sharon Hovis	Lincolnton
Stanly County	Bill Lawhon	Locust
Stallings	David Scholl	Lowell
Statesville	Michael Johnson	Marshville
		Marvin
		McAdenville
		Mecklenburg County
		Mineral Springs
		Mint Hill
		Misenheimer
		Monroe
		Morven
		Norwood
		Oakboro
		Pineville
		Richfield
		Salisbury
		Spencer Mountain
		Stanley
		Troutman
		Union County
		Wadesboro
		Waxhaw
		Weddington
		Wesley Chapel
		Wingate

**Call to Order**

Chairman Bill Feather, Town of Granite Quarry, called the meeting to order.

**Amendments to the Agenda**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Martha Sue Hall, City of Albemarle, made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Ronnie Worley, Gaston County, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda**

**1. Approval of the May 9, 2018 Board of Delegates Meeting Minutes**

Mayor Pro Tem Hall made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Bill Lawhon, Stanly County, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**2. Board Engagement Activity Report Out**

The Delegates reported on challenges their communities are experiencing related to quality of life, jobs and the economy, and the effectiveness of government, as well as ideal next steps to solve those challenges.

**3. CCOG 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Panel Discussion**

David Hollars, Centralina Workforce Development Board Executive Director, introduced panelists Lynne Hair, Planning and Zoning Administrator for the Town of Stallings and Thurman Houston, Mayor Pro Tem of the Town of Mooresville. Ms. Hair gave an overview of the comprehensive land use plan CCOG assisted the town in developing. Mayor Pro Tem Houston gave an overview of the aging sensitivity training CCOG conducted for Mooresville staff. He also discussed the downtown walkability audit CCOG conducted for the town.

In response to questions from Mr. Hollars about the walkability audit's benefits to the community, Mayor Pro Tem Houston explained that the audit helped enhance Mooresville's downtown area, adding that the town wants to be proactive in engaging millennials as well as seniors. He noted that the town considered working with a consultant on the project but chose to use CCOG's services because of a good working relationship with the organization.

In response to questions from Mr. Hollars about the comprehensive land use plan's benefits to the community, Ms. Hair explained that the plan development process helped Stallings identify several areas in the community that could benefit from further planning, which led to the creation of small area plans. She noted that these planning documents have been used as an economic development tool and added that the comprehensive land use plan can attract developers and guide mixed-use development. She also noted that there was some pushback from the Town Council, but it was ultimately supportive of the plan because it saw the need for increasing density so the town could better support itself from a tax base standpoint.

In response to questions from Mr. Hollars about the aging sensitivity training, Mayor Pro Tem Houston explained that the town's public works, human resources, and fire departments participated in the training. He noted that the sessions helped educate town staff on what to be aware of when communicating with seniors. He added that both the walkability audit and the aging sensitivity training brought new ideas to everyday issues.

Vice Chair Bobby Compton, Town of Mooresville, noted that the Mooresville and Stallings projects were examples of the services CCOG provides to its member governments and examples of how other communities are addressing issues.

#### **4. Regional Transit Panel Discussion**

Michelle Nance, Planning Director, introduced panelists John Muth, Deputy Director of the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS), Scott Neisler, Mayor of the City of Kings Mountain, and Mark Cramer, Executive Director of the Greater Gaston Development Corporation.

In response to questions from Ms. Nance and Commissioner Martin Oakes, Lincoln County, about extending light rail line into Gaston County, Mr. Cramer explained that funding for the project will need to come from a variety of sources at the federal, state, and local levels. He added that Gaston County needs more access to Mecklenburg County and Charlotte and those locations, along with Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT), need more access to Gaston County. Building a new bridge across the Catawba River will help increase that access.

In response to Ms. Nance's question about commuter rail from Kings Mountain to Charlotte, Mayor Neisler suggested using existing assets such as the Norfolk Southern rail line. He noted that a study will be completed in November that will identify potential infrastructure improvements for this line. He also noted that a park and ride lot could be located in Kings Mountain. He gave an overview of other project components such as developing ridership estimates and operating costs, identifying rail vehicle needs and station locations, and coordinating with state and local officials. He also gave an overview of challenges such as state legislation for commuter service, negotiation with Norfolk Southern, and capital costs of infrastructure.

In response to Ms. Nance's question about the Lynx Blue Line expansion plan, Mr. Muth explained that planning to bring the light rail into Gaston County has occurred because any planning for building a new bridge across the Catawba River needs to accommodate future light rail. He added that the expansion could elevate the project to a regional tier in the Strategic Transportation Investments funding process and going forward, there will be a bigger vision for planning and working across county lines. He also noted that CATS recently applied for a grant that will help in discussing planning and land use practices along the light rail corridor. He added that the recent Regional Transit Summit and ongoing work are the catalyst to take regional transit to the next step.

In response to Ms. Nance's question about the Charlotte Airport Connected Economic Strategy, Mr. Cramer noted that it is imperative to engage the business community, planners, and elected officials to generate long-term support needed to fund a transit plan. He noted that CLT extended its airport area development plan into Gaston County to further examine airport connected economic development opportunities in the area surrounding the facility. He presented an overview of the plan development process. He encouraged other communities to consider how they relate to CLT and how they can build on the economic analysis the airport has already done.

Ms. Nance summarized the key themes of the panel discussion as engaging the business community and the public, working together and across county lines, and looking ahead to the future while also thinking about short-term projects that can move the regional transit effort forward.

#### **CCOG Conference and Executive Director Search Updates**

Chairman Feather recognized Commissioner Oakes for updates on the 2019 CCOG Conference and the Executive Director search.

Commissioner Oakes encouraged the Delegates to take copies of the Conference save-the-date to share with others in their communities. He noted that planning staff can obtain continuing education credits by attending the March 8 event. He reported that CCOG has secured Peter Kageyama as a keynote speaker and to lead a pre-conference workshop at the CCOG office on March 7.

Commissioner Oakes also reported that the search for the next Executive Director is underway. Mayor Pro Tem Hall and Council Member Michael Johnson, City of Statesville, have joined the search committee. He noted that at least a dozen applications have been submitted so far. The committee will review submissions after the August 17 application deadline.

#### **5. August Advocacy Update**

Leslie Mozingo, Strategics Consulting, explained that last year, CCOG began increasing its advocacy efforts by scheduling local meetings with members of Congress to give Delegates an opportunity to speak about CCOG's priorities. She noted the importance of elected official-to-elected official contact.

Chairman Feather noted that he attended a meeting with Representative Ted Budd in which they discussed local issues. He described how Representative Budd successfully advocated for Granite Quarry to have its own address instead of a Salisbury address. He added that congressional representatives are receptive to listening about local issues and encouraged Delegates to sign up to attend the advocacy meetings.

Commissioner Compton added that meeting locally with members of Congress has been relaxed and informal and has provided an opportunity to discuss local and regional issues. He noted that it has been easier to meet with Representative Budd locally than in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Mozingo explained that she will contact the Delegates who have signed up to attend the advocacy meetings, adding that they will be invited to participate in conference calls to prepare for the meetings.

Chairman Feather suggested taking photos during the advocacy meetings.

#### **Comments from the Chair**

Chairman Feather reported that local governments are asked to submit nominations for CCOG's Region of Excellence Awards in the categories of Growing the Economy, Controlling the Cost of Government, Improving Quality of Life, Clean Cities, Aging in Action, and Excellence in Government Leadership. The submission deadline is October 1. Award recipients will be honored at the Region of Excellence Awards luncheon at the Speedway Club at Charlotte Motor Speedway on Friday, November 30.

He also encouraged the Delegates to save the date for the next Board of Delegates meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, October 10 in the Laureate Center at Kannapolis City Hall.

#### **Comments from the Board of Delegates**

There were no comments from the Board of Delegates.

#### **Comments from the Interim Executive Director**

Jim Prosser, Interim Executive Director, thanked the Board for giving him the opportunity to return and continue the work of CCOG. He added that the Delegates' work is important to their communities and to future generations. He encouraged the Delegates to consider CCOG for projects in their communities that may require consultant services. He noted that CCOG's public engagement process can help in managing political risk and making informed decisions.

#### **Adjournment**

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman Feather adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.