

ESPLOST COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Date: May 11, 2021 8:30 am in HT Edwards, Room 66 and by virtual attendance.

Attendees: Alex Sams Rick Parker Mike Waldrip Nancy Hart Andrew Malec
Lara Mathes Tad MacMillan Erwin Greene Greg Davis Patricia Yager
Allison Wright Xernona Thomas John Gilbreath Troy Basset Gerald Arscott

Staff Reports: Copies of the following were distributed:

- April, 2021 Meeting Summary
- May, 2021 SPLOST Monthly Report
- May, 2021 SPLOST Contingency/Change Order Report
- May, 2021 Construction Schedule
- March, 2021 SPLOST 5 Revenue Monthly Trend
- March, 2021, 2020 SPLOST 5 Financials
- March, 2021 SPLOST 5 Budget Projections

West Broad Campus – The plans are to seek bids for (1) abatement of lead/asbestos and demolition and (2) CM at risk by the end of May for report to the BOE in June. The abatement contract is being let separately in order to avoid delay. Following the resignation of Barbara Black from the project a new preservation architect is being appointed. As with Barbara Black, that architect reports to the School District’s architect Lindsay, Pope, Brayfield. The preservation architect’s role is to advise on the preservation work to be done in the Minor Street building only and to document aspects of the buildings to be demolished. Historic Athens have planned a demonstration to coincide with the May BOE meeting. The key issue missing in much of the discussion is that the two-storey building cannot be retained AND meet the School District’s requirements for an early learning center. Clarification was given that there is only one local building committee; recent reference to an “ad hoc committee” was meant as referring to the local building committee. The meeting was reminded that the local building committee, which includes immediate neighbors of the property, and some who attended the school, have contributed to the discussions and design and has been a consistent group over three sessions. They are enthusiastic about the new use of the site and that it will be used again for educational purposes for their community. In answer to a question John Gilbreath confirmed that he had extensive reports on the structural condition of the buildings and the location of lead and asbestos.

Board HQ: Reports are going to the BOE on May 13 recommending purchase of the Prince Avenue property on June 1 and appointment of the CM at Risk contractor. Purchase of the property now makes sense rather than paying the monthly rent. The initial payment will be from the general fund and the 370 fund, with the general fund sum being reimbursed from ESPLOST 5 over a period. The advice of a preservation architect is being obtained for the chapel and any elements that should be retained. Contact has also been made with people originally involved with the church and the work that was done during their occupancy.

Clarke Middle School: The LBC meeting, considering design charrettes, was held on April 27. The next meeting is to be arranged and will be notified to the COC. An archaeologist has been retained to investigate any issues relating to the proximity of the Brooklyn Cemetery. His report is expected by the end of May, but the initial indications are that there are no issues.

School C: Student enrollment numbers and County issued occupancy certificates are being monitored. At this stage there is no justification to proceed with School C. Lobbying to exchange our existing site with an alternative continues. A environmental consultant has been contracted to carry out a Phase 1 and Risk Hazard assessment analysis of the new proposed site for the GA DOE to consider if it is acceptable for a school.

Cedar Shoals Field-House: Cedar Shoals chose to have a field house rather than artificial turf on their field. Initial discussion will be held after June 1, with the Athletics coach and others. This will form the basis of a brief for the architect to enable design work to start over the summer. The plan is for the building to be ready for use in the fall of 2022.

Early Learning Center Kitchen Extension: An RFP has issued for a design/build contract for this work which would provide a full kitchen service to the center and to the West Broad facility when it is completed. Meals are currently supplied from the HT Edwards building.

Facilities Review: The five-year plan for the Department of Education has been completed. The state organized independent panel have endorsed the plan and issued their report which was approved at the April 15 Board meeting.

Transportation & Technology: Nothing further to report.

COC Membership: Alex Sams encouraged COC members to seek out other candidates to join the Committee.

Sales Tax Revenue: The March figure was \$2.498m.

Future Meetings

Future meetings are scheduled for:

June 8, 2021

July 13, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15am.