

Call to Order

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

Amendments to the Agenda

Vice Chair Feather noted that the 50th Anniversary update had been moved to Item 4 on the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Martin Oakes, Lincoln County, pulled Item 1 from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

2. Approval of the May 10, 2017 Board of Delegates Meeting Minutes

Council Member Richard Turner, City of Belmont, made a motion to approve the balance of the consent agenda. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

1. Resolution Authorizing Agreement with NCDOT

In response to Commissioner Oakes’s question, Katie Kutcher, Aging Programs Coordinator, explained that the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program 5317 New Freedom grant is used to fund CCOG’s Volunteer Transportation Services and Mobility Management programs. She added that the grant requires a 10% local match of \$32,632.

Commissioner Oakes made a motion to approve the resolution, which notes that the Executive Director is authorized to execute the contract, and that the Board supports funding the local match. Commissioner Bobby Compton, Town of Mooresville, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

3. Resolution Honoring Mayor Kathy Kitts

Mayor Feather read the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE
In Memory of Katherine “Kathy” Kitts
August 9, 2017**

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret that the Centralina Council of Governments acknowledges the death of Mayor Kathy Kitts, who departed this life on June 17, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Kitts was elected Mayor of the Town of Midland in 2009 and 2013 and prior to that time, served on the Midland Town Council for four years and dutifully represented the town on the Centralina Council of Governments Board of Delegates beginning in 2010, serving as Board Secretary in 2016; and

WHEREAS, with her great vision and strong interest in seeing her community prosper, Kathy Kitts played an integral role in developing a strategic plan for Midland’s growth and progress, and under her exemplary leadership as Mayor, increased the Town’s tax base and completed greenway, blueway, and park projects that helped improve the quality of life for citizens; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Kitts gave great voice to issues in which she believed, giving her time in support of community organizations such as Bethel Elementary School and the local food bank; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Kitts was a pillar of the Midland community for more than two decades and an advocate for the Centralina region; she will be remembered as a strong and compassionate community leader, respected by her colleagues and citizens alike with a fighting spirit that has been an inspiration to all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on this ninth day of August 2017, Kathy Kitts is deemed by the Officers and Board of Delegates of Centralina Council of Governments, the Executive Director, Centralina staff, and countless others as a remarkable example of dedication to public service and commitment to North Carolina local government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be included in the permanent minutes of Centralina Council of Governments, and that a copy be presented to the family of Mayor Kathy Kitts with the deepest respect and utmost appreciation.

Commissioner Charles Guignard, Town of Huntersville, made a motion to approve the resolution. Mayor Pro Tem Martha Sue Hall, City of Albemarle, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall noted that she attended the memorial service for Mayor Kitts in June.

4. CCOG 50th Anniversary Planning Report

Mayor Pro Tem Hall reported that CCOG will enter its 50th year this October. Last week, she met with former CCOG Executive Assistant Hilda Keeney, CCOG Attorney Bill McNair, former Gaston County Commissioner and past CCOG Chair Joe Carpenter, and former Huntersville Commissioner and past CCOG Vice Chair Sarah McAulay to discuss the organization and the region's rich history. A staff committee is planning activities for the anniversary. The kickoff to the yearlong celebration is planned for the February Board of Delegates meeting. The region's nine counties will be highlighted during the Board's remaining three meetings during the year. Mayor Pro Tem Hall challenged the Delegates to write down the name of a person in their community who may have some insight about the community's relationship with CCOG during the past 50 years. She added that any Board members interested in helping plan the celebration can contact Kelly Weston.

5. Introduction to Arthritis Services of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County

Cindy Berrier, Aging Program Coordinator, presented an overview of Arthritis Services, explaining that arthritis management involves helping individuals learn to work with their condition.

Bill Griffin, Arthritis Services Board Treasurer, added that Arthritis Services is a local agency that has provided services primarily for citizens in Mecklenburg County, many of whom are underserved. He noted that he and other members of its board have served for many years because of their love for the agency, its founder, and the one-on-one work with service recipients.

Ms. Berrier noted that the partnership between CCOG and Arthritis Services has helped the latter to develop a five-year plan to expand its services to all nine counties in the Centralina region.

In response to a question from Commissioner Oakes, Debi Lee, Assistant Aging Director, explained that Arthritis Services will utilize the existing network CCOG has established with community partners to expand services into the rest of the region.

Jim Prosser, Executive Director, noted that Ms. Berrier is the first Registered Nurse and physical therapist on CCOG's staff.

6. Centralina Area Agency on Aging Mission Moment

Ms. Lee explained that the Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP) is a training program that helps older adults transition back into the workforce, which results in more employed individuals contributing to the economic base in local communities.

Vanessa Hines, Program Specialist, introduced two former SCSEP participants.

Joseph Gordon noted that he is thankful that SCSEP is still running. He added that the program helped him emotionally and financially while he was in between jobs. He currently works as a site technician at Carolina Medical Systems.

Beverly White explained that she had trouble finding employment after relocating to the Charlotte area despite her work experience and certifications. She was able to connect with SCSEP, which offered her an opportunity to continue contributing and gave her a sense of worth. She encouraged keeping the program running.

The Delegates expressed their appreciation for the participants' stories.

7. Planning Spotlight Presentation

Michelle Nance, Planning Director, presented an overview of the Planning Department's projects. She noted that the department's work addresses the four primary issues raised during the CONNECT Our Future project, which include transportation choice, strong downtowns, healthy communities, and public engagement.

Jason Wager, Planning Program Supervisor-Sustainability, presented an overview of the department's work with regional transit. He explained that CCOG has been working closely with the Charlotte Area Transit System and the Metropolitan Transit Commission to explore transit options for communities in the region. He noted that in addition to getting people around, other benefits of transit include access to cultural and educational opportunities and access to jobs. He added that later this month, CCOG will begin the second phase of the Regional Transit Engagement Series, which will involve elected officials, economic development leaders, and employers. Planning staff is also conducting a survey of citizens about their transit-related interests.

Katherine Hebert, Senior Planner, presented an interactive physical activity video. She noted that CCOG recently received a \$50,000 grant from the Aetna Foundation for a traffic calming demonstration project in West Charlotte as part of an effort to increase healthy outcomes. The department participated in the Plan4Health Charlotte project and through community engagement, identified barriers to physical activity in local neighborhoods and made recommendations for planning solutions.

In response to a question from Council Member Turner, Mr. Prosser explained that planning organizations are looking at ways to address the issue of decrease in gas sales as it relates to funding for infrastructure. He added that these challenges need to be communicated to state legislators.

8. August Advocacy

Michael Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Statesville, explained that the North Carolina Association of Regional Councils partnered with several state agencies to produce the NC Tomorrow report. The report can be used in state legislative advocacy efforts on behalf of regional councils. He added that regionalism is the underlying theme of the report. He requested that the Delegates sign up for meetings with federal elected officials to advocate for regional issues during the month of August.

9. CEDS/NC Tomorrow Update

Mike Manis, Community and Economic Development Director, presented an overview of the 2017 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) five-year update. He explained that the CEDS plan was developed to align with the NC Tomorrow plan. The Executive Board will receive a detailed briefing of the completed plan at its September meeting.

Comments from the Board of Delegates

Vice Chair Feather noted that attendance at the Board of Delegates meetings has gradually decreased over time. He asked the Delegates to encourage Delegates in their neighboring communities to attend the meetings.

Comments from the Chair

Vice Chair Feather reported that Chairwoman Kinsey has formed a Selection Committee to lead the recruitment efforts for the next Executive Director. Other committee members include Mayor Bill Deter of Weddington, Commissioner Oakes, Commissioner Thurman Ross of Cornelius, Charlotte Assistant City Manager Kim Eagle, Matthews Town Manager Hazen Blodgett, and Western Piedmont Council of Governments Executive Director Anthony Starr. Staff is conducting a survey to gather input from CCOG Delegates, member government staff, and other community partners. The survey results will be used to establish selection criteria for the search process.

Commissioner Oakes added that CCOG has hired a consultant to assist with the search. Candidate interviews are planned for mid-October.

Vice Chair Feather also reported that the Centralina Area Agency on Aging conference will be held on September 28th in Charlotte. The conference is one of the state's largest professional events focused on aging issues.

Ms. Nance reported that she has been invited to Washington, D.C. to speak at a workshop on preventing obesity.

Comments from the Executive Director

Mr. Prosser noted that CCOG wants to ensure member communities are receiving what they need related to transportation, jobs, and in support of growth. He asked that the Delegates talk to their state and federal legislators about how the region can support them in helping local communities. He also asked the Delegates to encourage staff in their communities to attend the upcoming Autonomous Connected Vehicle events and complete the regional stakeholder survey as part of the Executive Director search.

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Commissioner Guignard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Turner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.