



SPLOST IV COMMITTEE

THURSDA, APRIL 26, 2013 @ 6:00 PM
Dutchtown Middle School-District 2

The SPLOST IV Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Chairman Steve Cash.

The Henry Daily Herald was notified of the meeting via email.

Committee Members Present:

Andy Calloway (District 1)
Susan Craig (District 1)
Edward Toney (District 2)
Arley Lowe (District 2)
John Smith (District 3)
Richard Craig (District 3)
Johnny Basler (District 4)
Linda Moyer (District 4)
Carlotta Harrell (District 5)
Steve Cash (District 5)
Tim Young (City of Locust Grove)

Members Absent:

Wayne Greer (Chairman Appointee)

Other City Representatives Present:

Andy Pippin (City of Hampton)
Tim Young (City of Locust Grove)
Frederick Gardiner (City of McDonough)

SPLOST Staff Present:

Roque Romero
Ron Burkhalter
Dustin Farron
Lynn Planchon

Other County Staff Members Present:

Cheri Hobson-Matthews

Chief Bill Lacey

Julie Hoover-Ernst

MEETING AGENDA (SEE ATTACHED AGENDA)

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Cash

Acceptance of the Agenda: The agenda was accepted as presented with a motion made by Johnny Basler, seconded by John Smith

Approval of the April 18th Minutes: Postponed until the May 2, 2013 Meeting

Introductions were made by all Elected Official, Committee Members and Staff Members. Commissioner Gary Barham, District 3 was in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

District 2 Presentation:

District II Presentation (see attachment received from Committee Member Ed Toney via e-mail)

Discussion between Committee Members included comments regarding the handouts and the following:

- Signal at Mt. Carmel, possibly roundabout
- Terminal Building at Airport – Ron Burkhalter updated the committee
- Aquatic Center – Remove citizen is no longer in pursuing
- Fire Station at Flippen Road-conversation between the committee and Chief Lacey regarding the relocation of the existing Fire Station #8
- Arley Lowe – commented on the proposed project list and stated that District II is the only district contained west of I-75 with no Recreational Center, Senior Center, or sports facilities. Mr. Lowe went on to comment that the City of Hampton is wholly contained within District II and also provided an overview on the population demographics and statistics regarding poverty levels/income levels within the City of Hampton. Mr. Lowe stated that the Senior/Rec Center is being shown again in SPLOST IV, as it has been previously shown in SP2 and SP3 and stated the need for a recreational facility in District II; critical need for District II/Hampton.

Chairman Cash then offered comments and opened the floor for comments and/or questions from the committee. The following questions were raised:

Q. Carlotta Harrell – Are there any vacant buildings in Hampton/District II that can be utilized for a Rec/Senior Center?

- Arley Lowe responded that there are none. Conversations have been held regarding Fortson Library; property

Q. Houston Nelson – What is the legality of District II request as it relates to the Senior Center?

- Arley Lowe responded that his understanding of the law was that once a project is on the ***list a lack of funds cannot be used as an excuse to abandon the project. Additionally, a project can be scaled down but at some point the project must be done.***

Discussion continued amongst the committee regarding Senior Centers/Rec Centers in District I and District II; the committee also discussed other capital projects not yet completed.

Staff Request – Any other opportunities to purchase abandoned shopping centers/grocery stores for a potential rec/senior center. A question was raised, seeking clarification on where the staff should be looking for a shopping center in terms of Commissioner Districts.

Q. Basler – Station 8 Flippen Road; what is the status. Didn't the County purchase the property.

- Chief Lacey responded regarding the feasibility of the site and site distance.

Q. Toney – General comments regarding the existing Fire Station site.

- Ron Burkhalter is working on getting the topography data and survey details to determine if the existing fire station can fit on the site.

Q. Frederick Gardiner – Fire Station 8, is the issue site distance, is there enough land.

- Ron Burkhalter responded again (see previous comments)

Richard Craig made a general comment on the importance of determining how much money is going to be allocated for each district, inclusive of the cities and based on the recent projections and current collections. Andy Pippin responded that every district should have an opportunity to present the “big wish” list before the committee begins the process of putting real numbers to the projects. Chairman Cash echoed the comments received from the committee and agreed with Andy Pippin regarding the project list.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Shane Persuad, 610 Monticello Lane. Support the Technical College and all the other projects presented by the committee – Educational component.

Houston Nelson, 2504 Walter Way. How many seniors actually live in District II and what that percentage would be; Andy Pippin responded that Hampton in the past represented the largest area of the county for seniors.

Julie Hoover-Ernst, 125 Stratford Circle. Installation of bike lanes (see attachment) for all new construction projects – all SPLOST III projects should include plans for the installation of a bike lane. Comments also included that the lanes should be continuous.

Tim Young then followed up on a previous question regarding the percentage of seniors in Henry County. The following was offered:

Population percentages for those 65 years and older

- City of Stockbridge – 6.3%
- City of Hampton – 6.9% (32.8% of the population is under 18)
- City of McDonough – 8.6%
- Unincorporated Henry County – 8.8%
- City of Locust Grove – 7.2%

Q. Frederick Gardiner – Has past SPLOST I, II, and III projects been evaluated in comparison to the proposed SPLOST IV project list; focus on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan should be the most important aspect of the SPLOST IV Transportation Project list.

- Cheri Matthews responded that staff met internally to review all previous SPLOST projects and has created a list delineating those projects and whether those projects were identified in the CTP.

Q. Ed Toney – 5307 Funds – bike lanes – can these funds be used.

Q. Carlotta Harrell - (directed to Any Pippin) – Senior Development currently under construction, can a Senior Center be a component of the development under a Public/Private Partnership?

- Andy Pippin – responded no, not for this property; followed up by Tim Young who stated that the development was under the DCA’s Tax Credit Program and the guidelines are very stringent.

Q. Houston Nelson- inquired about correcting the project names and descriptions for projects previously listed in the SPLOST Programs

- Staff responded that this would have to be addressed with the County Attorney.

Chairman Cash made the following announcement:

**UPCOMING MEETING: THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2013-OLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA
ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Lowe made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second by Ms. Harrell. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Cheri Hobson-Matthews, SPLOST IV Secretary

