

## CLAYTON COUNTY GREENSPACE TRUST BOARD

### MINUTES

The Clayton County Greenspace Trust Board held a meeting at 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday October 7, 2008. The meeting was held in the Commissioners' Conference Room of the Clayton County Administration Building, located at 112 Smith Street, Jonesboro, Georgia. Those present at the Board Meeting were as follows:

**Members:** Chairman Eldrin Bell, Mrs. Libby Torbush, Mrs. Lucy Huie and Mr. Jack Bruce.

**Attendees:** Commissioner Michael Edmondson, Jeff Metarko, Detrick Stanford, Nathan Parrott, Chuck Ware.

Chairman Bell called the meeting to order at approximately 5:03 p.m. He welcomed those in attendance and presented the minutes of the April 1, 2008 meeting for adoption. Mrs. Libby Torbush made a motion to adopt the minutes, Mr. Jack Bruce seconded that motion and hearing no objections, or corrections, the minutes were adopted. With the Minutes adopted Chairman Bell moved the Board's attention to the first Agenda Item, a proposed property disposition.

Mr. Nathan Parrott informed the Board that he was contacted by a Ms. Hunt, who expressed her family's possible interest in selling their Flint River Property. The property is located in the Panhandle area and is very near the Ricketts Property that was acquired some years ago. Mr. Parrott continued to say she wasn't interested in donating the property, so he limited his research into the property. Mr. Parrott further stated that soon after Ms Hunt's call he received similar calls from several of her family members who all own property in the area, all wanted to sell. Mr. Parrott illustrated the location and shape of all the parcels on a map. With the map displayed, Mr. Parrott presented some particulars about each parcel. Mrs. Lucy Huie asked how close the property was to the Native American fish weir and Mr. Parrott said he would guess it was within one mile, "as the crow flies". Mr. Parrott explained that only one of the properties abutted the Flint River, but all of them had road frontage. Mr. Parrott also showed that a house separated the Ricketts acquisition from this proposed diminution and this house wasn't owned by the same family looking to sell the other properties. It was asked how much the property was worth and Mr. Parrott said he could only say the County has it appraised at \$107,606.00. The Board discussed and concluded that Mr. Parrott should perform further investigation into the property's price and characteristics.

Now, the Chairman brought the Board to the next Agenda item covering the 2008 SPLOST. The Chairman stated there was a certain amount of money allocated from future SPLOST funds to fund the Greenspace Program. The Chairman went on to say he believes the SPLOST funds will become available in April; Jeff Metarko confirmed this and stated some further questions will need to be addressed concerning the Greenspace Program. He went on to say the Citizens were told ten million dollars of the SPLOST would go to funding the Greenspace Program. Mr. Metarko said the Board needs to know when and how that ten million will be allocated. With that information Mr. Parrott will have a better understanding of the phases of planning that need

to be expedited. To summarize, Mr. Metarko said the Trust Board should consider some big picture concepts over the next few meetings, as the SPLOST funds materialize. More specifically, what are the priorities they wish to pursue with whatever funding comes their way. Chairman Bell said he would like to utilize the Archway Program to supplement what planning needs are not addressed in the Master Plan.

From here the Chairman brought up another property that he and Commissioner Edmondson are concerned with – The Stephens' Home site near The Beach. He went on to say Commissioner Edmondson secured some grant moneys to secure the property and this should be pursued further. The Chairman clarified by saying he wanted the Trust Board to authorize further efforts to secure the Stephens' home site. Mrs. Huie asked for the location of this home site. It was explained the home site is East of The International Park and the only thing separating them was the entrance to Foxfire Subdivision. The Chairman expanded by saying its location made it a relatively easy connection to the International Park. It was further stated that a Georgia Power Easement would provide access to The International Park and County right-of-way could be used to get a trail to this easement. Some discussions ensued and Commissioner Edmondson was asked to explain further.

Commissioner Edmondson stood to explain Mrs. Virginia Stephens listed the house approximately one year earlier but the listing lapsed. Mrs. Stephens then became interested in selling the property to the Greenspace Land Trust. The nearby neighbors then pooled together three thousand dollars and would donate it to the Greenspace Trust Board for purchasing a "first option to buy" the home site, with the stipulation it would be made available to the entire county. To insure the community use aspect of the home site, the neighbors request a Memorandum of Understanding stating same. Mrs. Libby Torbush made a motion to move forward on this acquisition, the motion was seconded and hearing no objections the motion was passed. With the motion passed, Nathan Parrott was asked to work with the Director of Parks and Recreation, Detrick Stanford, and the legal department to procure a Memorandum of Understanding to receive the three thousand dollar donation.

Moving to the next agenda item, the Board was brought to the 2008 Georgia Recreational Trails Program. Mr. Parrott stated this was the same grant that was applied for over the last two years. However, the last two applications focused on placing trails on the 25 acres originally donated by Mr. Reid Stephens and both applications were denied funding. With that said, Mr. Parrott stated some reasons he thought may have contributed to that denial, such as being too close to the existing trail system in The International Park and the County's lack of a Master Plan. From here Mr. Parrott presented two alternative sites that may be more advantageous. One site extended southward from Upper Riverdale Road and extended to Upper Valley Road. The other site extends almost down to Flint River Road, from just south of Highway 138. The County Greenspace Program Land Trust already acquired the contiguous parcels needed to comprise these two stires. Mr. Parrott stated that he has been working closely with Laurinda Brown, the County Grant Writer, and all that was remaining was the Trust Board to pick a site. With that, the Chairman requested Mr. Parrot make a recommendation – Mr. Parrott recommended the site nearest the Hospital. At this point Detrick Stanford interjected to offer some of Parks and Recreation's senior services as partners for the grant application. Mrs. Libby Torbush made a

motion to accept Mr. Parrott's site recommendation, Chairman Bell seconded the motion and hearing no objections, the motion was accepted.

At this point Mr. Detrick Stanford and Nathan Parrott gave another synopsis of the Master Plan process for their respective areas.

After discussing the Trail portion of the Master Plan, Mr. Parrott explained how Clayton County could distinguish its trails from others and create an advantage in receiving grants. Mr. Parrott stated that most all trails are the same, a hard surface traversing the surface of the land. Mr. Parrott went on to say the County will inevitably have to attract outside funding in order to construct trails throughout our county. In order to attract that outside funding Clayton County must give their trails project a competitive advantage and Mr. Parrott said this can be obtained in the trail's amenities. Mr. Parrott expanded by saying that each grantor has an area of interest they seek to promote. Therefore, the more areas of interest incorporated into Clayton County's trail system, the more likely Clayton County will be to get the outside funding needed. At this point Mr. Parrott gave some examples of grantors' areas of interest, such as environmental education, alternative transportation, early education and community collaborations.

Mr. Parrott then began to explain his idea to incorporate many grantors' interest in the amenities of Clayton County's trail system – restricted to the Flint River Greenway. He proposed to divide the Greenway's trail into "learning segments" that build on each others' topic from North to South. Furthermore, each learning segment would culminate with an outdoor classroom in which the instructor could recap the segment to their pupils. Understanding that not all users will follow the trail in the optimal direction and in its entirety, Mr. Parrott said each educational amenity will provide a knowledge point in isolation. But, the understanding will come from organizations and individuals who are informed of the proper usage and resulting benefits.

To support the organizations and informed users Mr. Parrott presented the potential for establishing a "Teachers' Advisory Committee" to help develop the educational amenities. Furthermore, the "Teachers' Advisory Committee" should help formulate, design and place the educational amenities for maximum educational effect. Furthermore, Mr. Parrott proposed the "Teachers' Advisory Committee" could be tasked with formulating lesson plans for each learning segment and these could be downloaded from the County's website. In summation, Mr. Parrott said he wasn't looking for a vote; he simply wanted the Board Members to give thought to the concept and provide constructive criticism in future meetings.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM**