

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

January 23, 2019

The Athens-Clarke County SPLOST 2020 Citizens Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, January 23, 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, Frances Berry, 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: Sara Beresford, Amy Stone, Denny Galis

STAFF PRESENT: Keith Sanders, SPLOST Program Administrator, Kelly Girts, Mayor, Blaine Williams, Manager, David Boyd, Finance Director, Jackie Harrington, SPLOST Administrative Assistant, David Fluck, Central Services Director, Kent Kilpatrick, Leisure Services Director, Melanie Cochran Davis, Assistant Leisure Services Director, Drew Raessler, Director Transportation & Public Works

WELCOME / COMMENTS / INFORMATION

Welcome by Chair, Dr. Shannon Wilder. An update was provided on the Planning Committee meeting held to discuss the February 2nd (9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) meeting. Members of the planning committee are Frances Berry, Laura Carter, Adam Shirley, Rob Trevena, Marilyn Wolf Ragatz and Dr. Shannon Wilder. The Planning Committee developed an agenda and rubric which will be provided early next week. The rubric will be used for small and large group discussions and is closely aligned with the SPLOST criteria for proposal selection. The goal for the February 2nd meeting is to have time for discussions of the presentations that have been heard up until that date.

Chair Wilder introduced Blaine Williams who gave a brief explanation of the Advisory Committee Roles and Expectations. David Boyd, Finance Director then discussed government financing, general fund and capital / SPLOST funds. A question and answer period followed with Manager Williams and Finance Director Boyd. A copy of the *Budget In Brief* pamphlet will be provided for each member.

Mayor Kelly Girtz addressed the Committee and expressed appreciation for the time and energy of the Members.

Keith Sanders presented the vote sheet format which will be utilized. (Presentation will be posted for reference.)

MEETING MINUTES REVIEW & APPROVAL:

January 16, 2019 Minutes: Minutes were not available for review and approval was deferred to January 28, 2019.

PRESENTATIONS:

#38 Bishop Park Renovations – Phase I

Mel Cochran, Leisure Services Assistant Leisure Services Director, made the presentation.

Questions/Answers:

Katrina Evans: The gym is not included in the scope of work?

Mel Cochran: It is not. We will have to figure out a different plan for that building so it is not part of this phase. The future of that building is still under consideration.

Carl Blount: Out of the \$17 million how much is for the pool?

Mel Cochran: Roughly \$1.7 million.

Adam Shirley: How much water is being lost per day from the pool?

Mel Cochran: During the swim season, the pool drops about two inches per day (~10,000 gpd)

Kent Kilpatrick: The leak is in the substructure of the pool.

Carl Blount: Where is all the water going?

Mel Cochran: Repeated tests have been unable to determine where the water is going.

Katrina Evans: Does ACC have a contract with the Farmers Market? I would like to know if they are bound to this location for a certain amount of time. I have heard whispers of other businesses courting them.

Mel Cochran: There is an agreement with them which is renewed annually.

#47 Water Transmission Grid Improvements

Greg Jackson, Public Utilities Department, made the presentation.

Questions / Answers:

Tom Lauth: Does \$10.5 million include some of the cost for implementation?

Greg Jackson: It would not cover all of it.

Tom Lauth: The study would determine the feasibility of those options and then the cost of implementing one or more of them?

Greg Jackson: Yes.

Carl Blount: Can you elaborate more on how this will help with the fire protection in west Athens? Do we have hydrants over that part of the county?

Greg Jackson: Yes. Putting a thousand foot circle around every hydrant – what part of Athens is not covered when you look at that information and there are very few part of Athens that are not covered. We have 6,200 fire hydrants in the system but the farther you get away from the pumps the lower the pressure. That is why we have booster pumps and tanks out on the extremities. In the case of the fire that just happened at the bakery; when that fire started they opened up the four or five hydrants all at once. We have a 750 gallon limit booster pump out at that station. When there is a fire the big pump kicks in. It pulls water from the tank located across from Sam's.

Carl Blount: Will adding a line help with the overall pressure in the system and aid in fire protection?

Greg Jackson: Yes, You will have more pathways for that water to get where it is needed.

Katrina Evans: How often does water interruption really happen? You noted a 2015 break – so what is the frequency?

Greg Jackson: A significant break where it would impact ¼ of the county is rare. We have localized failure of the pipes, causing outages, more often – maybe 6 per year.

#78 Southeast Clarke Park Enhancements

Rachel Hopkins and Corbin Light made the presentation.

Questions / Answers:

LaKeisha Gantt: How will local youth organizations be able to access the track? What will be the process? What do you anticipate the cost to be?

Rachel Hopkins: The track is open and free. Available to anybody who wants to go there. There are private clubs and we keep the cost very low and anyone who can't afford to pay does not pay. The track itself is open to everybody.

LaKeisha Gantt: If some of those private clubs wanted to have a track meet there what would be the process for that?

Rachel Hopkins: The organization pays Leisure Services a rental fee and their own expenses.

Adam Shirley: The proposal has \$10.5 million for construction can you give us a ballpark guess as to how much of that goes to each of the amenities?

Keith Sanders: Those figures were provided in the attachments:

Track & Field	\$3 million
Pickleball Court	\$2.5 million
Skatepark	\$1.3 million

#69 Holland Youth Sports Park Usability and Safety Improvements

Christian Allen and Mike Carter of Holland Park Youth Sports Coalition made the presentation.

Questions / Answers:

David Griffin: Is there a scrap value for the seating or could it possibly be re-sold?

Christian Allen: Yes.

LaKeisha Gantt: What percentage of the kids who participate in your program live close by in the area?

Mike Carter: ~33%

Adam Shirley: With these improvements and increased traffic in the park there may be an increase in revenues from concessions. Is there a ballpark on how much is currently made in concession sales and how much might be made?

Christian Allen: The County is not involved in the concessions. The parents operate the concessions and the Profits are used to fund our own in house scholarship fund. These improvements are not going to increase the traffic. I don't know how you would have additional traffic at Holland Park since it is bursting at the seams with capacity. This is not about increasing the use.

Tom Lauth: The three organizations that sponsor various activities, I assume they are not the exclusive users of the park but what proportion of the time at the park would you say these three organizations use the park?

Christian Allen: These three organizations are the exclusive concessionaires at the park for youth sports programming there. Certainly the park is open and available for use outside the sports program but that is the home for those three organizations. I am not aware of others.

DISCUSSION / ALTERNATE REQUESTS

Discussion:

#38 Bishop Park Renovations – Phase

Laura Carter: Would like to have pricing for critical issues.

#47 Water Transmission Grid Improvements

Adam Shirley: Unclear on the options.

#78 Southeast Clarke Park Enhancements

Adam Shirley: Interested in seeing an alternate without one of the amenities

Katrina Evans: Park seems to be pretty brand new.

Marilyn Wolf Ragatz: Skate park is special attraction, one of a kind in the area.

LaKeisha Gantt: They do not currently have basketball courts. A more inclusive park.

David Griffin: If the Library is added it will add bang to that side of town.

#69 Holland Youth Sports Park Usability and Safety Improvements

Carl Blount: High use.

David Griffin: Beneficial to area.

Katrina Evans: High use, beneficial economic impact.

Tracy Davenport: High use park in high density neighborhood.

INFORMATION / NEXT MEETING DATE

- The next meeting of the committee: Monday, January 28, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bob Snipes Water Resource Center. Purpose: Project Presentations

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 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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