

Minutes – One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee
Thursday, May 21, 2020

Members Present:

Alice Summerour
Barkley Russell
Bill Carver
Jay Cunningham
Lindsay Edwards
Roger Sandbothe
Sally Riddle
Susan Tucker
Marty Williamson
Frank Wigington
Marline Elkins
Gene Lewis
James Brock
Dee Gay

Absent:

Kenneth Jones
Frank Wigington

Cobb County & Other Officials Present:

Jimmy Gisi, Director, PARKS
Michael Brantley, Operations Director, PARKS
Tom Bills, Program Manager, PARKS
Wade Kelly, SPLOST Program Manager, DOT
April Jones, Admin, DOT
Erica Parish, Director, DOT
Priscilla Parton, Accountant, Finance
Bill Volckmann, Director, Finance

City of Acworth:

Alex Almodovar

City of Smyrna:

Kevin Moore

Chairperson Alice Summerour called the One Percent SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee to order at 1:30 PM on May 21, 2020.

As there was a quorum present, a motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2020 meeting. Motion was made and seconded; minutes were approved unanimously.

Priscilla Parton, Finance Department, gave the monthly financial report regarding the 2016 SPLOST Summary.

Bill Volckmann, Director, Finance Department, gave an update regarding planning for the 2022 SPLOST.

Alex Almodovar, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Acworth, gave an update on the City's SPLOST program pertaining to Transportation. The 2016 SPLOST projects highlighted were various facilities renovations, upgraded radio and video systems in Police Department vehicles, and miscellaneous paving projects. Projects included Taylor Street extension, Robinson Street Road, and resurfacing Cowan Street and Robinson Street.

Kevin Moore, P.E., City Engineer, City of Smyrna, gave an update on the City's 2016 SPLOST program. The following projects were highlighted Windy Hill Road Improvements, Roswell Street Roundabout, Gann Road Bridge Rehabilitation.

Questions/Answers for City of Smyrna:

Q. Sidewalks: Are we making the sidewalks uniformly wider?

A. The sidewalks projects we have focused on have not been widening existing sidewalks, but the addition of new sidewalks.

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Q. If we are redoing a sidewalk, are we widening it to 5 feet if we can?

A. We can yes, but oftentimes there are right-of-way restrictions that prevent us from doing so.

Q. Transportation: Is the majority of the transportation budget going to be spent on resurfacing or is there going to be transportation improvements that reduce traffic time?

A. Yes, a lot of it is to improve traffic around the city.

Tom Bills, Program Manager, PARKS, provided an update on the 2011 and 2016 SPLOST projects. The 2011 program is 99% complete, 1% in design, and the 2016 program is 78% complete. He highlighted the following projects; Fullers Park – synthetic turf and LED lighting, Mountain View Community Center parking – construction underway and scheduled for early June completion, Mud Creek Soccer Complex, Hyde Farm Operations Barn, and other additional projects.

Questions/Answers for PARKS:

Q. Is there any plan yet on naming parks and buildings?

A. I don't know, but I'll try to find out.

Q. Do we have a graphic of what the park signs are going to look like?

A. We do and we will send something out to you.

Q. Roughly 10% of the projects that are in the design/engineering phase, has the COVID-19 impacted any of the projects?

A. It hasn't impacted our progress on existing ones, but it has slowed down our purchasing.

Erica Parish, Director, DOT, provided a quarterly update on 2005, 2011, and 2016 SPLOST program. The 2005 SPLOST is near completion. The 2011 SPLOST currently has 96.7% projects completed, 1.4% in construction, and 1.9% in design. Some highlights for the 2011 SPLOST program include Sandy Plains Road, Woodlawn Drive Sidewalks, McCollum Pkwy Sidewalks, and Gordon Combs Road Sidewalks. The 2016 SPLOST currently has 142 projects completed, 36 in construction, and 31 in design. Some highlights for the 2016 SPLOST program include John Ward Road Sidewalk, Post Oak Tritt at Hembree Road, Ridgewood Drive Draining System Improvements, Powers Ferry Drive over Rottenwood Creek Tributary, Woodland Brook Drive over Gilmore Creek, Blackwell Road at Autumn Ridge Parkway, and other various projects including Resurfacing Projects.

Questions/Answers for DOT:

Q. 2005 Projects: Are we running into any right-of-way issues with the projects? Is that the reason for completion delay?

A. Yes, it's the research determining who was there first and going from there.

The Committee discussed Dr. McMorris' new role as County Manager and welcomed her.

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Dr. McMorris discussed the reprioritization of community impact projects based on potential revenue collected above projection. Dr. McMorris also discussed the upcoming SPLOST virtual open houses in June.

It was also discussed how would the County handle outreach to make sure people are aware of the SPLOST meetings.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.