

Minutes – One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee
Thursday, May 18, 2017

Members Present:

Alice Summerour
Bill Carver
Dee Gay
Frank Wigington
Joe Profit
John Pape
Karin DeAmicus
Kenneth Jones
Lindsay Edwards
Marline Elkins
Ray Higginbotham
Roger Sandbothe
Tom Cheek

Absent:

Johnny Brown
James Brock

Cobb County & Other Officials Present:

Tom Bills, PRCA, Program Manager
Jimmy Gisi, PRCA, Director
Jim Wilgus, DOT, Director
Meagean De La Cruz, Admin, DOT
Lindy Tisdell, Finance

City of Austell:

Duane Demeritt, Public Works
Randy Bowens, Public Works Director

Chairperson Alice Summerour called the 64th meeting of the One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee to order at 3:00 PM on May 18, 2017.

As there was a quorum present, a motion was made to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2017, meeting. Motion was made and seconded; minutes were approved unanimously.

Lindy Tisdell from the Finance Department gave the monthly financial report regarding the 2016 SPLOST Summary.

Randy Bowens, City of Austell, Public Works Director, gave an update on the City's 2011 and 2016 SPLOST programs and discussed various projects in both SPLOST programs. He highlighted several resurfacing projects, the purchase of equipment, current projects in PARKS as well as a new restaurant opening in the City of Austell.

Questions/Answers for City of Austell:

Q. Are the trucks purchased, diesel?

A. Yes

Q. What is the longevity of the diesel equipment?

A. The diesel equipment has evidence to last longer than our current non-diesel equipment.

Q. Is the infrared technology new to the industry?

A. It is new to the City but it is not a new trend. It has been around and it has proven to be the best technology.

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Tom Bills, PRCA, Program Manager, provided an update on the 2011 SPLOST projects. He highlighted the completed Wild Horse Creek BMX Track hosted the 2017 USA BMX Dixieland Nationals in April and it was a success. Events like this bring business to the surrounding community and this project has already proven to be an investment. 40% of 2016 SPLOST projects are in the design/engineering phase, 12% are complete, 20% are in construction and 26% are future projects. Some 2016 projects include approximately 15 paving projects with Bartow Paving, the near completion of the joint project with the City of Kennesaw for the Kennesaw Splash Pad at Swift Cantrell Park. Jim Miller Park Exhibit Hall is also currently in design and is schedule for construction this October. P.A.R.K.S. continues the Synthetic Turf Field Conversions throughout multiple locations including Hubert Soccer Complex, Mud Creek Soccer Complex and Terrell Mill Park.

Questions/Answers for PRCA:

Q. What percentage of the attendees to the event were local?

A. The event included people from all over including Alaska and the surrounding states.

Q. Will the parking lot to the new Jim Miller Park Exhibit Hall be level and provide handicap parking?

A. Yes. It will be wheelchair assessable and yes there will be handicap parking in the front.

Q. Is the fair taken into consideration with the new Jim Miller Park Exhibit Hall?

A. Yes. The fair will be the one of the major events and construction is scheduled to take place around the fair dates.

Q. Was angled parking considered for the Jim Miller Park Exhibit Hall?

A. Yes, however the amount of space needed for angle parking was not feasible and we would lose parking spaces by having angled parking.

Jim Wilgus, Director, DOT, provided a quarterly update on the 2011 and 2016 SPLOST program. The 2011 SPLOST projects are 88.3% complete with 5.4% projects currently in design and 6.3% projects in construction. In the 2016 SPLOST program there are 33 projects in design and 22 projects in construction. Some highlights for the 2011 and 2016 SPLOST projects include the I-75 Wade Green Rd DDI with construction estimated to start summer 2017, Sandy Plains Road Safety and Operations Improvements project with construction estimated to begin late 2017, South Barrett Reliever Phase 3 currently in design and construction estimated to begin late 2020. Other projects highlighted include Windy Hill/Terrell Mill Rd. Connector, John Ward Road at Irwin Road, multiple drainage projects and several others.

Questions/Answers for DOT:

Q. What is the diversity participation percentage?

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A. It would depend. Federally funded projects are required and varies between 10-15%. SPLOST funded projects do not have a requirement, however DOT has a goal to remain within the 7-8% range but there is no hard target.

Q. Where can one find the diversity participation percentage?

A. DOT provides a report to the County Manager on a monthly basis for all divisions across Transportation.

Q. Who is enforcing it?

A. FTA enforces Transit percentages, FAA enforces Airport percentages, and FHWA sets the mandate for roads. In regards to SPLOST projects, there is not a hard target in Cobb County, however multiple engineering, geotechnical and construction work is handled through DBE firms within DOT.

Q. Are Firms/Prime contractors required to use DBE?

A. In regards to SPLOST dollars, no but we are able to track diversity participation and if given a target we would have no problem enforcing it as DOT already complies with FTA, FAA and FHWA diversity participation requirements.

Q. Will there be an expansion to the County Airport?

A. Not with SPLOST funding but yes. The Master Plan for the Airport will identify possibilities such as expanding.

Q. To confirm there is not enough funding for resurfacing. If we are over our projected revenue, will resurfacing be more important than any Tier II project?

A. Resurfacing is a Tier II project. We are becoming smarter every program on how our SPLOST programs are developed and what we need to do with the additional money. In 2016, we made sure resurfacing, drainage and sidewalks were included in Tier II and it will up to the Board of Commissioners what Tier II projects can be completed.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned and a tour of DOT was provided to SPLOST COC members.