

**MINUTES OF THE
COASTAL REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL
April 13, 2016
Richmond Hill City Center, Richmond Hill, GA
10:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Thomas Ratcliffe called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Invocation was provided by CRC Vice Chairman Jimmy Burnsed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Reggie Loper, Wyck Newberry, Jimmy Burnsed, Ken Lee, Walter Gibson, Tom Ratcliffe, Sean Register, Jimmy Starline, Phil Phillips, Julie Martin, David Boland, Graylan Quarterman, Allen Brown, Herb Jones, Pat Parker, Harold Fowler, Shaw McVeigh, Jason Coley, Chris Blaine, and Dale Provenzano.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Craig Root, Eddie DeLoach, Dan Coty, Donald Lovette, Dwight Gordon, Preston Dees, John Morrissey, Allen Amason, Kelly Spratt, Chap Bennett, Priscilla D. Thomas, Ray Howard, Jan Moore, Hugh Hodge, and Gwendolyn Davis.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Dorothy Glisson, Screven County and Ron Elliott, Fort Stewart.

GUESTS: Robert Cheshire, Statesboro; Abby Cox, Division of Aging; Eric Landon, Camden County; Jared Downs, Senator Isakson; Paul Teague, Atlanta Gas Light; and Jeff Ricketson, LCPC.

STAFF PRESENT: Allen Burns, Executive Director; Lena Geiger, Finance Director; Don Masisak, Transportation Director; Dionne Lovett, Aging Services Director; and Colletta Harper, Administrative Services Director.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 9th meeting.

Motion: Herb Jones
Second: Graylan Quarterman
Vote: Unanimous

PRESENTATIONS

Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) – Ms. Connie Patrick, FLETC Director, provided a PowerPoint overview of their agency whose mission is to train those who protect our homeland. (*See Attachment 1, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.*) Ms. Patrick became Director of FLETC in 2002 and they currently provide consolidated training for 96 federal law enforcement agencies. They have 2,000 beds on center and have contracts with 9 hotels in Brunswick and regular use of additional hotels from Darien to Kingsland. More than 8,000 students will be housed in hotels this year. IRS students (criminal investigators) are at the facility for six months. They provide students transportation to local shopping, entertainment, events, and recreational activities. The new conference center is scheduled to be completed in May and features a 600-seat auditorium and three conference rooms. 14 events are already on the books for this year. A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Aging Services – Ms. Abby Cox, Division of Aging Services Director stated that the Older Americans Act is up for reauthorization and has been passed by the House and Senate and is awaiting approval by the President. Fourteen days into her new position, Ms. Cox stated that she viewed this meeting as an opportunity to get to know everyone and vice versa. Georgia has 12 AAA's and coastal is one of the strongest; Dionne works with continuous budget cuts but is still open to new ideas, and as a result has the only technology lab in Georgia and she hopes to see this replicated by other AAAs. Technology is a great way to serve more clients with less

dollars and counselors can now screen to see if this technology can provide assistance to those who are on waiting lists. The Division has a partnership with Georgia Tech where students look at technology that will assist the aging. Her goal this year is to visit each AAA and listen and learn, i.e., follow a whole process on elder abuse and see what we can do better. They are also working to close down unlicensed Personal Care Homes, but they also have to find a place for the displaced clients once they are closed. A new data system, HARMONY, is being rolled out so there will be some growing pains learning a new system. A big change is that the CCSP has been moved to the Department of Community Health, the thought is that they have a bigger budget and hopefully more clients can be served; time will tell.

Ms. Dorothy Glisson stated that Screven County still wants to have their seniors served under the Coastal AAA, and especially since it is the strongest AAA that should mean their seniors would get better services. Ms. Cox stated she would work on getting the ball rolling on this. It was asked if there was a tool that planners could use to help make communities more elder-friendly. Ms. Dionne Lovett stated that we didn't have a standard tool, but had worked with the planning department on the livable communities for Hinesville and Liberty County. Ms. Cox stated this would definitely be a good project to work on and she would see if the Division had anything available. The GGS Conference will be held on Jekyll Island on August 8-10th.

OTHER BUSINESS

Project Status Reports - (See Attachments 2, 3, 4, and 5 attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)

Executive Director Burns noted: Aging – the technology lab is very interesting, it is amazing what they can show you, please come see it if you have not. There are several workshops coming up, please take advantage of them. Planning – report highlights the Riceboro well project, we assisted with an EDA Public Works Grant, and they will receive \$1.2 million to sink a well in McIntosh County since it is in a “green” zone as opposed to Liberty who is in a “yellow” zone. Transportation – trip activity was up in March. Finance – numbers are looking better.

CADDA Report: No questions were raised regarding the CADDA report. (See Attachment 6, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- There is an article in our Pelican Brief newsletter honoring Reverend Lloyd Dees. His Celebration of Life Service will be on April 23rd at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Savannah; several of our staff will attend.
- Commissioner Tim Echols had a conflict arise and apologized that he could not make the meeting today; he will come in August.
- \$100,00 has been included in the budget, through DCA, for the East Coast Greenway. All of our legislative delegation has been involved with this and asked that we take the lead on this project. Several communities are interested in this money; however, we have to wait until the budget is signed and DCA comes out with the rules and how this money can be utilized.
- Our pension was previously funded at 86% and has dropped to 82% for employees. We are working on a strategy to shore this up and will be bringing it to the Budget & Finance Committee.

April 13, 2016

Page 3

- Participated in a meeting on Rails to Trails at a Park in Glynn County. Everyone agreed that it should be linked to the East Coast Greenway and follow Hwy. 17.
- Met with the Screven County Commission to discuss grant funding opportunities
- Due to the legislation placing a moratorium on pipeline development in Georgia, Kinder Morgan is pulling out and their lease with our office will terminate on the last day of April. The Executive Committee will be discussing whether to lease or sell the building and will come back to the Council with a recommendation.

Announcements

Ron Elliott stated they were working to get General Reagan to our next meeting.

Mr. Shaw McVeigh reported that the Transportation Committee continues to meet monthly and the Effingham County Development Authority Director will share information on their project at a future meeting. Also, thinks the CRC should have a resolution to encourage a series of events throughout Georgia for their 300th anniversary.

Mr. Walter Gibson stated that Georgia Southern University (GSU) has a new president.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m., with lunch following.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 11, 2016, at the Richmond Hill City Center at 10:00 a.m.**