

APPROVED

Minutes – One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee Thursday, September 19, 2013

Members Present:

Antwyn Brown
Johnny Brown
Bill Carver
Jay Cunningham
Marline Elkins
Scott Johnson
John Pape
JoEllen Smith
Kes Stadler
Alice Summerour
Frank Wigington

Cobb County & Other Officials Present:

Eddie Canon, PRCA Director
Tom Bills, PRCA, Program Manager
Dan McDuff, DOT, Deputy Director
Diana Belanger, Finance, Accountant III
Bill Volckmann, Finance, Division Manager
Nancy Rouse, Admin, DOT

City of Acworth
Brian Bulthuis, City Manager

Absent:

Dania Aponte
David Hong
Lance Lamberton
Steve Williams

Chairperson Alice Summerour called the 44th meeting of the One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee to order at 3:00 p.m. on September 19, 2013, in the Training Room, 2nd Floor, 100 Cherokee Street.

As a quorum was present, a motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2013 meeting. With a minor spelling error to be corrected, the minutes were approved.

New committee member, JoEllen Smith, introduced herself to the Committee. Ms. Smith was appointed by Commissioner Birrell to represent District 3.

Brian Bulthuis, Acworth City Manager, reported on the city's 2005 and 2011 SPLOST programs.

Acworth had \$10.4 million revenue from the 2005 SPLOST program. All projects are completed except for two city street reconstruction project which are currently under construction: Senator Russell Avenue is 80% complete and Main Street is 30% complete. Two projects, McClain Street East and West were deferred in the 2005 program due to reduction of SPLOST funds

The SR92/Lake Acworth Road project is going to be funded 100% by the State.

Acworth has two joint projects with the county: Nance Rd/Acworth Due West Road, which is two-thirds complete, the bridge replacement remains to be done and delays have been encountered with the Corps of Engineers. Old McEver Road is completed. County is handling the funds for these projects.

Mr. Wigington asked about the Main Street project. It was done in two phases and included curb/gutter, resurfacing, sidewalk and street lighting from SR92 just south of the Bartow County line. It is currently under construction and is 30% complete.

Mr. Bulthuis went on to give update of the 2011 SPLOST program. Acworth's fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th and projects were scheduled based on cash flow.

The new police station is the second biggest project in the Acworth program (\$4.7 million), the city banked money in previous years to move forward with engineering in FY12/13 and construction in FY13/14 for this project. This project should break ground in October and is scheduled to take 9 months to build. Various other city projects were discussed.

The City for FY13/14 has \$3.3 million in revenues, with \$6.8 million in projects and will end year with only \$305k.

Diana Belanger, Finance Department, gave the 2011, SPLOST financial update. Year to date collections are \$211 million. Collections for September were \$10.5 million, which is \$242,749 over projections. Currently have \$11.6 million in cash and \$89 million in investments. House Bill 386 (“birthday tax”) is still trending in our favor.

Eddie Canon, Division Manager, and Tom Bills, Project Manager, for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts, gave presentation on the status and activities of the department. Mr. Canon mentioned that the nine member Recreation Board meet monthly and to review the SPLOST plan. Of the 172 project in 50 parks:

- 61% Underway
- 14% Completed
- 9% Construction underway
- 16% Future projects.

Mr. Bills highlighted several projects: Noonday Creek Park, Harrison Tennis Center and Sewell Park Redevelopment. Mr. Bills handed out a card Parks uses to notify neighborhoods in the vicinity of project to let them know what is happening.

Next quarter’s activities include: Design work for Civic Center, Fair Oaks Park and Wild Horse Creek Park fields. Procurement for construction will begin on Hurt Road Park, Sewell Park, Wallace Park and Tramore Park field lighting. Construction starts include West Cobb Aquatic Center, South Cobb Recreation Center roof and Kennworth and Terrell Mill Tennis Center buildings.

Impacts of this program include: Safety, upgrades to current codes and usability/visitor experience.

Discussions were held regarding Stout Farm Park and project delays due to insurance requirements.

Dan McDuff, Deputy Director DOT, gave the Transportation update. Mr. McDuff mentioned with the current \$15 million overage, talks and decisions with the Board should begin next year regarding the Tier 2 projects. DOT has 170 projects:

- 32% Completed
- 15% Construction underway
- 29% Design underway
- 25% Future projects

Ahead of schedule with 55 projects complete compared to the projected 39 completions. Currently, 49 projects are in engineering and 23 in construction.

Resurfacing is biggest piece of the Transportation SPLOST program. For 2013 through August of this year 709 roads for 179 miles of resurfacing has been completed at a cost of \$41.4 million. Since 2011, there have been 13 contracts which equate to 910 roads for 280 miles totaling \$53.1 million.

Impacts of this include 40% reduction in pot holes and 77% increase in number of miles paved.

Over 14 miles of new sidewalk under contract or completed through June 2013. Discussion held regarding criteria for school sidewalk.

Question was asked about how the in-house sidewalk construction program was going. Mr. McDuff mentioned it got off to a slow start – lost several crew members and had to rehire. Constructing sidewalks with in-house staff averages about 50% less than using a contractor.

Faye DiMassimo, DOT Director, dropped in to the meeting and mentioned a new website coming called “*What’s in it for me?*” You will be able to enter your address, click a button and it will show Parks and Transportation projects within a 5 mile radius. Website should be live in November.

Next order of business was to appoint a Point of Contact for District 3 to replace Lee Berg. Jo Ellen Smith volunteered to be the contact.

Next order of business was to elect a Vice Chairman to replace Lee Berg. Frank Wigington was nominated and Scott Johnson seconded. Frank Wigington was elected Vice-Chairman unanimously.

Bill Carver had two items up for discussion:

- 1) As Public Safety had invited the Committee to visit the Emergency Response Center, Mr. Carver suggested we hold the next meeting there. After a discussion, it was agreed. It was requested that Facilities, Public Safety and the City email their presentations prior to the meeting and committee members could prepare any questions to shorten meeting to allow for tour of Center.
- 2) Mr. Carver next discussed the possibility of a field trip to see various Park and Transportation projects. Mr. McDuff and Mr. Canon prepared a map (with 2 loops) that included various projects – to tour the whole county (both loops) would take 6 to 7 hours. It was suggested we poll the members to see if they would prefer a ½ day or whole day tour and to poll for various dates.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting to be held on November 21, 2013 at the Emergency Response Center