

## Dare County Community Leader Forum

December 5, 2016

- 1) The Planning Process; the charge by the Commissioners (optimize & diversity) – Dan Parks, NC State

### Comments A

- Within framework of tourism - to encourage entrepreneurship/talents of forward seeing, forward thinking individuals to bolster tourism. Strengthening our strengths.
- SAILING! When I was a kid we had intra-costal traffic in Hatteras Village!
- NCDOT Passenger Ferry – Hyde County/Ocracoke gearing up to take advantage of pedestrian traffic. My question is, what is Dare County doing to keep them on our side of the Inlet?

### Comments B

- NC Beach Inlet & Management Plan should be looked at.

### Comments C

- Vision – Not NC's 1<sup>st</sup> county, did you mean New World's First Colony?

- 2) Strategic Interviews (Dan Parks, NC State)

### Comments A

- Establish coastal Studies Institute – look what an UNC Asheville did for Asheville, ECSU for Elizabeth City and UNC-Wilmington for Wilmington
- Should Dare County hire an economic director
- We are a national Park – that fact separates us from the comparative communities listed.
- Open access – Brand the Outer Banks National Scenic Byway through the Cape Hatteras National seashore

### Comments B

- Question 3 – one major issue not listed is Insurance Cost: homeowners, wind/hail, flood
- Question 4 – Add employee Assisted Housing

### Comments C

- Important to know who exactly, was interviewed and their main area of focus, since responses can be skewed if a particular interest is over-represented.

#### Comments D

- #2, #9 – Packaging of OBX products, i.e. seasonings, sauces, etc. – local vs. out of area
- Don't forget opportunity to expanding existing businesses already here and retention of existing businesses.

#### 3) County-wide Web Survey (Rex Raiford, NC State)

##### Comments A

- Family medicine needs = 2,500 population per 1 FTE (provider).
- Specialist needs = 50,000 up to 250,000 or more to support a FTE (or one provider). The reality is that we will never be able to support some specialists
- (Medicare tourism would be the area to grow).

#### 4) RTI Research: "Best Practices" "Affordable Housing" "Live & Work Anywhere" (Zack Oliver, RTI)

##### Comments A

- It looks like you captured the subsidized housing and teacher allocated housing. By "affordable housing" we mean the average middle to low income folks that do not qualify for lower income housing, i.e. – subsidized housing. We need year round, rentals that average hard working folks can afford.
- Brainstorm {zoning, mini housing complexes, tax breaks for year round properties, ???}

##### Comments B

- On affordable housing, any discussion of minimum wage?

##### Comments C

- (Housing) What role do advocacy groups play that help success of programs?

##### Comments D

- Where do Asheville's dedicated cost funds for affordable housing come from? Penny tax?
- What is the value of remote worker relative to full time resident?
- Work Anywhere – we ask "why not done?" Don't we need that feedback? What are the perceived barriers?
- Surely, every community what to attract – how realistic OBX?

#### Comments E

- The term “Affordable Housing” in Dare County is not necessarily subsidized housing but the fact that rental property is expensive. Typical 3 Bedroom home in NC rents for around 800-1000 a month. Same house in Dare County rents for 1400-1800 monthly. I believe that is the concern and not the subsidized housing.

#### Comments F

- Helen, GA is a great example of a community who’s branded themselves for economic development.
- Live & work anywhere
- Other opportunities for jobs would include online university program (i.e. – Western Gov. University, S. New Hampton University, counselors/mentors, teachers, etc.)

#### 5) Recommendations: Vision Mission Goals Strategies (Dan Parks, NC State)

##### Comments A

- Goal 1 – Chamber’s activities include leveraging key partners in e.d.
- Need to include partnership/collaboration edpnc and the East Alliance responding to RFPs and prospect info requests
- #4 – Chamber is assessing skills needs and skills gap through BRE survey.

##### Comments B

- We were not the first county, unless I am mistaken. Pasquotank was established in 1668.
- The reason there is not a larger sailing program is the amount of very shallow water in Dare County.

##### Comments C

- Optimization Goal → find jobs for those that already live here, training, more opportunities, etc.
- Diversity shouldn’t rely on bringing more year-round folks into the area. We haven’t solved the problem, if that’s the “solution”.

##### Comments D

- Does it really make sense to develop a brand for Dare County when “the brand” is truly hub of the Outer Banks?

6) Recommendations: “Dare County Strategic Plan Implementation” (Ted Abernathy, Economic Leadership, LLC)

Comments A

- OB Chamber is interesting in begin a player in economic dev. That being said we already do a lot of what is outlined on the slide including RFP’s from EDPNC, East Alliance. We also entertain prospects and do a successful BRE program which has uncovered all of potential expansion projects as well as identified skills gaps.

Comments B

- Try to attract large companies units:  
Call Center  
Head Office  
Customer Services  
Legal Department  
Regulatory Affairs

Comments C

- Outer Banks Hospital is only critical access – difficult to be a regional hub?

Comments D

- I would like to see more about the County’s needs fit in to what all the universities that are already in the area can offer. More matches! (NC State Cooperative Extension, CSI, COA, ECS).  
→Culinary School – seafood based, value added products, look at Astoria, or OSU sea grant school  
→Small planes, aviation school  
→Ocean Rescue School  
→??? More ideas

Comments E

- How many National Sailing Centers are there?

7) Overall Reflections, Feedback & Advice

Comments A

- Thought – What incentives from state or locally about recruiting film/tv production to Dare County?
- What we already do – OB Chamber already has a Business Retention & Expansion effort that has been underway for 3 years now.
- Just info – Chamber entertains many new businesses looking at Dare County to locate. Chamber provides data, info, and support to these. Results include Marriott property, LIDL, etc.

#### Comments B

- The focus seems to be on bringing people into Dare County to diversity & drive economic development. It's harder, but I would like to see how we might diversify from within. Optimization should be more of a priority! Do we want to double our population as some communities have done, like, Bozeman, MT?
- Love developing education / CSI / etc.

#### Comments C

- Market a bike path for cyclists internationally. We're getting a new 3 mile +/- bridge over OInlet with 8 ft. wide shoulders and 80' high.
- Market to international travelers.
- Increase partnership with National Park Service to increase shoulder season; i.e. better beach access, Pea Island birding

#### Comments D

- Dare needs to market to companies (Target marine, etc. markets – 25 to 50 employee companies)
- CES “scattered” need focus from county (ex. Colorado & Oregon)
- Sailing Center

#### Comments E

- Commercial Fishing is being “HEAVILY” regulated almost to the point of non-existent.
- Can we get ideas on promoting marine technologies to come to Dare County for research & development of products for testing?

#### Comments F

- What is an “ideal” population size for Dare County?