

Minutes: One Boro Meeting
August 2, 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, Suzanne Shurling, Nandi Marshall, Barb King, Johnny Gamble, Freddie Hagan

Ex-Officio Members present: Marcus Toole, Julie Chance

COS Representatives present: Demetrius Bynes, HR Director; Zakiya Daniel, GSU City Intern

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

Approval of the agenda

Motion by: Stacy

Approved by: Freddie

Approved: unanimous

Approval of minutes from July 19, 2021

Motion by: Nandi

Second: Julie

Discussion: none

Approved: unanimous

No public comments

Zakiya reintroduced herself to the group. She is a graduate student at Georgia Southern, and she is interning with Mr. Penny and Demetrious.

I. Old Business:

a. Demetrious report:

Several items discussed at the last meeting were taken back to the administration.

- 1) The website regarding the non-discrimination ordinance is being looked at in terms of facilitating access to the facility/minimizing the number of clicks.
- 2) The Mayor attended the industry group meeting regarding the City transportation plan. The issue was discussed with industry representatives.

April: asked a question regarding the google doc form for the anti-Discrimination Ordinance.

Demetrious: there is no barrier regarding the form, it is already accessible.

April: is there a timeline regarding the website?

Demetrious: No, but I will provide the timeline next month.

b. Equity Metrics:

Stacy: I have no updates. Ms. Janice is absent, so she would have a report.

c. The Longest Table

Barb: We are thinking about postponing the event until the situation with COVID is clarified.

d. Violence Prevention

Suzanne: the task force is bringing together new people, which is welcome. The next meeting will happen soon.

April: met Sergeant Byrd, SPD was really impressed with her perspective as a potential member of the subcommittee

Suzanne: We welcome law enforcement participation in the Task Force. We want to stay with violence prevention focus, instead of crime prevention focus.

e. Workforce development:

Julie Chance: The meeting between industry representatives and the Mayor regarding the transportation issue was very fruitful. The Mayor discussed the introduction of public transportation to the City. Data-gathering was discussed. Information from industry would be useful to the Mayor. Industry's concern is transportation and daycare. An idea of a well-designed survey to assess the industry transportation needs would be welcome, and perhaps some members of one Boro can help with designing the survey. Also, it was discussed that public transportation is an issue where the industry and the City should cooperate. This is the good strategic moment to work out issues. Again, transportation and child-care are key issue.

April repeated the time and date of new meeting, September 24 at 7:30 am

Stacy: thanked Julie for reporting on the meeting. Do you specifically what data might be helpful?

Julie: there is a lot of labor-force data already gathered. There is also census data. A lot of depends on industry needs and specific of shifts. Technical issues and connecting of routes is involved.

April: I think that Jesse already compiled some data.

Julie: Yes. We need to identify what is missing.

April: how many members of the industry group are there?

Julie: Briggs and Stratton, Great Dane, Walmart distribution, and a couple of others are the biggies. 4-5.

Freddie: given how small the city transit vehicles are, will they make an impact?

Julie: What was more discussed was the connection. Also, OTC might be interested in bringing students to Ogeechee. The meeting was very positive and the Mayor received a lot of support from the industry during the meeting.

April praised the progress that took place on the issue.

g) Community Garden

Marcus: We applied for a \$70 thousand grant to USDA. The resources are crucial for the initiative. Some money can perhaps be repurposed from Habitat, but specific and substantial resources are necessary.

April: Will Habitat run the project?

Marcus: We want to be the initiators, but not necessarily to run the project. We want to create a separate board and a 501c(3) separate non-profit corporation to run the effort. It is an issue of logistics, but also liability. Also, the City is unlikely to run it. Parks in Statesboro are run by the County, and this would be like a park. So, an autonomous organization is best.

Stacy: I had talked to Councilwoman Chavers about the issue. The Beloved Community is also involved and will conduct FGL sessions. There might be other ways and organization to be involved into the initiative. Other than the main locations are also studied in addition to the main location. There will be guided conversations.

Julie: The Office of Leadership was involved, but some involvement will remain.

Julie and Marcus will exchanged information about the Campus involvement.

h) Stacy and Demetrious: the issue of disability accessibility

Stacy: There was a specific issue of accessibility in parks, specifically regarding park benches. There was a lot of electronic activity about it, involving the City Council, and Students with Disability Advocacy Group. Their founding members will come. (Julie is the faculty advisor to the group). The students are willing to speak to the City Council.

Demetrious: I spoke to the Assistant City Manager about it. The Parks were designed with accessibility in mind, and additional elements can be added to already existing accessibility features.

April: I see us as a brokers between interesting parties. I do not think that we take the issue on our own agenda.

Julie: I agree, getting people connected is a great role for One Boro at this point. One day it can become a greater item on our agenda.

April: The Luetta Moore Park reopened, and with new playground equipment and pool, they are great.

New Agenda:

a) Marcus: the issue of Blue Mile, and Downtown Development Authority.

Marcus talked about the development area. Several items were highlighted in the area survey – and it is important that these items are being addressed or were taken care of. Marcus discussed the progress

taken. In this case, people's concerns became an agenda for action, and the people's concerns were addressed, which is great.

b) April: we need to reschedule the next One Boro meeting scheduled for Labor Day.

A discussion of the rescheduling followed.

April: we will move the meeting to September 20, 5:30 PM. The members present agreed with the scheduling.

c) Julie Chance: The big event for the Workforce Development is September 24. I will send a detailed invitation.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Suzanne

Second: Julie

Approved.

The meeting ended at 6:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Jacek Lubecki, One Boro Secretary