

**MINUTES OF THE
COASTAL REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL
September 9, 2015
Richmond Hill City Center, Richmond Hill, GA
10:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Tom Ratcliffe called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Invocation was provided by Herb Jones followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Thomas, Jimmy Burnsed, Tom Ratcliffe, Margaret Evans, Walter Gibson, Allen Brown, Priscilla D. Thomas, Reggie Loper, Kelly Spratt, Ken Lee, Dwight Gordon, Dan Coty, Herb Jones, Donald Lovette, Julie Martin, Jason Coley, Harold Fowler, Dale Provenzano, Shaw McVeigh, Wyck Newberry, Graylan Quarterman, and J.C. Warren.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Charles Wilson, John Morrissey, Edna Jackson, Pat Bazemore, David Boland, Jimmy Starline, Sean Register, Craig Root, Chris Blaine, Chap Bennett, Hugh Hodge, Jan Moore, and Gwendolyn Davis.

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

GUESTS: Nathaniel Thomas, Chatham; Phillip Downs, Kerr & Downs Research; Rev. Lloyd and Delores Dees; Dr. James Bulot, DHS; Enoch Hendry, Chatham County; Paul Teague, Atlanta Gas Light; Chris Chalmers, Quantum Spatial; Mayor Mary Warnell, Pembroke; and Joe Parker, Jr., Reporter.

STAFF PRESENT: Allen Burns, Executive Director; Dionne Lovett, Aging Services Director; David Dantzler, Mobility Manager; Lena Geiger, Finance Director; Lupita McClenning, Planning & Gov't Services Director; Hunter Key GIS Manager; Lisa Fulton, Senior Planner/GIS Analyst; Russell Oliver, Senior Planner, II; Bill Compton, Grant Specialists; and Colletta Harper, Administrative Services Director.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chairman Ratcliffe requested approval of the minutes from the August 12th meeting.

Motion: Mayor Margaret Evans
Second: Commissioner Walter Gibson
Vote: Unanimous

PRESENTATIONS

Aging Services Update: Dr. James Bulot, DAS Director, DHS, reported that changes are coming and a new State Plan on Aging is currently being developed. Mr. Bulot stated that Dionne and the Coastal AAA are leading the change with their assistive technology lab. Very few in the state have realized just how valuable assistive technology is to seniors and the disabled to enhance their quality of life. Georgia has the 8th fastest growing senior population; however, services are not growing to match it. AAAs are there to help make sure funds are used appropriately for the best use and to assist seniors with making good decisions (i.e., Medicare choices, assistive technology, services, etc.) Legislation has finally been passed that makes it a chargeable crime to abuse the elderly. Chatham County is doing an excellent job investigating cases and prosecuting them; most abuse is done by family or friends.

Screven County representatives stated they felt like they were being left out with Coastal's progress and questioned why it was taking so long to transfer their aging services from CSRA to Coastal. Dr. Bulot responded that from the elected official's perspective the switch makes a lot of sense; however, DAS needs to know the senior's perspective - who is receiving services, what kind, and where they are located. They need to be able to document that the seniors currently receiving services will not experience a negative impact with a

redesignation of their planning service area. Dr. Bulot stated they now have time to devote to this since the legislation was not approved that would have moved DAS out of DHS and created a new state agency attached to the Dept. of Community Health that handles Medicaid. Ms. Lovett stated that they realized that DAS was pre-occupied with this legislation last year; and now would start working with them to schedule public hearings and conduct surveys for the seniors.

AAA Needs Assessment 2015 – Dr. Phillip Downs, Kerr & Downs Research, provide a PowerPoint overview of the 2015 Needs Assessment Survey. *(See Attachment 1, attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.)* Random phone interviews were conducted with 1,000 individuals 55+ in the coastal region to assess their needs. Overriding recommendations from the Assessment include: (1) document area’s aggregate capabilities to serve those who need service; (2) identify gaps between capabilities to serve and needs; (3) prioritize funding/resources needed; and (4) publicize your efforts. One of the key findings is that funding is down and the elderly population is up. After the presentation, Ms. Lovett explained that this assessment is used to allocate funds or reallocate funding as needed, and that staff is currently working on developing programs for those who can afford to pay for services.

Fund Raising for Aging Services: Aging Services Advisory Council Chairman Rev. Lloyd Dees stated that serving the cause of seniors was the best call of service he could do with the rest of his life. He stated that it took three years to get legislation passed that would make it a chargeable offense in the case of elder abuse. He stated law enforcement now needs to be educated and more personnel need to be hired, which takes money. He encouraged everyone to call their legislators and tell them what we need, give your full support, and let your voice be heard. He referred members to the two articles from the Savannah Morning News regarding elder abuse and how Chatham County has taken the lead and is investigating and prosecuting cases. *(See Attachment 2, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* It is his hope that all of our cities and counties will follow their lead. He stated the goal of the Advisory Council is to raise \$50,000 by next November to assist getting individuals off of our waiting lists. He encouraged everyone to start writing checks today made payable to the CRC with the designation “for Aging Services”. Rev. Dees stated he was available to talk to any group, just let him know.

Statewide GIS: Mr. Hunter Key, GIS Manager, reminded everyone of the EDA grant received for a State Geographic Information Officer position and that he was happy to introduce Susan Miller who began work in August. She is a contract employee of GARC and is housed in an office at DCA. Ms. Miller then provided an overview of her work background/experience. She stated she was happy that the CRC was her first Council meeting and visit to a region, since the CRC played a vital role in making this position a reality. She hopes to be able to visit quite often to hear what the needs of the coastal region are and to provide updates on the statewide program.

OTHER BUSINESS

DRI Reports: None to report this month.

Project Status Reports - *(See Attachments 3, 4, 5, and 6 attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* In regards to status reports – we had the auditors here the last week of August so Lena will have updated financial information next month. Transportation is averaging 12,000 trips/month and has received a NADO award for a “Public/Private Partnership for Transit Program Enhancement”. Planning has also received a NADO innovative award for the Regional Plan Digital Implementation Tool. The Aging Report shows that we have 1,700 individuals on our waiting list. Our AAA has provided assistive technology training to six other AAAs.

CADDA Report: No questions were raised regarding the CADDA report. *(See Attachment 7, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The auditors completed the field work portion of our audit last week; exit interview indicated we should have another good audit. When the Audit is completed, we will meet with the Budget & Finance Committee to discuss and it will be presented at the November meeting. My travel expenses for the last fiscal year were \$863.03.
- Insurance – our vehicle/property insurance has decreased by \$26,000, which is attributed to downsizing our transportation fleet and adding camera to the buses, which will greatly reduce false claims. Our Health insurance has increased 7%; while no increase is good, it is lower than what we anticipated.
- Staff has started working on the Annual Report and it should be completed before the end of the year. I will set up meetings with everyone to discuss this past year and where you would like to see us go next year.
- Recognized Chris Chalmers, former CRC employee, who is now back in the region. His company will help sponsor our second annual golf tournament on November 4th at the King and Prince course that will benefit our meals on wheels program. Last year, we raised \$6,000 and hope to raise more this year; if you like to play golf, please see me about registering a team.
- “Bluzin in the Park” was held this past weekend; was a good event and discussions are already beginning for next year’s event.
- Last night Camden County approved a Memorandum of Understanding with FAA. The FAA will select an independent contractor to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating a commercial space launch site in Camden County. The EIS will be used to support the FAA’s determination on whether or not they should issue a Launch Site Operator License to Camden County. If this project is approved, it will change the face of our region.
- This summer Shruti Agrawl, an intern from UGA, who is from India, developed a template on resiliency issues on our coast. She has moved forward from this internship and will be presenting her project at a conference in Turkey.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m., with lunch following.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at the Richmond Hill City Center at 10:00 a.m.** Scheduled to speak are Congressman Buddy Carter and Commissioner Chris Carr, Georgia Department of Economic Development.