

Minutes - Draft

**PECS-Planning, Economic Development & Community Services
Committee**

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

2:00 PM

*This meeting will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Simultaneous public access to the meeting will be available
(1) via live stream on DCTV's webpage,
(2) on DCTVChannel23.TV*

Meeting Started At: 2:00 PM

Attendance: Commissioners Johnson, Davis Johnson, Rader, Cochran-Johnson, Terry, and Bradshaw;

Present 3 - Member Jeff Rader, Chairperson Larry Johnson, and Member Mereda Davis Johnson

I. MINUTES

2021-2038 Commission District(s): ALL
Minutes for the January 12, 2020 Planning, Economic Development, and Community Services Committee Meeting
MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Chairperson Johnson, and Member Davis Johnson

Not Present: 1 - Member Rader

II. STATUS UPDATE

ARC Update

MDJ: What do you do with this information?

M Carnathan: Convert the data into conversations w/ local governments, residents, nonprofits to identify next steps that need to be made. Goal is for citizens to use strong data to make informed decisions

MDJ: how can better decisions be made? What is the value?

M Carnathan: This data is used to spur conversation to those who have the influence to make changes in the community

Bradshaw: did any of the data surprise you?

M Carnathan: No, but it is interest to note the differences in how young people, black people view life differently than others. These gaps need to be addressed across demographics so the perception isn't so different

MDJ: has the ARC created any policy descriptions to ensure equity in economic development based on this data?

M Carnathan: equity is found in everything we do at the ARC. For example, looking at affordable housing is important if you are serious about economic development as a community. This inequitable system in the region has been generations in the making; policies created won't exactly reverse these systemic inequities, but it's important to provide the relevant data so that more conversations are had and decisions made from that standpoint

LJ Wants them back at a later date, will confirm w LJ;

Blight Resolution

Discussion of developing a new resolution; review of areas that depts were responsible for in 2018 and 2019 and advisement of whether dept would like to continue focusing on those activities and if there are performance measures intended to accomplish utilizing the proposed budget within the dept

-Z Williams: draft ideas for 2021 Blight Resolution

County will abate/demolish at least 100 blighted properties

County will appoint 4 board members to the DeKalb Regional Land Bank Authority

County will implement the results of the Comprehensive Property Conditions Surveys for Unincorporated DeKalb County (Blight Inventory Study) using county & federal funds

Code Compliance will abate or demolish 100 properties

County will improve tracking of demolition and abatement

Commission will submit for approval the adoption of the International Property Maintenance Code

Planning will take lead on the repeated offenders list with includes several Task Forces: 1) hotel/motel, 2) multi-family, 3) late night establishment

County will continue to develop a comprehensive affordable housing strategy

-LJ: this has been 2 years in the making; let's revise this into another name like the Revitalization Resolution rather than Blight resolution. Let's make this more holistic; more than just demolishing homes, it's about uplifting the community and addressing the cycle of poverty

Economic development and incentives for underserved communities

Transportation

Housing affordability

-Question JR: I have not reviewed that document. Please circulate to BOC Z Williams; additionally can we get report from Mr. Mitchell's presentation from last year? Can we look at the neighborhood level instead of county-wide?

Z Williams: will reach out to LJ regarding this resolution and other items (IGA, urban redevelopment plan, etc) with a calendar of when these items will be provided to the BOC

Allen Mitchell: surveyed parcels in the county; there are 200 properties in really bad shape and have been identified; open to giving presentation as to where these blighted properties are. Once the courts are back up, they will be able to adjudicate. In terms of funding, the scope of work must fit within federal guidelines of blight so that proper funding will be provided

-LJ: we need to find additional funds to aid in creating more holistic approaches rather than just what the federal government states

-Question MDJ: has to go before a judge and receive a court order before a property can be demolished. Have we sent information to citizens in DeKalb that notifies them that courts are currently not hearing cases? If the public doesn't know that, then they will question the commissioners asking them why blight hasn't been addressed.

Z Williams: currently there is no current systematic notification to residents that the courts are not hearing cases

-Question LJ: provide the commissioners with the list of blight houses and their potential court dates, and leave the CEO's office as the POC for communication/questions

Z Williams: this is in line with one the draft ideas provided in today's presentation to track the demolition and abatement process

V Ernstes: We are in discussion with Chief Judge for starting the adjudication process without it being in person; V Ernstes will report back to the BOC with this information

Z Williams: will create an updated draft of the revitalization resolution and creation of blight calendar; targeted for presentation on next PECS meeting 2/9/21

Decide DeKalb Incentives Policy

This item was not heard;

Urban Redevelopment Plan

DeKalb County Urban Redevelopment Plan 2021 Update (Sunny Anderson)

Purpose: to update the Urban Redevelopment Plan; URA (OCGA 36-61-1)

Changing the map so that the unincorporated areas are more accurately identified; makes the zones more eligible for Opportunity Zone tax credits

Z Williams: we should create an agenda item and add this to the next agenda

-Question JR: does it need to be contiguous areas?

S Anderson: that is correct; the URA should be contiguous

-Question JR: How long will it take to do the updated plan?

S Anderson: updated plan is based on the documented review process; depends on how long it goes through law review, Urban Redevelopment Authority, and BOC

S Anderson: will speak with the administration and provide an estimate of completion to BOC

Motion by MDJ of recommendation for approval; will be on next BOC agenda

Second by JR

IV. AGENDA ITEM

2020-1521

Commission District(s): All
Waiver of Penalties and Fees

MOTION was made by Jeff Rader, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be recommended for approval to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 2/9/2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Member Rader, Chairperson Johnson, and Member Davis Johnson

Comm. Rader: intended to provide breathing room for all businesses and occupational fees

Waivers and fees pushed back 6 months (from April to October)

Andrew Baker: do a strikethrough

Rader: is this item ripe for recommendation?

Rader: motion of recommendation for approval as a strikethrough, then remit recommendation to the BOC

Meeting Ended At: 3:20 PM

MOTION was made by Jeff Rader, seconded by Mereda Davis Johnson, that this agenda item be adjourned meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Member Rader, Chairperson Johnson, and Member Davis Johnson

Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC