

2023 SPLOST Parks & Recreation Subcommittee

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 14th 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 5:03 pm

Attendees:

SPLOST Members: Bill Hughey, Tanya Cobb (Sub Chair) Joy Douglass (Sub Co-Chair), Shawn Bilak, Mary Greco, and Robin Berry

County Staff: Tahira Wilson (Inter. Director of Parks & Recreation), Olandria Bing (Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation), Dominick Villano (Deputy Director of General Services), Lavonda Bruton(Operations Manager Parks Dept)

Guests: none

Not Present: Josh Bettenhausen, Jeffery A Spencer, and Sandra Weatherly

2. **Approval of the agenda:** approved unanimously. R Berry, M Greco
3. **Approval of Minutes:** approved unanimously. J Douglass, R Berry
4. **Subcommittee Chair Report:** none
5. **Unfinished Business:**
 - a. Subcommittee Members and County staff boarded a bus and departed Johnson Park at 5:03 pm.
 - b. First stop was at deCastro Nature Center at 3880 Daniels Bridge Rd. Dominick Villano provided building information and details of materials used to build the center. Tahira Wilson provided information on the use and availability of the center
 - c. The second stop of tour was at Wheeler Park 1400 Parker Rd . Showcasing of all the new amenities was in full use. We gathered under the Pavilion and took a group photo. We witnessed the beach volleyball, field, picnic tables, playground, walking trail with all the exercise equipment being used.
6. **New Business:**
 - a. Dominick Villano provided info on the completion of Black Shoals Guard Shack. Parks Dept has moved in and is operating in new building.
 - b. Wheeler Park Site begins in May and pending weather, should be completed by August /Sept 2025. This work will prep the site for utilities and grading for skatepark and splashpad areas as well as the office building.
 - c. Costley Mill Event Hall Expansion was completed on March 26th and is fully operational. New space was for an expanded kitchen prep area and storage.
 - d. Repairs to Lorriane Park are in the works. Site assessments and plan to open back up are in progress. So far the park was closed for cleanup from the flooding. Tahira Wilson mentioned the playground may be moved up hill to a new spot closer to the parking area.
7. **Public Comment:** none
8. **SPLOST Member Comments:**

- a. Bill Hughey asked about the status of Lakeview Estates Soccer fields. Dominick Villano spoke on it about how the county is during its due diligence in relation to the proposed area the soccer pitches will occupy. There isn't any time frame available as of yet.
- b. Robin Berry asked about update on the Earl O'Neal softball lights. Dominick Villano mentioned this project timeline will be inline with a tentative timeframe for Oct 2026 based on projected SPLOST collections. It is still a priority one project.
- c. Shawn Bilak asked about SPLOST signage at Wheeler Park. Dominick Villano said signs will be deployed around the construction area when the Wheeler Park site work begins. General Services has signs made to use at SPLOST sites.
- d. Tanya Cobb asked about PR events for Wheeler Park. Tahira Wilson spoke about future and past events at the Lawn@Wheeler Park. Also when the rest of the park amenities are completed the pavilion will be available to rent for private functions.
- e. At next subcommittee meeting in July it was mentioned by Dominick Villano to follow same format and tour Black Shoals Park and Costley Mill Park. He will coordinate with Tahira Wilson and provide more info in advance of next meeting.
- f. Thank You to Charles (Cooper) Watts of the Parks Dept for driving the bus.

9. **Adjournment:** There being no further business or discussion, motion to adjourn was at 7:10 pm.

- a. **Next meeting:** *July 14, 2025, 5:00 pm at Johnson Park*

Approved:

SPLOST Subcommittee Chair

Date