

**ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY
SPLOST 2020 CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

January 9, 2019

The Athens-Clarke County SPLOST 2020 Citizens Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at 780 Barber Street, Athens, Georgia. The purpose of the meeting was review of project presentations

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Aitkens, Sara Beresford, Frances Berry, Shane Blackwell, Carl Blount, Laura W. Carter, Dr. Cshanyse Allen, Tracy Davenport, Katrina Evans, Dr. LaKeisha Gantt, David Griffin, Thomas P. Lauth, Robert Miles, Adam Shirley, Lora Thompson, Rob Trevena, Jim Weck, Dr. Shannon Wilder, Dr. Marilyn Wolf-Ragatz and Jennifer Zwirn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Amy Stone, Denny Galis

STAFF PRESENT: Keith Sanders, SPLOST Program Administrator, Blaine Williams, ACCGOV Manager, Jestin Johnson, ACCGOV Assistant Manager, Jackie Harrington, SPLOST Administrative Assistant, David Fluck, Central Services Director, Kent Kilpatrick, Leisure Services Director, Melanie Cochran Davis, Assistant Leisure Services Director, Suki Janssen, Solid Waste Director, Joe Dunlop, Solid Waste Reduction Administrator

WELCOME/COMMENTS

Welcome and introductions by Chair, Dr. Shannon Wilder who introduced Blaine Williams, ACCGOV Manager. Manager Williams expressed gratitude for the dedication of Committee members of their time and service to a very important function that will benefit the community for the next ten years.

MEETING MINUTES REVIEW & APPROVAL:

January 7, 2019 Minutes: Tom Lauth made a motion to approve the January 7, 2019 Minutes and Carl Blount seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

- #48 ACC Recycling Creative Reuse Space**
Joe Dunlop, Waste Reduction Administrator, made the presentation.

- #49 New Recovered Material Processing Facility**
Suki Janssen, Solid Waste Director, presented the project.

- #58 Athens Clarke County Affordable Housing**
Deborah Lonon, Director of Housing & Community Development presented the project.

#05 Judicial Center – Building Construction & #07 Courthouse Renovation
David Fluck, Central Services Director, presented the combined projects.

#64 Dudley Park Master Plan Improvements for Completion
David Marr of Friends of Dudley Park presented the project.

#41 Sandy Creek Park Renovations – Phase II
Melanie Cochran Davis, Assistant Leisure Services Director, presented the project.

#42 The Cook’s Trail Bridge and Boardwalk Replacement Project
Melanie Cochran Davis, Assistant Leisure Services Director, presented the project.

DISCUSSION / ALTERNATE REQUESTS

Discussion: David Griffin inquired as to the reason two projects that the Committee had previously been told would not be considered due to being designated by M&C had been presented. Keith Sanders gave a summary of the action by M&C to reconsider previous action by M&C which returns the value of the program to \$248 million and as of today there are no designated projects. Chair Wilder shared with members the link for the M&C meeting of January 8th and encouraged that they watch it.

#48 ACC Recycling Creative Reuse Space
After CAC discussion, the members agreed that the project had a clearly defined scope and budget. There were 0 members who wished to see an alternate.

Discussion: David Griffin felt that 16 million was a lot and wanted to see a lower price. Keith Sanders stated that the project did not lend itself well for an alternate due to the fact that there has to be a certain amount of square footage and equipment to accomplish the project.

Katrina Evans believes that every project is a giant cash grab. She feels that it does not hurt the community to ask for alternates. Keith Sanders stated that if it is a defined project, in order to get an alternate with a reduced price there would have to be a clearly defined reduction in scope.

Tom Lauth wanted confirmation that the numbers in each request made sense for the scope being requested. Keith Sanders confirmed that each project submission was technically scrutinized by Staff and outside consultants for accuracy and plausibility.

#49 New Recovered Material Processing Facility
After CAC discussion, the members agreed that the project had a clearly defined scope and budget. There were 3 members who wanted an alternate.

#58 Athens Clarke County Affordable Housing
After CAC discussion, 15 members agreed that the project had a clearly defined scope and budget and 4 members did not. There were 6 members who want an alternate.

Katrina Evans stated that for 44 million dollars the amount of dwelling units and the density of housing needs to be spelled out. The density of housing needs to be spelled out. That would provide different opportunities for where this can be developed.

Dr. LaKeisha Gantt expressed similar concerns and would like to know more about stake holders. Possible sites and a few other questions as it relates to generational wealth.

Jim Weck asked whether asking for a density proposal and number of units automatically include some available properties and exclude others?

Deborah Lonon stated that there would be an opportunity in time to share more information.

Tom Lauth stated that it was not unreasonable to request more information since this was one of the projects that the M&C had said must be funded and then another M&C have expressed some reservations about it.

#05 Judicial Center – Building Construction

#07 Courthouse Renovation

After CAC discussion there were 9 members who felt the project had a clearly defined scope and budget and 10 members who did not. There were 15 members who want to see an alternate.

Laura Carter stated that it would have been helpful to have the space allocation study but she would like a lot more information. (The 2010 and 2018 Space Allocation Studies were posted to the FTP site on Monday night.)

Katrina Evans stated that she personally would like to see many options and believes there are other ways to do the project.

Dr. Marilyn Wolf-Ragatz asked about the presentation for #07. Keith Sanders explained that the projects had been combined for presentation but that David's time ran out. He added that David Fluck would come back to present the other two projects (#8 and #9).

David Griffin wants know if the project could be done in phases.

Tom Lauth wondered about prioritizing the critical needs.

Tracie Davenport stated that he felt we need to be doing more things to pull people out of the criminal justice system.

Marilyn Wolf-Ragatz stated that the alternative (Project #07) was not heard so she felt they were missing something.

Laura Carter stated that she would like to see the project phased particularly for the land acquisition and it should be part of the alternate plan.

Carl Blount stated that this particular project already had the alternate projects by either doing the municipal building or the courthouse.

Adam Shirley does not like the idea of a SPLOST being used to fund this. He would like to see an alternate proposal which has matching funds or something where a progressive income tax or property tax is being used to pay some of this – not just a SPLOST.

#64 Dudley Park Master Plan Improvements for Completion

After CAC discussion, 19 members agreed that the project had a clearly defined scope and budget. There were 7 members who wished to see an alternate.

Laura Carter, Tom Lauth and David Griffin would like to see an alternate with phasing.

Sarah Beresford stated that she would like to have the flexibility of having a phased option.

Frances Berry reminded that the question of phasing could be submitted online.

#41 Sandy Creek Park Renovations – Phase II

After CAC discussion, it was agreed that the project had a clearly defined scope and budget and 1 member who would like to see an alternate.

#42 The Cook's Trail Bridge and Boardwalk Replacement Project

After CAC discussion, it was agreed that the project had a clearly defined scope and budget. There were 3 members who would like to see an alternate.

NEXT MEETING DATE

- The next meeting of the committee: Monday, January 14, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bob Snipes Water Resource Center. Purpose: Project Presentations

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

The above summation is an interpretation of the items discussed and decisions reached at the above referenced meeting, not a transcript of the meeting. A digital recording of the meeting is available upon request. Anyone desiring to add to, or otherwise correct the minutes, is requested to return written comments to the SPLOST Administrator by the date of the next meeting.



Keith D. Sanders

SPLOST Program Administrator

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