

CLAYTON COUNTY GREENSPACE TRUST BOARD

MINUTES

The Clayton County Greenspace Trust Board held a meeting on Wednesday, November 10, 2010. 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, Mr. Jack Bruce and Mr. James Jenkins.

Attendees: Detrick Stanford, Erik Lacefield, Nathan Parrott, Michelle Larson.

Technical difficulties demanded attention and Ms. Michelle Larson provided the Board with background information on the project she was working on for The Collaborative Firm. That project was to formulate recommendations that maximize the effective expenditure of 2008 SPLOST funds. Mr. Larson explained she was meeting with most people empowered to direct the expenditure of SPLOST dollars and now she wanted to hear from the Greenspace Trust Board Members.

At this point Mr. Jenkins commended Ms. Larson's work for maintaining the overall greenspace vision and asked if there were any other trail systems in the metro area that combined passive recreation with economic development. To which, Mr. Stanford pointed out the Beltline concept is geared toward both. Mr. Jenkins then recommended we could look into the Beltlines track record to learn from their past mistakes, if any.

At this point Mr. Bruce asked if the board was moving away from its original vision to create communities, in favor of economic development. Mr. Stanford said economic development is a part of the overall vision that will serve to leverage the outside funds necessary to complete such a large capital expenditure. It was further explained that the greenspace goal has always been to create a destination driven system of trails and some of those destinations will be economic drivers. The Chairman said he would like to see the economic development driven centers identified and to show what percentage of the trail will be community driven and what will be economic driven. Mr. Jenkins said he was hearing everyone agree they like community driven trails and he would like Ms. Larson to also consider potential usage when prioritizing trail development. For clarity, the Chairman said there will be community drivers, historic drivers and economic drivers, but they should be quantified and targeted. Upon concluding Ms. Larson's presentation the Chairman asked when the deliverables would arrive and to whom. Ms. Larson said it would be presented to Mr. Stanford on Monday. The Chairman then said a copy should be delivered to Mr. Stanford, Mr. Lacefield and Mr. Parrott and it will be presented to the Board via Mr. Lacefield.

At this point the Chairman moved the Board onto adoption of the minutes from the June 22, 2010 meeting. Mr. Jenkins made the motion and Mr. Bruce seconded it, with no objections the minutes were adopted. This brought the board to a status report of the greenspace program and the floor was given to Mr. Parrott. The board was informed that a grant application was being

submitted to the Georgia Recreational Trails Program at the end of the month. It was further explained the funds would go to acquiring property along the creek and enhancing the land. Mr. Parrott went on to say partners had been secured to assist with forest management and creating a fishing experience in the creek, upstream from the two historic mill impoundments. The Chairman asked if the Bruce Green was aware of the greenspace efforts in Rex and Mr. Parrott said he was. Mr. Parrott went on to say he was soliciting a partnership letter from Mr. Green.

The Board was moved onto the potential acquisition of the Rivers Edge Golf Course from the Georgia Trust for Public Land (TPL). Mr. Stanford informed the board that TPL reached out to the county and is offering the golf course at a below market price and he will be developing a white-paper in conjunction with Clayton County Department of Economic Development. Mr. Stanford went on to say he expected to have something delivered by mid December. The Chairman added that he would like to see the Rivers Edge Community being updated on this because they contact him about the unsightly nature of the abandoned fairways.

The board's attention was moved to a tabled property donation at 416 Tara Road and Mr. Parrott reminded the board they requested three survey quotes at the last meeting. Mr. Parrott went on to say the three quotes were included in the packages and he would like the Land Trust to hold title to the donation before the end of the calendar year. Because, the owner of the property offered the donation nearly a year ago so he could reduce his property tax liability. Mr. Parrott also informed the board that the adjoining property is owned by the donor's sister and she would like to donate a similar portion of her property. Mr. Parrott explained both the properties are along the Flint River and he recommended the board accept the sister's donation. The Chairman requested an update to any costs the County would incur and Mr. Parrott said only the survey cost, assuming the closing could be handled by the Staff Attorney's Office. Mr. James Jenkins made a motion to accept the sister's donation and Mr. Bruce seconded the motion. With no objections the acceptance passed unanimously. To expedite the closing The Chairman recommended Michael Smith's office to work with an outside firm to close the property.

The board was then brought to the Qualitative Evaluation form portion of the Agenda. Mr. Parrott began to explain the document and Mr. Jenkins asked if the changes requested at the previous meeting were reflected in this document. Mr. Parrott said they were. At this point the Chairman asked if the board would accept the form in its current draft and reserve the right to make changes in the future. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to accept, which was seconded by Mr. Bruce. With no objections expressed the Qualitative Evaluation Form was accepted.

The next agenda item was to update the board that The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation (GTHP) has placed the Rex Village on their 2010 Places in Peril list. The Chairman asked what that was. Mr. Parrott explained the organization chooses 10 places within the state that have historical significance, are in disrepair and are threatened to be lost. Mr. Parrott went on to say once on the list, the GTHP will leverage their network of professionals to ensure the place is preserved and rehabilitated.

The board received brief updates on the agenda's carry over items. When they reached the portion regarding trust board expansion Mr. Parrott said Mr. Paul Abraham would be willing to sit on the board, if his wife could fill in when he can't make it. Mr. Parrott went on to explain

Mr. Abraham is the President of the Historic Rex Village Association and owns the auto repair shop in Rex. The board moved to accept Mr. Abraham and he was approved with no objections. At this point the Chairman asked if there were any others. More specifically, if there were any other areas the board wished to emphasize. Mr. Parrott recommended Clayton State University (CSU); the Chairman directed Mr. Stanford to reach out to the president of CSU. The Chairman then recommended someone from the Clayton County Water Authority be considered for the board.

Meeting adjourned at 5:53 PM