

**ORANGE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**ACTION AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT**

**Meeting Date:** January 22, 2009

**Action Agenda  
Item No.** 10-h

**SUBJECT:** Hillsborough Area Rail Station Task Force Appointment

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**DEPARTMENT:** Planning  
Clerk to the Board

**PUBLIC HEARING: (Y/N)**

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**ATTACHMENT(S):**  
OCTSB Applicant

**INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Name, Phone Number  
Craig Benedict 245-2592  
Donna Baker 245-2130  
Karen Lincoln 245-2594

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**PURPOSE:** To make an appointment to the Rail Station Task Force.

**BACKGROUND:**

Some appointments were made by the Board of County Commissioners on October 28, 2008. Volunteer applications are on record now. One position from Orange County remains: Orange County Transportation Service Board (OCTSB).

The first meeting was November 14 at 10:00 a.m. at the Town of Hillsborough Town Barn.

**HISTORY:**

A group of Hillsborough and Orange County citizens have met regularly to discuss the potential for passenger train service in Hillsborough. The meetings grew out of a citizen-sponsored petition begun during the town's review of the Boone/Collins project and demonstrated significant local support for returning rail service to Hillsborough. Recently, Amtrak and NCDOT have indicated passenger train service is financially feasible in the Hillsborough area. This group of citizens is now asking the elected boards of both Hillsborough and Orange County to establish a joint **Rail Station Task Force** to move the planning process forward.

The train stop is of county if not regional value and is noted within our Long Range Transportation Plan goals.

The citizen group suggests the Task Force be charged to undertake the following work:

- Define best practice criteria for recommending the selection of a location for a train station
- Apply these criteria to selected parcels in Hillsborough area to recommend to both government Boards the best location for a Hillsborough station
- Prepare a report; investigate the established funding criteria and procedural steps to proceed with station development and collect/report those items already prepared or readily available for submittal to funders. These include but not limited to: connectivity to

other services and infrastructure, such as buses, roads, and parking which may not yet be in place; **walkability**; supporting partner organizations; documented or anticipated benefits to the community (i.e. develop a Rail Station Planning Document)

- Describe a schedule of tasks to be accomplished prior to initiation of service for this train station

The citizen group recommends that the Rail Station Task Force have **nine representatives** from the following organizations **with Orange County Planning and Hillsborough Town Planning staff made available** to assist and consult with technical details.

There was one Orange County position that was not appointed on October 28, 2008 and it was the Orange County Transportation Board position.

▪ Alliance for Historic Hillsborough	Elizabeth Read
▪ Citizen Representatives (3) one from each of:	
○ West End Neighborhood Watch (West Hillsborough)	Jennifer Williams Stephen Whitlow, Alternate
○ At-large Hillsborough	Rick Brewer
○ At-large Orange County	Art Mines
▪ Hillsborough Town Planning Board	Tom Campanella
▪ Orange County Economic Development Commission (OCEDC)	Bryant Colson
▪ Orange County Transportation Services Board (OCTSB)	Dan Barker
▪ Orange Unified Transportation Board (OUTBoard)	Paul Guthrie
▪ Walkable Hillsborough Coalition	Holly Reid

#### Recommended Schedule:

October 13	Task Force established and appointed by Hillsborough Town Board (Approved with Mayor to make Town of Hillsborough appointments)
October 28	Task Force established and appointed by Board of Orange County Commissioners. Agriculture needs resumes.
November 14	First Task Force meeting at 10 a.m. at Town of Hillsborough Town Barn
Early-mid November	Set precedence Public Workshop to discuss selection criteria and potential sites Committee meetings to formalize criteria and apply them to suggested sites
February	Report of selection recommendation to joint Town/County meeting

Public follow-up meeting

March-April

Investigation of funding criteria and requirements  
Visit to similar community to learn best practices  
Public follow-up to release draft Task Force report

May

Final Task Force report including implementation steps and schedule

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** Planning Staff (land use/transportation) will provide staff services from both local governments.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):** The Manager recommends that the Board make an appointment from the Orange County Transportation Services Board (OCTSB).

**Angela Thompson-Rockett**

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**From:** Donna Baker  
**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2008 10:01 AM  
**To:** 'Margaret Hauth'; Angela Thompson-Rockett  
**Subject:** RE: Applicant info - Dan Barker

Thanks!

Donna

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Margaret Hauth [mailto:margaret.hauth@hillsboroughnc.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 01, 2008 9:57 AM  
**To:** Donna Baker; Angela Thompson-Rockett  
**Subject:** Applicant info - Dan Barker

Here you go.

Margaret A. Hauth, AICP  
 Planning Director  
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 Name: Dan L. Barker  
 Address: 2201 Baycourt Trl  
 City: Hillsborough  
 State: NC  
 Zip: 27278  
 Phone: (919) 245-1637  
 E-Mail: dbarker@fac.unc.edu  
 Education: B.A. Communication;  
 M.A. Teaching  
 Employer: UNC-CH  
 Job Title: Facilities Database Manager  
 Work Experience: Facilites Database Manager, UNC-CH, 2004-Present; Computer Aided Facilities Management Trainer, 2001-2004; Web Site and eCommerce Design Instructor, 1997-2001. Teacher, 1992-1997 Volunteer Experience: Hillsborough Water and Sewer Board, 2002-Present; Orange County Arts Commission, 2006-Present; Orange County Cable Advisory Committee, 2006-Present.  
 Reasons: My family came to Orange County 240 years ago. I`m Interested in the growth of Hillsborough and helping bring reasonable growth practices to our beautiful town.  
 Additional Comments:

This person selected the following option(s).

- Male
- Caucasian
- I am interested in serving on the Board of Adjustment.
- By checking here, I am certifying that I have read the meeting attendance expectations outlined above and that I understand them and agree to comply with them.

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