

CLAYTON COUNTY GREENSPACE TRUST BOARD

Minutes - Retreat

Two members of the Clayton County Greenspace Trust Board gathered for a meeting. Unfortunately, this was not enough to form a quorum and therefore no official action could be taken. This gathering occurred at 112 Smith Street, in the City of Jonesboro and was called to order at 5:04 P.M. on the evening of October 6, 2009. Those present at the gathering were:

Members: Chairman Eldrin Bell, James (Jim) Jenkins.

Attendees: Detrick Stanford, Chuck Ware and Nathan Parrott.

Chairman Bell opens meeting, introduces Mr. Stanford who says Agenda Items A & B will be covered by Nathan Parrott. Item A addressed a potential donation along the proposed course of the heritage trail, on the Flint River and just north of McDonough Rd. Mr. Parrott displayed a photo in which the potential land donation is depicted - the owner wants to donate all his floodplain and possibly a portion of upland property. It is not adjacent to any neighborhoods; rather it is adjacent to smaller homes sitting on 2 to 3 acres. Mr. Jenkins asked if it was connected to property already owned by the county and Mr. Parrott said it is not, but is in the desired route. Chairman Bell asked if it was primarily wetland and Mr. Parrott said that is primarily upland and points out existing home on property. Mr. Parrott pointed out the neighboring subdivision, Lee's Chase. Mr. Jenkins asked if he could make a motion to accept the property and Chairman Bell said they needed to explore getting documentation and the other board members involved first. Chairman Bell asked Mr. Parrott to get with Legal. Mr. Parrott said the owner would fund the surveying of the land. Chairman Bell asked if they could look into the Greenspace Land Trust Being a 501c3 so the owner could reap the tax benefits. Mr. Parrott said he would check with Legal but thought the Greenspace Trust offered that option. Mr. Stanford recommended using Clayton Collaborative since they are a 501 c 3. Chairman Bell asked if that would create a conflict of interest which might cause the IRS not to accept it. Chairman Bell said he felt the action would be useful in getting people to donate land and moved to Agenda Item B.

Mr. Parrott took the floor to say the county has unsuccessfully applied Ga. Recreation Trails program in years past, but he plans on revising the application project and applying again this year. The new project focuses on connecting the Charles S. Drew High School with Upper Riverdale Road and partnering with Southern Regional Hospital, the City of Riverdale and the School Board. These partnerships will gain application points. Mr. Stanford added that Monday, November 30 is when the application is due. Chairman Bell asked who controlled the grant. Mr. Stanford said it is a federal grant passed down to the state Dept. of Natural Resources. Mr. Parrott added that the funds originate from the federal gasoline tax and trails for motorized vehicles are viewed favorably by the grantors. Chairman Bell then asked what the potential was for Clayton to partner with Dekalb County on a grant to tie the 2 counties trails together. Mr. Stanford it would be possible, but property negotiations would take too much time from this grant cycle.

Chairman Bell then introduced Agenda Item C. Detrick Stanford took the floor to introduce a draft qualitative evaluation form recommending the criteria for purchasing property. The criteria consisted of the following six:

Proximity – relative proximity of property to the proposed route

Linkage – is property located along the trail proposed in the master plan

Accessibility – is the property accessible by other transportation routes

Location – parcel's location in the county

Usage – what usages is the property susceptible to

Aesthetics – attractive

Threat of Loss – relative threat of future development

Mr. Jenkins asked if they should look into creating a bullet point #7 for archeological and historic value. Mr. Parrott said that would fit into the proximity criteria. Chairman Bell said he is thinking the city of Rex – for 2.1 million they could buy the whole thing and it would become a revenue generator. They could take the trail over the bridge and tie it into an area of historic value with proximity to historic sites.

Mr. Stanford said they could add bonus points if the land has historical value.

Mr. Jenkins said he went back to original plan document and historical value was highlighted there. Chairman Bell said that would help when getting down to the Indian weir. Mr. Jenkins said the document was well done, but more attention should be drawn to historic and archeological value? Ultimately, the documented was commended by the members present.

Chairman Bell moved the group's attention on to the carry-over items. Chairman Bell started with the HWY 138 corridor project. Nathan Parrott said it was in its final stages and he believes the medians are all that remain. The Chairman said there may be a possibility to buy purchase property along Hwy, 138 to tie into the trail. In addition, he wants us to look at taking a trail from the park, along Walt Stephens, tie into the golf course to get over to Southern Regional Hospital's Spivey Station, on to Crane Road and back into International Park. He said this would create a 3-5 mile walking trail. Chairman Bell went on to say it is a huge undertaking and he wants The Archway Program to be a part of it.

The group was moved on to the Memorial Gardens Project. Mr. Chuck Ware took the floor to say Clayton County partnered with the Archway Program and 2 interns from UGA worked on the project. He said that they just needed to get some funds. He enhanced grants from the Historical society by getting the community involved. He then went to the mayor and city manager of Lovejoy to form the Lovejoy community cemetery committee. In November they are going to have a cleanup with the press. The warden will supply bags and inmates will pick up the trash the following Monday. Mr. Ware said it will have a big impact and just needs publicity for involvement.

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 P.M.