

**Minutes - Draft**

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

*Commissioner Michelle Long Spears, (Chair)*  
*Commissioner Robert Patrick, Member*  
*Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Member*

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Monday, April 22, 2024

11:00 AM

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**Special Called Meeting**

Meeting Started At: 11:03AM

Attendees: Commissioners Long Spears, Patrick, Bradshaw

**Present**      3 - Commissioner Michelle Long Spears, Commissioner Robert Patrick, and Commissioner Steve Bradshaw

**I. MINUTES**

**2024-0530**      Commission District(s): ALL  
Minutes for the April 9, 2024 Planning, Economic Development, and Community Services Committee Meeting

**MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Bradshaw**

**II. AGENDA ITEM**

*New Agenda Items:*

**Human Services**

[2024-0485](#) Commission District(s): All  
CO - Change Order No. 3 to Contract No. 1226949 Meal Services for Seniors: Provision of Congregate & Shelf-Stable Meals for Senior Centers (Annual Contract with 2 Options to Renew): for use by the Human Services Department (HS). This contract consists of the provision of congregate and shelf-stable meals for seniors in DeKalb County. This request seeks to increase the contract term through April 30, 2026 using remaining available funds. Awarded to Meals On Wheels Atlanta, Inc. CONTRACT TERM INCREASE ONLY.

**MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 4/23/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Bradshaw**

*-information provided by Director Damon Scott*

#### **Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs (RPCA)**

[2024-0491](#) Commission District(s): ALL  
CA - Playground and Outdoor Fitness Equipment, Site Accessories, Surfacing and Related Products and Services (City of Charlotte, NC/Omnia Contract No. 2017001135): for use by the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs (RPCA). This request seeks to purchase from the competitively let City of Charlotte, NC/Omnia contract for the installation of new playground equipment at Emory Grove Park. Awarded to: Kompan, Inc. Amount Not To Exceed: \$345,707.51.

**MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 4/23/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Bradshaw**

*-information provided by Director Ellis*

*Previously Heard Agenda Items:*

**Board of Commissioners - District 2**

[2023-1603](#)

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts  
An Ordinance Requiring That the Attached Notice of Certain Georgia Landlord (Lessor) And Tenant (Lessee) Rights and Responsibilities (Exhibit A) Shall be Provided by All Landlords Leasing Real Property or Living Units Within Dekalb County Georgia for Residential Purposes, Prior to the Signing Of Any Lease And as an Attachment to Any Unsigned Lease Agreement, to Prospective Tenants Seeking to Lease Any Such Property or Unit; And Requiring That Both Parties to Every Such Residential Lease Shall Sign the Attached Notice Acknowledging Its Receipt Upon Signing Such Lease; And for Other Purposes.

**MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 4/23/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Bradshaw**

*-information provided by Commissioner Long Spears*

*-MLS: request to defer this item for 30 days to come back to PECS*

*-RP: motion to defer 30 days back to PECS*

**Board of Commissioners - Super District 7**

[2024-0347](#)

Commission District(s): All Districts  
Resolution to Address Eliminating Blight Caused by Unattended Donation Boxes.

**MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 4/23/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Bradshaw**

*-information provided by Attorney Phillips*

### III. DISCUSSION

DeKalb County Public Library Update

-presentation provided by Director Weissinger to the PECS Committee

-Question MLS: are there any challenges you are having with your library branches that you would like to discuss today?

-Director Weissinger discussed challenges regarding security at branches, and challenges with the unhoused population in DeKalb

-Question RP: what is the average age of our buildings?

A Weissinger: we have 23 branches; about half have been renovated or newly built in the last 20 years, and other branches have not been renovated in the last 30 years. Additional comments provided by Director Weissinger

-Question RP: What is the average size of a library these days?

A Weissinger: we don't like to build anything less than 12,000 square feet to accommodate the elements for the public and staff. Additional response provided by Director Weissinger

-Question RP: for the smaller libraries, could you provide more info on the preschool program. What is the minimum size you would need for that program?

A Weissinger: space-wise we would need a dedicated meeting room; I would have to get back to you regarding the funding

-Question RP: regarding mobile hotspots, do you need more funding for that?

A Weissinger: we always need more

-Question RP: if you could get me more info on the number of hotspots needed for District 1 please. Also please send an email detailing the different passes you have at libraries

-Question SB: regarding security as an issue at libraries, what is the protocol there and how is that being addressed?

-response provided by Director Weissinger

-Question SB: fine-free, will that be your motto going forward?

A Weissinger: yes

-Question SB: is the State funding you receive consistent from year to year?

-response provided by Director Weissinger

-Question SB: regarding County funding, over the last 7-8 years is the current funding the highest it's ever been?

A Weissinger: yes

-Question SB: what is the lowest it's ever been?

A Weissinger: around 2011 we were receiving around \$17 million from the County; additional comments provided by Director Weissinger

-Question SB: what is the size of the Sue Kellogg library?

A Weissinger: it is around 9800 square feet; additional comments provided by Director Weissinger

-Question MLS: discussing SPLOST last year, you stated there were 9 branches that needed renovation or refresh. Are there other branches receiving a refresh?

-response provided by Director Weissinger

-Question MLS: when do you think the Brookhaven renovation will be complete?

-response provided by Director Weissinger

-Question MLS: how much additional dollars do you feel you would need to complete sufficiently what we want at the Brookhaven branch?

A Weissinger: probably \$2 million or so

-Question MLS: are there additional phases to the bathroom renovations or would that sufficiently update at the facilities?

-response provided by Director Weissinger

-Question MLS: where are you receiving the most requests?

A Weissinger: right now it seems to be downloadable audiobooks. Additional comments provided by Director Weissinger

-Question MLS: do you anticipate asking for additional dollars next year to contribute to our digital circulation?

-response provided by Director Weissinger

-Question MLS: regarding local attraction passes, how are you doing on those?

-response provided by Director Weissinger

-Question MLS: what is the design of that partnership with those entities?

A Weissinger: they are negotiated with Georgia Public Library Association; usually they are donated; Additional comments provided by Director Weissinger

## WorkSource DeKalb Update

- presentation provided by Director Robert Davis to the PECS Committee
- Question RP: how do you determine the places across the County to have more outreach?
- response provided by Director Davis
- Question RP: do you have relationships with the different CID's in the County?
- R Davis: yes I have worked with the Tucker CID as well; additional partnerships discussed by Director Davis
- Question RP: regarding youth services, could you provide more information on those partnerships?
- response provided by Director Davis
- Question MLS: regarding outreach, it appears District 4 has had a high concentration of services. I would like to have more representation in my District for these programs. In what ways do you get the word out for programs such as the Virtual Academy?
- response provided by Director Davis
- Question MLS: you mentioned difficulty retaining the driver for the mobile unit. Could you elaborate on what that is attributed to?
- response provided by Director Davis
- Question MLS: if you could please provide a narrative for the budget slides that are provided
- R Davis: will do

#### IV. STATUS UPDATE

##### Open DeKalb Project

- presentation provided by Kwasi Obeng, BOC Chief of Staff
- Question MLS: when can we expect something in writing from you?
- response provided by Dr. Obeng
- Question MLS: could you send to the Committee members a status update in writing based on what you have said? Could you have that to us by this Friday?
- K Obeng: yes ma'am
- Question MLS: in your report Friday could you provide information on how the PSE and Southface project intersect?K
- Obeng: yes ma'am
- Question RP: the engagement that we're looking at is immigrant and new arrivals?
- response provided by Dr. Obeng
- comments provided by Commissioner Patrick

Meeting Ended At: 12:33PM

**MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Steve Bradshaw, that this agenda item be adjourned meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Commissioner Long Spears, Commissioner Patrick, and Commissioner Bradshaw**

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Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC