

CLAYTON COUNTY GREENSPACE TRUST BOARD

MINUTES

The Clayton County Greenspace Trust Board held a meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 2011. 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, Vice-Chairman Wole Ralph, Mrs. Libby Torbush, Mr. Jack Bruce and Mr. James Jenkins.

Attendees: Detrick Stanford, Eric Lacefield and Nathan Parrott.

Chairman Bell called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm and presented the minutes from the May 3, 2011 meeting. Mr. Jack Bruce made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Jim Jenkins and Vice Chairman Ralph abstained due to absence from the May 3rd. meeting. With no opposition expressed, the minutes were accepted as presented.

At this point Chairman Bell moved into status update of the greenspace program's first item, Trail Development Prioritization. Mr. Detrick Stanford reminded the board they received deliverables from the Collaborative Firm and they have approximately 9.7 Million SPLOST dollars devoted to trail development and land acquisition. Mr. Stanford went on to say he felt it was time to provide more specific direction for trail development priorities. Vice-Chairman Ralph stated he felt the SPLOST funds should be distributed equitably amongst the Commission Districts for priority. Mr. Jenkins said the board has established priorities through their point system for scoring and he doesn't want to deviate from that. Clarifying discussion took place around the table and it was settled that the monies could be equitably distributed amongst commission districts and expended in accordance with the scoring system established by the greenspace board. Furthermore, some districts might expend more money on land acquisition while others spend more on trail development. At this point the Chairman clarified his thoughts further that Vice-Chairman Ralph wasn't seeking a vote of approval, but rather a board consensus on the matter.

That said, the Chairman asked for next steps and the Mr. Jim Jenkins asked if the board was moving away from trail prioritization. Mr. Stanford explained he felt two things were coming out of this meeting. First, we now know we will be looking at development in districts. Secondly, with that knowledge Mr. Parrott can begin looking at the respective feasibilities of projects within each district and bring that information back to the board for future discussion of prioritizing them. Mr. Stanford went on to say this approach will allow him to approach individual commissioners for buy in and maintain respect for the parameters set in place by the Trust Board. To that, the Chairman asked that information be represented in a map at their next meeting. The Chairman then asked Mr. Jenkins if he felt that would allow the board to satisfactorily address trail prioritization. Mr. Jenkins restated he doesn't intend to seem disagreeable to equitable division of the money, but wants to stress the importance of a trail development prior to significant solicitations for land sales or donations. He further stressed the

program should be able to display an example of a finished trail to showcase what land owners will be contributing to. From here discussion ensued around the table regarding areas that could serve as such a showcase trail. At this point Mr. Jenkins asked the greenspace staff if they felt they had enough direction to implement some next steps for trail development. Mr. Stanford said they did feel comfortable.

From there the Chairman moved the board to the agenda item regarding the Trust Board's Governing Documents. Mr. Parrott stated the DNR's real property section was contacted but said all their records point to that document being internal to the County. Mr. Parrott went on to say a request was made of the Staff Attorneys Office soon before Mr. Michael Smith resigned. The Chairman then asked for recommendations on what to do next. To which, it was recommended the current board simply execute the document. The Chairman said Ms. Christie Barnes, in the Staff Attorney's Office, will need to review the Declaration of Trust and all its supporting documents before bringing them for his review. Mr. Jim Jenkins took the opportunity to say he specifically recalls signing that document before Nathan Parrott came on board but never had a signed copy in his possession. Mrs. Libby Torbush reaffirmed Mr. Jenkins statement by saying she too remembered signing such a document for the previous Staff Attorney. With that, the Chairman requested staff continue looking for the document and if not found, present the original version to board members prior to the next meeting.

The Chairman then asked how long the Greenspace Trust Board had been in existence. Mr. Parrott responded with 9 to ten years. Upon hearing that, the Chairman requested each board member be given a copy of all founding documents to review, as he feels all documents should be reviewed for potential amendments after ten years. At this point the Chairman's presence was requested outside of the room and Vice Chairman Ralph took over the agenda by moving the board on to a parcel offer.

Mr. Parrott began by telling the board the property owners are elderly and have owned the land since before it was bisected by Interstate 675. The property owners are now holding a small 1.4 acre +/- triangular tract between I-675 and a private drive. Mr. Parrott went on to say the parcel is low lying, not on the proposed course of the trail and scored a 10 out of 50 on the board's Qualitative Evaluation Form. Mr. Parrott then recommended the board deny the offer. After some clarifying questions were posed, Mr. Jim Jenkins made a motion to deny the offer. Vice-Chairman Ralph seconded the motion and with no opposition the board unanimously voted to decline the offer.

With the property offer declined, the Chairman moved the board to discussion of a proposed pocket park on greenspace property at the terminus of Montego Circle. Mr. Stanford addressed this item by saying the County has been fortunate to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and Commissioner Edmondson would like to expend some of those funds to develop a passive park on currently owned greenspace property. Commissioner Edmondson wishes to reallocate approximately \$68,000.00 from another project that has been tabled. Mr. Stanford elaborated by saying the park would likely consist of walking trails and picnic tables on the parcel's thirteen acres. The Chairman said connectivity is the first thing that comes to his mind. To that, it was explained the subject parcel is directly adjacent to other greenspace properties that border the Flint River and is connected to the proposed Heritage Trail in that

regard. The chairman then asked how far away the nearest pocket park was from this proposed location. Riverdale was the answer provided with the closest county park being Independence Park. At this point Mr. Jenkins asked if this property was currently held in the greenspace program land trust. Mr. Parrott responded in the affirmative and elaborated by saying it was purchased with state grant money. At this point discussion revolved around continuity of Heritage Trail amenities and a larger plan for that. Mr. Jim Jenkins then made a motion to table this agenda item until the board could agree on a larger vision for the Heritage Trail's amenities. Commissioner Ralph seconded the motion and with no opposition the motion passed.

With that proposition voted on, the Chairman moved to Rex Village Update. Mr. Parrott reminded the board of the awarded grant and informed them the project was in the environmental review phase. This phase requires an Archaeological Survey be performed on the parcels. Mr. Parrott went on to say the contract for those services is in the process of being awarded by Clayton County Central Services and he anticipates the work will be completed by late September. With the update provided, the Chairman moved the board's attention on to the carry over items portion of the agenda.

For this portion of the agenda the board covered Georgia's Economic Development's Heritage Tourism Plan, The Reid Stephens property, Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Villages of Ellenwood, the Native American Fish Weir and Trust Board Expansion. To those items Mr. Parrott agreed to send the board members an electronic version of the Heritage Tourism Plan. The other items were briefly discussed without any actionable direction and there were no nominations to the Trust Board.

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 PM