

Minutes - Draft

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

Tuesday, October 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: 2:03PM

Attendance: Commissioners Johnson, Davis Johnson, Rader, Bradshaw, Patrick, Terry, Cochran-Johnson

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

I. MINUTES

2021-3236 Commission District(s): ALL
Minutes for the October 12, 2021 Planning, Economic Development, and Community Services Committee Meeting
MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Jeff Rader, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

II. DISCUSSION

National Nonpartisan Voter Rights

Honorable Michael B. Hancock: Mayor - Denver, CO

-information provided by Mayor Hancock; film snippet of "Otis' Dream" played for the committee

-Question LJ: what is the percentage of voter turnout when mail in ballots are made?

Mayor Hancock: We are over 86% voter turnout

III. STATUS UPDATE

Public Private Partnerships

-information provided by COO Williams

-Question LJ: When will you have it ready for us to move forward on? By the end of the year?

COO Williams: Absolutely; we can probably have it ready sooner

-LJ: I just want a document that the committee can review over the holidays so that we can pass something in December

IV. AGENDA ITEM

Previously Heard Agenda Items:

[2021-2598](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

DeKalb County No Net Loss of Trees Policy

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 11/9/2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

-information provided by Director Baker

-A Baker: This has been reviewed by Law and Planning to make the adjustments as necessary

-Question LJ: could you send that to us?

T Phillips: I sent an email on October 6th with the latest copy

-Question JR: have you all figured out a way that we would do a tree survey and assessment where we are removing trees in right of way that are not recompense or replacement? We discussed having a tree survey done so that we could measure the net state of our tree policy. Is that in the policy ordinance?

T Phillips: reading of the scope under paragraph 2 of the document

-JR: so we are going to clear a section of a sewer easement, which has trees that need to be removed. So we would do a tree survey of that section of the easement, identify the healthy trees to be part of our inventory; after we have cut the trees, we would then look for opportunities of feasible replacements within the context of that project. Therefore it would be possible we are not able to replace all the trees taken down because we have a mandate for clear easements. At that point, the number of trees replaced would be less than the total number of trees, and we would simply be able to maintain that as an inventory of tree loss associated with easement maintenance - that would not be inconsistent with our policy but would also give us the opportunity to measure that parameter. Is that right?

A Baker: that would be how I would interpret that yes. As this is adopted we will have conversations with the vendors that do this work as well as Watershed so that everyone is aware of the expectations of the County

-JR: we also have the opportunity of using a development tree bank to make up in

A Baker: We also do have a line item for a monetary tree bank. If there is a line item to donate, we will be able to look at that too

-LJ: you have to also educate people on the purpose of the easement; anything you can add that would be great

-Question TT: to clarify, when we do Watershed projects in city limits, we go through their process for tree ordinances/tree banks. Is the tree survey we will have to do later like the beginning of each year to address in the general fund, or do we keep this associated from project to project?

Z Williams: I don't have a personal preference to which logistic route we'd take

A Baker: with each project we'll try to ensure we meet the no net loss of trees policy; I think we should have some updates to this committee or to the ad-hoc committee to level set on expectations as we finish the year

2021-3120

Commission District(s): All

Awarding of the 2021 Human Services Grants to Local Non-Profits-At a Cost of \$617,808 to the County

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 11/9/2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

-no additional information requested

New Agenda Items:

[2021-3244](#)

Commission District(s): All

To Appropriate \$1,000,000 from Non-Departmental - General Fund - Reserve for Contingencies to Georgia Piedmont Technical College for the Regional Transportation & Training Center.

MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Jeff Rader, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 11/9/2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

-Z Williams: I would like to defer this item for 2 weeks

-Motion to defer MDJ

Second JR

-MDJ: it may be appropriate for Senator Jones to come back at the next meeting when we're ready to vote and we hear of any issues that we need to resolve

-Question JR: this appears to be a contribution to supplement funding for the department of adult and technical education?

Z Williams: that is correct

-Question JR: I would interested to know if this is a common practice in Georgia where if a jurisdiction wants to expand what a department wants to do, they would appropriate county general fund revenues for that purpose. To the legal questions you may be reviewing, is this a permissible use of County tax funds to supplement the state fund? Has this been done elsewhere? Has the school system been approached and/or do this? The Board of Education has a SPLOST bond that is upcoming for approval, and theoretically this could be part of it.

Z Williams: we will take these questions and will be prepared to bring back a response

-MDJ: I won't assume what the legal issue is since it hasn't been brought to our attention. Regarding our South DeKalb residents, we know that Georgia Piedmont is located in South DeKalb. The highest dropout rates are in the 5th and 3rd districts; there are benefits that will be to citizens in DeKalb County. I will come back and talk later on this once Law has provided us the questions/information that they have. Secondly, the mind is a terrible thing to waste. This extension of the campus will be located in an area where the highest dropout rates are. When you have high dropout rates, you have high crime; people uneducated and unskilled will be ones who steal and kill; we should do everything to educate and provide everyone in the County the opportunity for education, technical training, entertainment, and whatever we can do to improve the educational accessibility in DeKalb County.

-Vote: yes unanimous

[2021-3093](#)

Commission District(s): AL

RFP - Request for Proposal No. 21-500587 Manage, Operate, and Maintain the DeKalb Tennis Center (Revenue Generating Multiyear Contract): for use by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs (RPCA). Consists of the operation, management and maintenance of the DeKalb Tennis Center. Recommend award to the sole proposer who is responsive and responsible bidder: Agape Tennis Academy: Revenue Generating

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 11/9/2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

-information provided by Director Ellis

-Question JR: I saw in the survey, the firm referenced facility improvements as a reservation they have in bidding on the contract. We still have funds in the 2006 bond issue reserved for improvements on this. We should be listening closely to what the vendor would see as improvements there; I would like to go forward so that we can commit to what we did in the 2006 bond issue. I would also like to call this out as a model for our facilities, whether tennis or golf; we need to see a response from the public that this is something that merits the extensive investment we're making on this. I'm hoping we can get together on the firm to discuss this.

C Ellis: I'd be happy to follow up on that

2021-3152

Commission District(s): ALL

RFP - Request for Proposals No. 21-500585 Landscape Maintenance Services for County Parks (Multiyear Contract): for use by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs (RPCA): Consists of landscape and maintenance of all County Parks. Recommend award to the highest scoring proposers: Yellowstone Landscape Company and M.J. Lawn & Maintenance Services, Inc. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$2,175,000.00.

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 11/9/2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

-information provided by Director Ellis

-Question JR: regarding sustainable approaches to landscape maintenance, does this include alternatives to look at alternative plantings that allow us to have a lower footprint?

C Ellis: This contract is particularly for mowing and picking up trash,; things like that. We are looking at some of these tree plantings as a way to cut down on maintenance costs; we're continually looking at it but it's not included in this contract.

-Question JR: does this include chemical herbicides?

P Singer: We don't use herbicides in the park; there is no fertilization as part of this contract either

JR: perhaps with this project we could make it a test electric leaf blower operation

-LJ: The landscapes in our parks have really improved; this has been a huge improvement and you have done a great job maintaining our parks

2021-3235

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts

A Resolution Implementing Regulations to Prohibit Contracting with Businesses that Fail to Address Discrimination and for Other Lawful Purposes

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 11/9/2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

-information provided by Commissioner Rader, Law

-Question JR: will the contractors we pay also abide by our nondiscrimination policies?

M Welch: That is correct; it does extend those protections to those contractors and their employees who do work with our County

-Question TT: the exhibit here says contracts exceeding \$100,000

-Question RP: I wanted to acknowledge Commissioner Rader for his work and time on this, which is relevant to a large portion of our population

Meeting Ended At: 2:55PM

MOTION was made by Mereda Davis Johnson, seconded by Jeff Rader, 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