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Winston-Salem Chronicle

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Panel reviews interim report

Members identify need for recreational facilities

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Members of the East Winston Development Task Force are generally pleased with the most recent draft report from a consultant developing an economic development strategy for the blighted community.

However, task force members are concerned about the absence of space allocated for recreation in the draft report prepared by Hammer, Siler, George Association, a consulting firm in Silver Spring, Md.

Norma Smith, a member of the task force, referred to page 71 of the "East Winston Economic Development Strategy Technical (Draft) Report" and pointed to a table identifying potential residential parcels in the study area.

"It's talking about putting about four units to an acre and that's really packing them in there when you're talking about single family housing," Ms. Smith said. "I think some allowances need to be made if we're going to try to attract young people with families. They've got to have some space. Kids have got to have some place to play."

Another task force member, Geneva B. Brown, agreed.

"The plight of the black family begins when people build houses, and their children don't have any place to go and then go in the streets," said Mrs. Brown. "That issue is not fully addressed in the study."

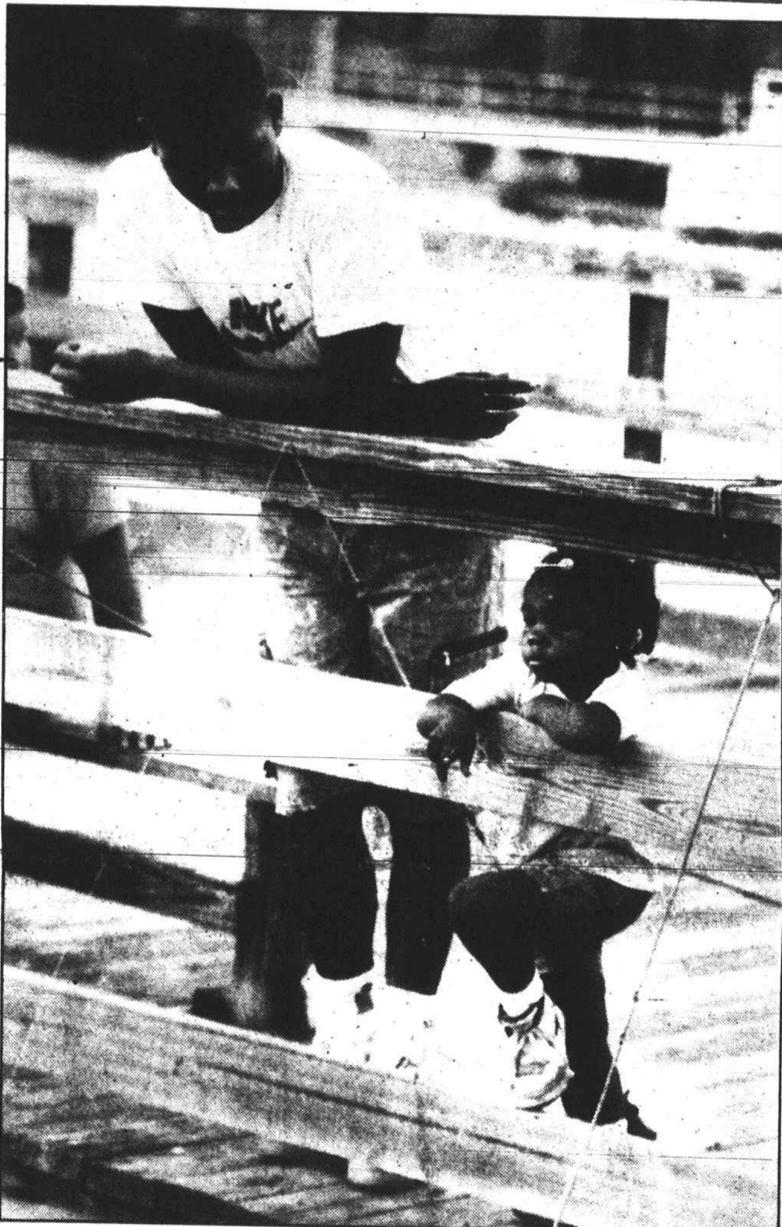
John L. Hunter, a resident of northeast Winston-Salem, said the children in his neighborhood don't have a place to play.

"It's a problem because the youth don't really have recreation in the area where I live in Fairchild Apartments," Mr. Hunter said. "Because there's not recreation anywhere, I think that adds to problems of drugs and abuse."

"The basic concepts are in place for economic development," Mrs. Brown continued. "But if we're going to tackle something like this, we've got to go through this with a fine-toothed comb so we don't throw up something and a few months later go back to shambles."

Accessibility to East Winston is an area Chair Ernest H. Pitt would like the study team to address more, he said.

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Gone Fishin'

Photo by Mike Cunningham

Wykiki Gladdin, 3, points out to Chris Gladdin a fish she'd like to catch at Salem Lake.

Wake Forest official defends school's investment in coliseum

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Wake Forest University stands to reap many benefits from the financial seeds it sowed into the Lawrence Joel Memorial Coliseum, but Winston-Salem won't be left holding an empty purse, according to school officials.

Higher-ups at the university say recent media coverage has left the public with the impression that WFU is getting more than any other entity out of the deal. However, said Sandra Connor, vice president for public affairs at WFU, what the city will get in revenue and profits will put it in a position to make a tremendous economic gain.

In May 1985, after voters defeated two bond

issues to fund the coliseum, the university's trustees passed a resolution authorizing the contribution of up to \$4.6 million to the \$26.6 million coliseum project, Ms. Connor explained.

"From day one the university has been interested in the coliseum project because we have long sought to play basketball on our home court in our home city," Ms. Connor said. "Of course we didn't have that kind of money on hand. It was raised through the Deacon Club, our alumni support

group." Alumni pledged at least \$7,500 a piece to get choice seats in the new coliseum. There were 650 choice seats available.

"Since we were taking a \$5 million risk, university officials said they wanted certain amenities in the coliseum that would not only make it more attractive, but profitable."
— Sandra Connor, vice president for public affairs

"Since we were taking a \$5 million risk, university officials said they wanted certain amenities in the coliseum that would not only make it more attractive, but profitable," Ms. Connor said.

Those amenities included 18 sky boxes that university officials paid \$1.6 million to construct. Wake For-

est officials have leased 17 of the boxes and Winston-Salem State University has purchased the remaining box.

Among the lessees are: The Angell Group, Clemmons; USAir, Budd Services Inc., Pepsi-Cola Bottlers of Winston-Salem, Flow Motors, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., NCNB, Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Vulcan Materials Co., Integon Corporation, The Shelton Companies and Wachovia Bank & Trust. Final agreements have yet to be signed on two of the boxes and three are leased to individuals whose names have not been released, Ms. Connor said.

Criticism of the "luxury boxes," particularly that appearing in an editorial last week in the local daily

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Robinson to pursue state House seat vacated by Duncan

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Republicans are gearing up for an election, the results of which will be announced before the month's end.

Since Rep. Ann Q. Duncan, R-Forsyth, announced her resignation from the seat she has held for three terms in the state House, Republican hopefuls have been making telephone calls and special visits to gather enough support to win the appointment.

Rep. Duncan resigned from the N.C. General Assembly to become the assistant secretary of administration at the state Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources. She will begin her new job next week.

In the meantime, Vernon Robinson, a former candidate for the House; Lyons Gray, who lost his bid for the 5th Congressional District to Senator Steve Neal; and Fred S. Hutchins Jr., a legislator in the 1970s, are considered by many to be the top contenders to succeed Rep. Duncan.

Joe J. Gatto, chair of the Republican Party of Forsyth County, said persons interested in the post must make their intentions known to him in writing by Saturday, Sept. 9.

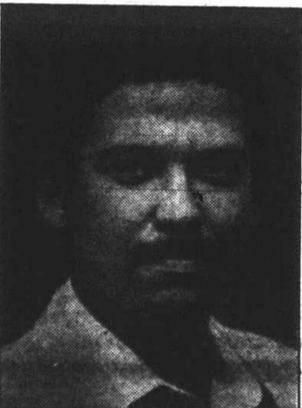
"I have not received written notification from anyone, but I have talked to two people who have indicated an interest and I am expecting letters from them," Mr. Gatto said. "Those people are Vernon Robinson and Lyons Gray. I've also heard that Charles Wallschleger was interested but I haven't spoken to him."

Mr. Wallschleger was a candidate for the 20th District State Senate in 1988.

After the letters are in, Mr. Gatto said, the Republican's executive board will decide whether to conduct interviews, based on the number of people interested in the post. On Sept. 18 the executive committee will hear from each candidate and vote on who it will recommend that the governor appoint.

There are approximately 75 people who make up the Republican executive committee, Mr. Gatto said. Precinct chairs from the 39th District, the Republicans of Forsyth County's officers, 5th District officers who live in the 39th District, the national committee chair and all Republican elected officials will vote on Rep. Duncan's replacement.

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Vernon Robinson



Ann Q. Duncan