

## CLAYTON COUNTY GREENSPACE TRUST BOARD

### MINUTES

The Clayton County Greenspace Trust Board held a meeting at 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday July 3, 2007. The meeting was held in the Commissioners' Conference Room of the Clayton County Administration Building, located at 112 Smith Street, Jonesboro, Georgia. Notification was sent to *The (Clayton) News Daily* and later published in this newspaper. Those present at the Board Meeting were:

**Members:** Chairman Eldrin Bell, Vice-Chairperson Sonna Singleton, Ms. Libby Torbush, Ms Lucy Huie and Jack Bruce.

**Attendees:** Commissioner Edmondson, Pat Duncan, Wayne Patterson, Nathan Parrott, Chuck Ware, Lisa McCoy and Detrick Stanford.

Chairman Bell called the meeting to order at approximately 5:16 p.m. He welcomed those in attendance and presented the minutes of the May 1, 2007 meeting for adoption. Jack Bruce made a motion to adopt the minutes, Ms Libby Torbush seconded that motion and hearing no objections or corrections the minutes were adopted.

The Chairman now brought the Board to the first Agenda Item, which was the Warren House acquisition study. Mr. Parrott took the floor and reminded the Board he was instructed at the May 1 meeting to present an acquisition study pertaining to the Warren House. Mr. Parrott went on to tell the Board Dr. Ferrar is the current owner of the property and he is selling at an asking price of \$999,000. Mr. Parrott explained the County could only pay the appraised value of the property, as determined by a third party appraiser. Mr. Parrott informed the Board there is a federal grant that will pay for 50 percent of the acquisition costs and several dozen private foundations that might help with the remaining 50 percent. Mr. Parrott continued to say the 50 percent match must be secured prior to submitting the grant application to the Feds. The Board was then told the next step is to have an appraisal performed, but; unfortunately the Greenspace Program has no money to pay for said appraisal.

Mr. Pat Duncan was now introduced to the Board as representing the interest of the Clayton County Convention & Visitors Bureau. Mr. Duncan informed the Board that his main interest was keeping the Warren House preserved and in Clayton County. Mr. Duncan went on to tell the Board that the Clayton County Convention and Visitors Bureau considered placing their offices in the Warren House and opening it to the public in a limited fashion. But, mainly Mr. Duncan wanted to let the Board know he wants to assist in acquiring grants, or whatever will help preserve the Warren House in Clayton County.

The Chairman asked Mr. Duncan if they had given any thought to making the Warren House a fee based attraction within Clayton County. Mr. Duncan said fees had not been given any thought. His thinking was more along the lines of making the Warren House the headquarters for the organizations he represents and opening specific rooms to the public, while the others would be used as office space. Mr. Duncan went on to say if the Warren House were operated

on a fee basis, similar to the way Historic Jonesboro operates Stately Oaks, it would be an entirely different operation. The Chairman explained he would like to see the fee system established and the funds used to maintain the house. Mr. Duncan added that a good inspection would probably be beneficial prior to extending any offers to the current owner. General discussion took place regarding certain aspects of the Warren House and similar sites around the County. Discussion ended and the Chairman turned the Board's attention to the next agenda item, which was the Highway 138 Corridor.

Mr. Patterson addressed the Board on this issue and said he recently received a set of landscape plans from Mr. Jim Crissy of Southern Regional Hospital. The County Extension Agent, Winston Eason, reviewed the plans and was overall impressed. Mr. Patterson then said the road widening portion of the project is on schedule. That being all there was on the Highway 138 project and there being no questions from the room, the Chairman moved the Board to the next agenda item.

The Native American Fish Weir was the next agenda item and Mr. Parrott took the floor to update the Board. Mr. Parrott reminded the Board of Chairman Bell taking Fayette County's Chairman Smith in a fly over of the Weir. Mr. Parrott told the Board the fly over produced the desired interest in Fayette County and he has been working with Tom Williams, the Assistant Director of Fayette County's Department of Planning and Zoning, to move forward in preserving the artifact. This being the only new news about the Fish Weir Mr. Chuck Ware took the floor to update the Board on the Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

Mr. Ware stood to remind the Board of a six thousand dollar grant that had recently been awarded for the cemetery and discussed in previous meetings. Mr. Ware informed the Board that the grant would place excessive restrictions on the Cemetery's refurbishment. Mr. Ware said the grant's restrictions would severely limit the creative liberties the County needs to realize its vision for the cemetery. It was for this reason that Mr. Ware recommended the Board forego the \$6,000 grant and pursue private funding sources. General discussion took place regarding approximately six graves located on property directly adjacent to Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Mr. Patterson said the current owner of these six graves was a nice elderly gentleman who allows Memorial Garden's burial attendees to park on his property. Mr. Patterson went on to say he believes the gentleman is committed to bequeathing his property to his children and his children will likely want to sell the property soon after they acquire title. Given the previous discussion the Chairman asked the Board if they would prefer to go the public funding route, and thereby limit many creative liberties. Or, choose to pursue private funding and retain their creative liberties over the restoration of the cemetery. Jack Bruce made the motion to pursue private funding and Ms. Libby Torbush seconded said motion, hearing no opposition the motion carried.

With the Memorial Gardens funding vote completed the Chairman moved the Board's attention to Mr. Detrick Stanford. Mr. Stanford informed the Board that since the last meeting he has formulated a recommendation as to who the Board of Commissioners should choose to create the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, with a subsection addressing the proposed Heritage Trail. He informed the board that six packages were submitted and he will recommend Booz/Allen/Hamilton to receive the bid. Mr. Stanford further explained Booz/Allen/Hamilton comes with over 90 years of experience and received the highest bid evaluation score.

The Board's attention was now turned to the agenda item addressing the possible expansion of the board members. General discussion took place but no nominations to the Trust Board were made.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:52 p.m.**