

One Boro Minutes, Monday, April 5, 2021 at 5:30 pm
Virtual Meeting

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

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

COS Representatives present: Demetrius Bynes, HR Director; Mayor's Intern: Berenice Zundi; GSU Interns: Ash Strickland & Jelani Crawford

I & II. The Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm & roll call was taken

III. Approval of agenda

- A. Motion by: Janice
- B. Second by: Barb
- C. Discussion: none
- D. Vote result: consensus

IV. Approval of previous meeting minutes (March 1, 2021)

- A. Motion by: Nandi
- B. Second by: Janice
- C. Discussion: none
- D. Vote result: consensus

V. Public Comments: No public comments

VI. Old Business

- A. City of Statesboro Report: Demetrius Bynes, HR Director

Demetrius described his meetings with the City Manager and the Police Chief. Both were pleased with the outcomes of the Violence Prevention Meeting/Conference. The program was considered very positive.

April: special thanks go to Stacy and his role in moderating the discussion.

Demetrius also discussed other issues currently related to the City government. The vaccination for Covid-19 for the City employees is the priority. There is hope that by summer City will return to normalcy.

Training subcommittee also happened, but Demetrius did not have an opportunity to attend it.

- B. FGL Data Report: Ash Strickland, GSU Intern

Ash: I have no updates. I need more clarification in terms of what data we need. I need to talk to you, April.

- C. Equity Metrics Subcommittee Report: Janice Cawthorn, Subcommittee Chair; Members: Stacy Smallwood, Barb King, April Schueths, & Jesse Hartlett

Janice: we are contacting the Police Chief. We need more information from the City about their data.

A discussion of the precise scope of responsibility of the Metrics Subcommittee followed. The subcommittee will invite criminology professors to meet regarding a survey they are planning with the Statesboro Community.

- D. Training Subcommittee Report: Julie Pickens, Subcommittee Chair; Members: Stacy Smallwood, Nandi Marshall, Suzanne Shurling, April Schueths, Jesse Hartlett, & Demetrius Bynes

Julie: The subcommittee met last week. Content experts/trainers and issues of funding were discussed. This is where we are now. We will meet later this month.

April: Demetrius – what are the budget realities?

Demetrius: The City Manager is aware of the issue and there should be some resources available. HR will fund training for some areas. Other City units will fund other type of training. For instance, Police Department should be able to pay for its own trainer, as it is the biggest department. Other departments might assist. We need to have a conversation before any final decision.

Stacy: Out of 6 major Departments – how will the question of funding for training be structured.

Demetrius: Normally, general funds will fund training for departments other than 3 major ones (Police, Utilities, Fire).

Stacy, Demetrius and others further discussed the funding realities. Demetrius emphasized that the City Manager wants a balanced budget.

Demetrius: elected official can do as they wish, including reallocating resources towards One Boro purposes. I believe that One Boro resources should be for purposes other than training.

Stacy: I wonder about the nature of the discussions of the City retreat a couple of weeks ago. Any light on outcomes of these discussions pertaining to One Boro work?

Demetrius: I cannot speak about it for the moment. I would have to consult with City Manager. I will ask this question directly and circle back.

Stacy: let's remember that budgets are moral documents that reflect the priorities of organizations.

- E. The Longest Table Subcommittee Report: Barb King & Julie Pickens, Subcommittee Co-Chairs; Members: Annie Hills, Jacek Lubecki, Stacy Smallwood, & April Schueths

Julie: Nothing to report at this time.

Discussion of the Kiwanis County Fair (it will happen).

- F. Violence Prevention Subcommittee Report: Suzanne Shurling & Johnny Gamble, Subcommittee Co-Chairs; Members: Barb King, Janice Cawthorn, Que'Andra Campbell, Marcus Toole, Stacy Smallwood, & April Schueths

Johnny: I am concerned about non-US citizens at Teal House have to pay for services. Suzanne responded as a volunteer of the Teal House that no one pays for services, regardless of legal status.

Stacy: My general reflection on the violence prevention conference. The conference was a good first step. We need to get the taskforce running. I am looking forward to continuing with the momentum and the work.

- G. Workforce Development Subcommittee Report: Jesse Hartlett & Julie Chance, Subcommittee Co-Chairs; Members: Julie Pickens, Nandi Marshall, April Schueths, Stacy Smallwood, Freddie Hagan, & Johnny Gamble

Jesse: we will meet with Department of Labor in two weeks. I also chose 6 employers in the area which account for the majority of job. He is coordinating potential bus routes related to their shifts.

Julie C.: discussed that WorkSource Coastal Georgia attended the subcommittee meeting and provided information about resources for adolescents and adults.

Stacy: there is a lot of meaningful information and good will being accumulated.

Julie C. discussed the issue of vocational education, Ogeechee, etc. Career/Technical/Vocational education development is the issue. Dual enrollment through Ogeechee Tech and Georgia Southern. These are complicated issues. Figuring out issues is important.

Janice: perhaps regulations are hampering vocational careers of students.

More discussion about technicalities of student careers and its regulation followed.

A connection between issues of educational preparation and juveniles with literacy challenges followed. There is a connection between literacy, careers, and violence prevention.

Julie C.: some statistics on educational achievement are worrisome. We really need to address these issues. Getting children to read by the third grade is critical.

Julie Pickens further discussed the issue. Freddie Hagan also contributed to the discussion. There was a consensus that educational preparation is critical.

Julie C.: last year has been very detrimental to the cause of children's education. Technological challenges were tremendous. Remediation is needed. Children – many – have a year of catching up. Perhaps summer will be used for that purpose, but it costs a lot of money.

Freddie: Funding for activities like community gardens is being provided by USDA. Let's take advantage of these opportunities.

Janice emphasized the issue of technology.

VII. New Business

April: provided information shared with Council member, Barr on the Community Memorial Service. Discussion of the event followed.

Stacy: Mr. Freddie, thank you for bringing up the issue of community garden. Mayor McCollar's emphasis on social infrastructure plays right into it. Having people together in public space is important. This builds a morale of neighborhoods. Community gardens, done right, sounds like a perfect venture in this respect. I am really excited about the idea.

Marcus: A number of us have been pushing this idea. Many stakeholders. YMCA was interested. There are other people in the community that would like to see it happen.

Janice: We used to have community garden. It would be good to look back at the history of it, and what happened to the initiatives.

Julie P.: The Office of Community Engagement at GSU has been involved in community garden project, but this initiative is losing funding this year.

Stacy: At least one garden needs to be located on the West Side. It could be a good investment in that community.

Annie: Paulette talked about a community garden for her district. The discussion was about the location. Perhaps someone can offer a plot of land for that purpose.

Marcus: Chief of Police mentioned a city park as a potential venue. The park at the corner of West Jones.

The location was discussed. Technicalities and various locations were discussed. More discussion followed.

Stacy: we need to develop the process whereby the citizens are at the center of it. For instance, in a similar project I ran, the priority was creating a space for intergenerational communication.

The group decided to continue to explore the issue of community gardens.

VIII. Motion to Adjourn

- A. Motion by: Janice
- B. Second by: Que
- C. Discussion: none
- D. Vote result: unanimous

The meeting ended at 6:37 pm.

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, May 3, 2021 at 5:30 PM