

Minutes: One Boro Meeting
June 19, 2021, at 5:30 pm via Zoom

Voting Members present: April Schueths, Chair, Stacy Smallwood, Vice-Chair, Jacek Lubecki, Secretary, Julie Pickens, Treasurer, Janice Cawthorn, Annie Hills, Suzanne Shurling, Nandi Marshall, Barb King, Johnny Gamble, Que'Andra Campbell

Ex-Officio Members present: Marcus Toole, Jesse Hartlett, Julie Chance

COS Representatives present: Demetrius Bynes, HR Director; Zakiya Daniel, GSU City Intern
Also present, Mayor McCollar.

The meeting started at 5:35 pm, presided by April Schueths

Approval of the agenda

Motion by: Janice

Approved by: Stacy

Approved: unanimous

Approval of minutes from June 7, 2021

Motion by: Janice

Second: Suzanne

Discussion: none

Approved: unanimous

No public comments

I. Mayor McCollar remarks:

He thanked One Boro for its work, and elaborated on its accomplishments.

April thanked the Mayor for his comments. She also praised Demetrius for his work, and expressed understanding about the nature of City government processes. April also voiced some specific concerns about implementation of specific items of One Boro agenda.

Mayor McCollar expressed an understanding of the concerns. His speech nuanced the issues at hand, and also praised Demetrius. He drew attention to transformative nature of his government, and of One Boro agenda. He asked One Boro not to be frustrated, as the nature of the work “is the labor of love” and, on the long term, transforms the City.

Stacy thanked the Mayor for his words. He also asked the Mayor to prioritize the work and agenda of One Boro.

The Mayor advised more frequent consultation between One Boro and the City Council through attending Council Work sessions. He also indicated that City Council would welcome a representative from One Boro at all City Council meetings.

April asked specifically about the transportation issue related to Industrial Park and the time frame for the deployment of the buses.

The Mayor provided an update and explained that bus manufacturing issues have slowed down the implementation scheduled for July.

Jesse asked about the specific ideas regarding public transportation and its expansion.

The Mayor responded with a nuanced description regarding the City public transportation system. He provided a complex overview of the expansion idea.

Johnny asked a question about the fact that public transformation will be free initially, but then start charging.

The Mayor answered the question.

Julie Chance asked a question regarding the misconception that the public transportation will go to the Industrial Park. She also asked other questions regarding the economic and logistical dynamics of the issue.

Mayor McCollar responded with a sophisticated description of his ongoing talks with the local industrial community and how the transportation issue is a part of his ongoing negotiations.

Julie Chance responded by offering her contacts, and specifically, the Industry Group meeting as a possibility of further consultation on the issue. Mayor McCollar expressed interest in attending their next meeting and Julie agreed to email him the information

April brought in a suggestion previously discussed by One Boro, regarding eventual hiring of a training director – ideally, a local person – who could be potentially in charge of training for diversity of inclusion for the City. She discussed specifically the notion that the current idea of hiring businesses outside of our community for diversity and training might not be the optimal idea.

Mayor McCollar agreed and expressed a desire that an in-house, locally hired diversity and inclusion director is the best idea on the long term. He mentioned that this is the current practice in most top-performing municipalities, He further elaborated on the idea, and expressed that diversity and inclusion is the top priority for the City.

April asked a follow up question about budgetary priorities with regard to diversity and inclusion.

The Mayor answered by stating that funding for Commissions' agendas is available. He also expressed confidence in the City's financial condition, which makes funding for One Boro priorities possible. He asked One Boro to create a request of budget priorities.

April invited Ms. Janice to state her ideas.

Janice expressed a general confidence in the work of One Boro accomplished so far. She expressed a desire to see real results to be in place, not just institutional placeholders.

Suzanne stated, "I have never been afraid to be the squeaky wheel," and she expressed some frustration with how the One Boro agenda has been received by the City. She, just like Janice, wants real results, and not just window dressing.

Mayor McCollar responded with an appeal to One Boro members to contact him personally when issues arise. He expressed confidence in the struggles discussed and the desire to persist and to show the community that we are together. The Mayor further elaborated on his ideas.

Stacy followed up summing up processed-oriented ideas derived from the remarks of the Mayor. These include:

- 1) Steady representation of One Boro 1) on the City Council, in particular Work Session meetings
- 2) Addressing concerns directly to the Mayor

Johnny followed up with concerns about public transportation.

The Mayor responded. More discussion followed,

Marcus discussed issue of housing, and the progress made therein. He thinks that One Boro needs to have a conversation about housing.

The Mayor discussed the report on housing, and the issue of substandard housing. He discussed the general issue of social and economic vulnerability in the community. He thanked Marcus for bringing out the issue.

April thanked the Mayor for participating in the meeting. The Mayor thanked One Boro for its work.

II. Old business:

Demetrious's report: July 7 was the completion of the program internship program. He further elaborated on hiring decisions of HR department.

Stacy asked a budgetary question about One Boro priorities and elaborating One Boro budget.

Subcommittee reports:

Equity metrics: Janice reported the subcommittee will continue with the agenda.

Training: Julie talked about her subcommittee agenda.

Violence prevention: Suzanne and Johnny discussed that they would have their first subcommittee meeting on the following day

Workforce Development: Jesse and Julie Chance discussed a brief summary of their upcoming agenda.

Stacy discussed interoperability between One Boro and the Youth Commission. He expressed a desire for more interoperability. Demetrious seconded that point.

Julie Chance discussed more of interoperability between her work and Demetrious.

Community Garden: Marcus gave a report. He further elaborated on the priorities of the Subcommittee.

Demetrious rejoined the conversation, regarding interoperability between Keep Statesboro Beautiful and the Community Garden initiative. A discussion followed.

April mentioned that Discovery Bulloch will run a story about One Boro in August.

Stacy discussed the issue of park accessibility and a particular person concerned. Specific items (physical park furniture) were discussed in this context. A general discussion followed. Julie expressed an opinion that this is more of a Parks and Recreation agenda item. Demetrious asked for the specific individual's contact information and Stacy agreed to provide it to Demetrius so Demetrius can follow up.

Stacy reminded everyone about the Violence Prevention Subcommittee meeting tomorrow (July 20)

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: Stacy

Second: Janice

Approved.

The meeting ended at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Jacek Lubecki, One Boro Secretary