

2023 SPLOST Parks & Recreation Subcommittee

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 13, 2025 – 5:00 P.M.

Johnson Park, Conyers, GA

1. **Call to Order:** Joy Douglas (Parks & Rec subcommittee Vicechair) called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm, Seconded by Robin Berry.

Attendees:

SPLOST Members: Bill Hughey, Joy Douglass (Subcommittee Co-Chair), Robin Berry, Sandra Weatherly,

County Staff: Jason Redmond (Director of Parks & Recreation), Tahira Wilson (Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation), Olandria Bing (Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation), Andrew Hammer (Director of General Services), Dominick Villano (Deputy Director of General Services), Ariana Nava (Administrative of General Services)

Guests: none

Not Present: Josh Bettenhausen, Jeffery A Spencer, Shawn Bilak, Mary Greco, and Tanya Cobb (Subcommittee Chair)

2. **Approval of the agenda:** Sandra Weatherly motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by Bill Hughey and approved unanimously.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Sandra Weatherly motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Robin Berry and approved unanimously.
4. **Subcommittee Chair Report:** none
5. **Unfinished Business:**
 - a. Plan for future site visits as projects are completed: The subcommittee agreed that for the next meeting, the Parks and Recreation would provide transportation to tour DeCastro and other Parks and Recreation Projects.
 - b. DeCastro Nature Center Project update was provided, with an estimated completion date of April 2025.
6. **New Business:**
 - a. Dominick Villano (Deputy Director of General Services) reminded members projects will progress once funds are collected. Andrew Hammer (Director of General Services) also added to these comments in explaining that projects cannot be completed without collecting the funds first.
 - b. South Park project to extend the bike trail 3 miles has been completed and this included signage for the trail.
 - c. Black Shoals Guard Shack update was provided by Dominick Villano (Deputy Director of General Services),
 - d. The Wheeler Park projects update was presented by Dominick Villano (Deputy Director of General Services). He provided a comprehensive overview of the completed amenities currently available at Wheeler Park, which include the disc golf, pickleball court, volleyball, new playground, and the amphitheater. Ongoing projects at Wheeler Park include the skate park, splash pad, pavilion, and new office spaces, for which contracts have been awarded. However, the continuation of these projects is contingent upon the completion of site grading.
 - e. Andrew Hammer, the Director of General Services, provided an update on the Rockdale River Trail, noting that it is primarily a transportation project focused on acquiring the right-of-way property to extend certain sidewalks. The project budget has been increased by GDOT for engineering purposes, and the revised budget amount will be announced at a future meeting. The project must adhere to GDOT's processes, which can be lengthy and slow. This approach helps preserve resources that could otherwise be used for the immediate construction of new roads.

- f. Joy Douglass (Parks & Recreation Vice-chair) motioned to reallocate fundings from the project savings to add a kitchen expansion to Costley Mill Event Center not to exceed \$85,000.00 per the project list attached. First by Sandra Weatherly, seconded by Bill Hughey and approved unanimously.

7. **Public Comment:** none

8. **SPLOST Member Comments:**

- a. Sandra Weatherly inquired about the possibility of renting any of the newly constructed courts at Wheeler Park for events such as a birthday party. In response, Jason Redman (Director of Parks and Recreation), confirmed that, at this time, the only facility available for rental at Wheeler Park is the pavilion, as the new amenities will remain open for public use.
- b. Robin Berry inquired whether the Parks and Recreation Department has considered offering pickleball and disc golf equipment for public rental at Wheeler Park once the new offices are built. Jason Redman (Director of Parks and Recreation), responded that, at present, the department does not provide rental equipment for the newly established courts at Wheeler Park. However, he indicated that his team is actively exploring several initiatives. Additionally, Jason Redman (Director of Parks and Recreation), mentioned that to enhance tourism and increase awareness of the new facilities, the department has thought on the organization of tournaments for the new courts.
- c. Bill Hughey asked about the status of the Lakeview project. Andrew Hammer (Director of General Services) explained that the process of abandoning a roadway for the purpose of reallocating it to a property intended to support the project's requirements is quite intricate. Because of the complexities involved and timing, the previous administration opted for the new administration to take over the responsibility of reviewing and approving the project as it progresses.

9. **Adjournment:** There being no further business or discussion, Joy Douglass (Subcommittee Co-Chair) motioned to adjourned at 6:13 pm. First by Bill Hughey seconded by Sandra Weatherly.
- a. **Next meeting:** *April 14, 2025, 5:00 pm at Johnson Park*

Approved:

SPLOST Subcommittee Chair

Date