



SPLOST Citizen Oversight Committee  
Meeting Minutes, November 15, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

1 NOVEMBER 15, 2018

2 SPLOST OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES

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4 The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by  
5 Co-Chair Teresa Hardy. Members present included:

6 Teresa Hardy, Co-Chair, CEO

7 Roderick Frierson, Co-Chair, District 5

8 Isaac Blythers, District 4

9 Nancy Love, District 2

10 Charles McCorkle, District 7, via telephone

11 Jenna Teston, District 1 Unincorporated DeKalb

12 Alice White Bussey, District 3

13 Gale Walldorff, CEO

14 Also present was Delores Crowell, DeKalb County  
15 Government Affairs Director; Zack Williams, Executive  
16 Assistant and Chief Operating Officer; Felton Williams,  
17 Procurement Project Manager for DeKalb First LSBE  
18 Program; Dianne McNabb, County Financial Officer; and  
19 Chris Kingsbury, Moreland Altobelli representative.

20 The Mission Statement was read by Co-Chair Roderick  
21 Frierson: "DeKalb County Special Purpose Local Option  
22 Sales Tax will support county-wide improvements that  
23 promote a high quality of life for all residents."

24 Ms. Walldorff moved adoption of the agenda, and it  
25 was seconded by Ms. Bussey and unanimously approved by

1 the committee.

2 A discussion was had about the format to be used  
3 for future publication of the minutes on the website.  
4 The committee had reviewed Option A, which would include  
5 an outline of discussions, questions and answers,  
6 identification of speakers, and actions taken. Option B  
7 would be a very brief report on discussions and actions  
8 taken. Ms. Walldorff moved to adopt Option A, and the  
9 motion was seconded by Ms. Love. After discussion the  
10 motion to approve Option A was carried. Ms. Bussey  
11 abstained, stating that she believed the entire  
12 transcript should be published so that the public could  
13 see the entirety of discussions and decisions made.

14 Under new business, Ms. Love moved that the  
15 committee defer discussion of the recently received  
16 drafted bylaws red-lined by legal to a later meeting to allow the committee  
17 a chance to review them. Ms. Walldorff seconded the  
18 motion and it was passed unanimously. The committee  
19 also agreed to put the drafted bylaws on the agenda at  
20 their January meeting.

21 Chris Kingsbury with Moreland Altobelli, the SPLIST  
22 program manager, presented a brief review of progress  
23 since the SPLIST referendum was approved on November 7,  
24 2017, including purchases that have been made, meetings  
25 held with all concerned departments to allocate

1 resources, and contracts awarded for road resurfacing.  
2 He reported on a consent decree with watershed  
3 management to ensure that any watershed improvement work  
4 gets done first before a road is resurfaced. Moreland  
5 Altobelli is working closely with Dianne McNabb, the  
6 county's financial officer, to ensure that funds are  
7 available to pay for any obligations made. He reported  
8 on the new accounting system that will allow all  
9 departments to be on the same page with information in  
10 the same format. He discussed work being done on the  
11 website that will be available to the public to track  
12 progress on projects. Going forward Moreland Altobelli  
13 is scheduling follow-up meetings, and next year the  
14 board of commissioners will be scheduling  
15 SPLOST-specific meetings to discuss such things as  
16 possible debt instruments, leveraging GDOT funds, and  
17 the prioritization process for paving jobs and  
18 sidewalks.

19 Ms. Bussey pointed out that the information  
20 received in the spreadsheets and flow charts, etc., was  
21 too complicated for the public to understand, too many  
22 acronyms; that there needed to be easy-to-understand  
23 information given to the public. In the information  
24 presented she didn't see mention of involving the public  
25 and receiving public input into the process.

1 Ms. Hardy requested that more visual arts be used  
2 on the website and that the information presented be  
3 more user-friendly.

4 Mr. Frierson commented that the cross-collaboration  
5 of the departments was a great way to approach the  
6 projects.

7 Mr. Zack Williams remarked that when DeKalb County  
8 finishes work in an area, they will have addressed a  
9 number of issues including parks, trails, and storm  
10 drains, and made the whole area better.

11 Ms. Hardy mentioned that sidewalks and streetlights  
12 are big issues in the south DeKalb area.

13 The committee again discussed more user-friendly  
14 information for the public, possibly a hand-out that  
15 could be given to the public by oversight committee  
16 members.

17 Mr. Zack Williams stressed that the key message for  
18 the public is that 100 miles of roads are being paved  
19 this year, as opposed to the historical 25 miles paved  
20 in years past.

21 Mr. Blythers asked what funds were being used for  
22 work done adjacent to SPLOST-funded paving, such as  
23 parks and storm drains. Mr. Williams stated that it  
24 came from the county's operating parks budget, roads and  
25 maintenance, not SPLOST dollars.

1 Ms. Bussey reiterated that she needs more  
2 information on the broad categories covered in the  
3 referendum to answer the calls and questions she's been  
4 receiving about what is being done.

5 A discussion was had about the matching funds for  
6 the state Local Maintenance Improvement Grants.

7 Mr. Felton Williams, Procurement Project Manager  
8 for DeKalb First Local Small Business Enterprise,  
9 reported to the committee on how to do business with  
10 DeKalb County. He outlined the process to become  
11 certified as a local small business. Certification is  
12 for a term of three years, and then a business must  
13 reapply. The prime contractors in the county are  
14 expected to partner with the small businesses once they  
15 are certified, to help them learn how to become  
16 successful as a large business, understand bonding and  
17 administrative operations, etc. The second Friday of  
18 each month sessions with the prime contractors and  
19 certified small businesses are held at the Department of  
20 Watershed Management, 4572 Memorial Drive.

21 Ms. Bussey asked if the state's definition of small  
22 business followed the federal SBA definition, usually  
23 500 or fewer employees. Mr. Felton Williams said they  
24 follow benchmarks for services: \$3 million for commodity  
25 services, \$5 million for professional services, and \$35

1 million for construction. A business must fall in those  
2 benchmarks to be considered as a small business.

3 Ms. Bussey asked how the LSBE related to the racial  
4 composition of the county, and Mr. Williams said that  
5 the program is not specifically race based; that it  
6 deals with the benchmarks of average gross receipts and  
7 value. Ms. Bussey requested that they look at how to  
8 get more inclusion of the population, especially  
9 minority women.

10 Ms. Crowell mentioned that having the purchasing  
11 contracts group make a presentation to the oversight  
12 committee was because of the increasing interest in  
13 information on how to do business with DeKalb County,  
14 and that in the future either a representative from the  
15 purchasing contracts group would attend the oversight  
16 committee meetings to answer questions from the public  
17 or there would be literature available. She also  
18 suggested having a complete presentation to the  
19 committee on the different informational tools that will  
20 be available to take out to the community, including  
21 brochures and videos. And she asked the committee to  
22 bear with them as they create the tools and make sure  
23 they are complete and accurate before they're released  
24 for use.

25 There were no public comments presented.

1 Ms. Hardy then asked for committee member comments.

2 Ms. Bussey mentioned that the public doesn't have a  
3 good understanding of what the public voted on with the  
4 SPLOST referendum. A discussion followed on a lot of  
5 the aspects of SPLOST including homestead exemption,  
6 what unincorporated means, EHOST. Ms. Crowell pointed  
7 out that the ballot explained what citizens were voting  
8 on and that the oversight committee is only charged with  
9 overseeing how the SPLOST money is spent.

10 Ms. Teston thanked the presenters for all the  
11 helpful information and suggested in the future, if any  
12 public comments are given, that the public fill out a  
13 form with their name and address so the appropriate  
14 person could follow up with the information needed.  
15 Ms. Love agreed, and the committee agreed to follow that  
16 procedure in the future.

17 Mr. Frierson thanked the presenters for putting the  
18 information on the website and said he thought that was  
19 the best template to share with people about progress on  
20 the projects.

21 There being no further comments from committee  
22 members, Mr. Frierson moved that the meeting be  
23 adjourned. Ms. Teston seconded the motion, and it was  
24 unanimously carried.

25 (The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.)