

CLAYTON COUNTY GREENSPACE TRUST BOARD

MINUTES

The Clayton County Greenspace Trust Board held a meeting on Tuesday, October 25, 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, Mrs. Libby Torbush, Mr. Jack Bruce and Mr. James Jenkins.

Attendees: Lance Crawford, Michael Edmondson and Nathan Parrott.

Chairman Bell called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm and presented the minutes from the August 9, 2011 meeting. Mr. Jack Bruce made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Mrs. Libby Torbush and with no opposition the minutes were accepted as presented.

With the minutes accepting, the Chairman moved the Board onto the first agenda item, greenspace prioritization. At which point, Mr. Parrott reminded the Board that they tabled a potential pocket park at the last meeting in order to determine if the park would fit into the County's bigger picture for the Heritage Trail. With that said, he began displaying a Google Earth presentation of county assets. In doing so, Mr. Parrott displayed the following groups of assets, and their locations within the county; heritage sites, senior centers, parks, cemeteries, libraries, schools and specialty sites. Mr. Parrott then refined the asset showings to those located within each Commission District. Upon completing his display Mr. Parrott expressed his belief that too much information was presented to reasonably expect a thoughtful prioritization today. Mr. Parrott went on to say he could email the Google My Places file to each board member to review at their leisure before the next meeting. However, during his presentation, Mr. Parrott displayed an alternative trail routing that was developed by Commissioner Edmondson to get from Jonesboro High School to International Park.

During that part of the presentation Commissioner Edmondson rose to explain his trail routing alteration. The Commissioner stated that a significant portion of the alternate route runs across land already owned by the county and the remainder follows Rum Creek. The Commissioner went on to explain the alternate route will tie Jonesboro High School to Rum Creek Park, Commissioner Edmondson's Recreation Center, to Roberts Middle School, to International Park, to Virginia Stephens home and the Reid Stephens Heritage Park and Wildlife Sanctuary. After highlighting the assets along the altered route, the Commissioner explained he worked with the developer of Spivey Commons to fund trails through his development that would tie into the Reid Stephens property and offer ingress towards Georgia Regional's Spivey Station. Commissioner Edmondson concluded by saying the alternate route would be more inclusive and cost the county less. The Commissioner went on to explain the pocket park mentioned earlier would also cost the county nothing, as development cost could be covered with CDBG funds and the property is already in greenspace inventory.

After hearing Commissioner Edmondson, Ms. Libby Torbush made a motion to approve the pocket park on greenspace property at the terminus of Montego Circle. Mrs. Torbush's motion was seconded by Jack Bruce and passed with unanimous support. Following up on Commissioner Edmondson's presentation, Mr. Jenkins stated his support for Commissioner Edmondson's alternate trail proposal. Mr. Jenkins expanded by saying he feels the greenspace program needs to develop a showcase trail that will be used by citizens and the alternate trail may serve that purpose. Discussion took place regarding the suitability of Commissioner Edmondson's alternate trail and Commissioner Edmondson asked if he could make a recommendation. With that, Commissioner Edmondson suggested the Board members review the Google Earth files prior to their next meeting and during that time the files could be shown to individual commissioners. After the commissioners see the assets in their district they can prioritize project developments within their district. Then, each commissioner's priorities can be brought back to the greenspace board for consideration prior to recommending their own prioritization to the BOC as a whole. Commissioner Edmondson also recommended that when/if the greenspace board is presented with alternate trail routings, they should vote to adopt the alternate route as the official route, or deny it and remain with the original route.

After questions were presented, Mr. James Jenkins made a motion to charge Mr. Parrott with implementing the aforementioned Commissioner prioritizations and bringing the resulting information to the next greenspace meeting. Mrs. Libby Torbush seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous support. With the trail prioritization agenda item concluded, Commissioner Edmondson left the meeting and the Chairman moved the board onto the next agenda item.

Mr. Parrott addressed the Rex Village Project agenda item by reminding the board he was working to acquire four parcels along the Western banks of Cotton Indian creek, in Rex, in order to create a passive recreation experience. Mr. Parrott went on to say he had gotten approval for archaeologists to enter two of the properties, one owner refused such entry and the last was in foreclosure by Fannie Mae. Mr. Parrott then stated he is working with a Fannie Mae representative to get approval. With the board updated on the Rex Village project, the Chairman moved the board's attention onto the carry over items portion of the Agenda.

In this section, the Chairman restated his desire to work with community leaders to turn the Virginia Stephens house into an asset that can be utilized by the community, for the community. No new information was presented for the other carry over items and the Chairman said the meeting will adjourn if there are no objections. With no objections, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM

