

2023 SPLOST Parks & Recreation Subcommittee

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 13, 2026 – 5:00 P.M.

Johnson Park, Conyers, GA

1. **Call to Order:** Mary Greco called the meeting to order at 5:05pm

Attendees:

SPLOST Members: Bill Hughey, Mary Greco, Tanya Cobb, Robin Berry, Shawn Bilak, Doug Smith

County Staff: Christine Carney (Director Parks and Rec), Mariah Jester (Project Coordinator General Services), Tahira Wilson (Deputy Director Parks and Rec)

Guests: N/A

Not Present: Josh Bettenhausen, Jeffery A Spencer, Sandra Weatherly, Joy Douglas, Charles Staples

2. **Approval of the agenda:** Approved unanimously

3. **Approval of Minutes:** Approved unanimously.

4. **Subcommittee Chair Report:** N/A

5. **Unfinished Business:**

- a) Lorraine Park:

Mariah Jester with General Services shared that the park has officially reopened. The overlooks have been repaired, and the playground improvements have been completed.

- b) Wheeler Park Update:

Parks and Recreation Director Carney announced that the skate park ribbon cutting is scheduled for Monday, May 4th at 11:00 AM. Mariah Jester with General Services noted that the skate park is approximately 90% complete, with only minor finishing touches remaining. Safety concerns were raised by Mary Greco and Robin Berry. Mariah Jester stated that rule signage will be installed throughout the park. Parks and Rec Deputy Director Tahira Wilson also reviewed key skate park rules, including “skate at your own risk” and required footwear guidelines. Discussion then moved to the splash pad, which is currently about 60% complete, with an anticipated opening around Memorial Day. A question was raised regarding whether there will be an on-site attendant to monitor the amenities at Wheeler Park. Director Carney responded that at this time there will not be an attendant on site.

- c) Earl O’Neal Complex Lights & Project Update:

Mariah Jester provided an update on the lighting project, noting that pricing is currently being reviewed so the work can move forward. The Earl O’Neal softball renovations are approximately 90% complete, with only a few punch list items remaining. Football renovations have also begun and are ongoing. The group discussed the “repair versus replace” approach for SPLOST projects. Mariah Jester explained that when items are beyond repair, they are replaced and upgraded, at which point SPLOST funds can be used. Chair Tanya Cobb outlined the review process required for projects to qualify for SPLOST funding, noting that each project must go through multiple levels of review, including the Rockdale County Finance Department, to ensure eligibility.

6. **New Business:**

- a) Finance Committee:

Doug Smith and Mary Greco from the 2023 SPLOST Finance Subcommittee met with the Parks Subcommittee to

discuss potential overages. Doug Smith reported that as of the end of February 2026, approximately \$70.70 million has been collected. SPLOST is currently averaging about \$2.0 million per month, which projects total collections of around \$145 million by end of the 2023 SPLOST. At this time, there has been no final determination on how overages will be allocated. However, the Finance Subcommittee encouraged all subcommittees to begin planning. Each group was asked to submit a list of potential projects for overage funding by June 1st. Doug also referenced the 2017 SPLOST, noting that the Parks Subcommittee still has remaining funds available for trail-related projects.

b) **New project update:**

Parks and Recs Subcommittee Chair Tanya Cobb asked about the current project list and noted that updates had been made. Mariah Jester explained that the list was rearranged in October and highlighted projects that were moved up, including the Earl O'Neal softball and football projects. Tanya Cobb asked for an update on the senior satellite project. Director Carney shared that the project is still in the planning phase and will be located on the south side of Rockdale County. Tanya Cobb also requested a meeting on April 28th at 5:00 PM for the committee to discuss SPLOST overages and begin developing a project list so we can submit it by the June 1st deadline.

7. **Public Comment:** N/A

8. **SPLOST Member Comments:** N/A

9. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was at 5:51pm.

a. **Next meeting:** *April 28th 2026, 5:00 pm Johnson Park*

Approved:

SPLOST Subcommittee Chair

Date