

D R A F T
Minutes – One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee
Thursday, April 16, 2015

<u>Members Present:</u>	Dania Aponte Bill Carver Jay Cunningham Brunessa Drayton Marline Elkins John Pape Roger Sandbothe JoEllen Smith Kes Stadler Alice Summerour Karen Traeger	<u>Cobb County & Other Officials Present:</u> Tom Bills, PRCA Program Manager Eddie Canon, PRCA Director Randy Crider, Fire Chief John Reida, Directory, Property Management Jim Wilgus, DOT, Deputy Director Mark Reida, Public Safety Facilities Supervisor Nancy Rouse, Admin, DOT
	Johnny Brown Kenneth Jones Scott Johnson Frank Wigington	<u>City of Austell</u> Randy Bowens, Director of Public Works Jim Graham, Parks Director Duane Demeritt, Operations Manager Kathy Roberts, Zoning Administrator
Absent		<u>City of Kennesaw</u> Earnie Via, Project Director Yared Altaye, Engineer

Chairperson Alice Summerour called the, called the 53rd meeting of the One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee to order at 3:00 p.m. on April 16, 2015, in the Board of Commissioners conference room.

Ms. Summerour welcomed a new member of the Committee, Karen Traeger. Ms. Traeger was appointed by District 2 Commissioner JoAnn Birrell. Ms. Traeger has served on several county committees and is a small business owner.

As there was a quorum present, a motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2015, meeting. Motion was made and seconded, minutes were approved unanimously.

Lindy Tisdell, from the Finance Department, gave the monthly financial report. Total collections to-date are \$416.4 million which is \$31.6 million over projections. Cash/investments on hand are \$134 million.

Mr. Duane Merritt, City of Austell, Operations Manager, and Jim Graham, Parks Director, gave updates on the City's programs. There are two capital improvement projects remaining: Mast Arms and Lighting and Veterans Memorial Highway Sidewalk Improvements. The Mast Arms project, which is \$750,000, includes seven mast arms plus signal work and street lighting. Bids are due for the Veterans Memorial Highway sidewalk improvements this month and cost is estimated to be approximately \$61,624.56. The sidewalk will provide connectivity to two existing sidewalks.

Discussion was held regarding how Austell determines the priorities for sidewalk – connectivity to bus lines, listen to citizens, look at paths along roadways where we know there is use.

Public Safety has completed their program with the purchase of three new Police Ford Explorer SUVs.

Earnie Via, Kennesaw, Public Works Director, then presented updates to Kennesaw's 2011 SPLOST program. Active projects include Cherokee Street Improvements, Cobb International Blvd., and Pine Mountain Road. Three projects kick off this fall, Old Hwy 41-Cobb Pkwy to Barrett Pkwy, Stanley Road and Main Street/Rutledge Road. Parks is mainly done

Completed projects in the Parks and Recreation program include Skate Park, Swift Cantrell Park Improvements and the Community Center Renovation. Park's projects are mainly complete except for two outstanding projects - Depot Park and Smith Gilbert Garden improvements.

Discussion was held regarding the Skate Park and the recent televised event that drew 10,000 people. Question was asked about security at the park – the City is doing more patrols, hiring additional personnel, adding more regulations and requiring event sponsors to be more responsible. It is now illegal to smoke in any City park.

Smith Gilbert Gardens plans on building a facility to accommodate weddings and other special events. There is a charge to visit the gardens and covers the cost of operations.

Fire Chief Randy Crider gave a report on Public Safety. All fire items and other public safety items have been purchased. Four fire engines were delivered on April 14th. The HazMat22 truck has been ordered and once delivered in August is the only equipment remaining in the SPLOST program. Discussion was held about the HazMat truck, it is replacing a 1964 vehicle in which parts are no longer available.

One of the committee members asked about the expansion of the tank farm in Powder Springs. The fire department works closely with the owners of the tank farm. It is a very good partnership, they sponsor hazmat training for County fire personnel.

The 2011 SPLOST has allowed the department to purchase eight new pumper trucks, eight ladder trucks and five rescue trucks.

Mr. John Reida, Director, Property Management was up next with an update on the facility improvements. Property management has \$18.1 million in the 2011 SPLOST program with 135 projects. Eighty-two percent of the projects are complete with 7% under construction and 6% in design phase.

There are several projects that may not be done and others that are being addressed in the 2016 SPLOST program, a status of these projects will be given at the next meeting.

Committee member asked how much energy savings has been generated by the addition of new HVAC units. A graph of the energy costs would show them steadily increasing, since the retrofits costs have leveled out instead of increasing.

Tom Bills, Program Manager, gave the update for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts department. The 2011 Parks Program is over 50% complete. Currently 25% of the program is under construction with 16% in the design phase. Mr. Bills gave status of projects complete or underway:

- Al Bishop is one of our main softball complexes and has under gone an extensive \$1.9 million renovation consisting of: new field lighting fixtures, new fencing, laser plane fields, parking lot resurfacing, new irrigation system, and new concession/restroom/pressbox, all of which are complete. Under construction is a new ticket booth by Parks staff.

- Jim Miller Park renovations (\$6.2 million) is one of the most complicated projects with a dam rehabilitation, subsurface infrastructure, restrooms, HVAC and electrical upgrades all while keeping the park operational.
- Hyde Farm historical renovation is 95% complete. Should be operating as a working farm in about a year.
- Fair Oaks Park improvements are 30% complete.
- Sandy Plains Park redevelopment is complete.
- Wild Horse Creek Aquatics is 95% complete. The water feature is scheduled to open on Memorial Day weekend. This water feature is a replacement for the Powder Springs pool

Upcoming projects include Lost Mountain Park, Fair Oaks Tennis Center, and Civic Center renovations.

Jim Wilgus, Deputy Director DOT, gave the 2011 SPLOST update for transportation. DOT's program is 58% complete with 29 projects currently under construction and 48 in the design phase.

- Windy Hill Road consists of five different projects, with business and traffic implications along the corridor. The Department has hired a Project Ambassador to work with these businesses and to keep them informed. His office is located on the corridor and he is meeting with businesses regularly. Utility relocation is currently underway.
- Skip Spann Connector is underway with a scheduled completion of March 2016.
- Six Flags Drive is under construction and is closed to through traffic until May 1st.
- Walker Drive Extension will create a town square and a sense of place for Mableton.
- John Ward Road at Cheatham Hill Road is under construction for a roundabout and sidewalk
- Ebenezer Road Sidewalks is under construction, scheduled for completion in June.

A sidewalk discussion followed. Sidewalk cost an average of \$800,000 per mile. The Department's in-house crew can do some of the easy, fill-in the gap type sidewalk with no curb and gutter and no drainage. The projects have to be bid when curb gutter and drainage is required. The Department currently has over 1000 sidewalk requests. DOT is starting preparations for compiling the 2016 SPLOST sidewalk list.

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There have been 16 resurfacing contracts in the 2011 SPLOST through March 2015, valued at \$84.9 million and this includes 1,311 roads for 413 miles. Parks and the cities piggyback on the County's resurfacing contracts and allowing them to save approximately 40% on the cost of resurfacing, compared to them bidding the small projects themselves.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.