

**MINUTES OF THE
COASTAL REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL
September 11, 2019
Richmond Hill City Center, Richmond Hill, GA
10:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Allen Brown called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Invocation was provided by Richard Hayes, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Rosa Romeo.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Allen Brown, Ken Lee, Craig Root, Preston Dees, Julie Martin, Ray Howard, Sean Register, Reggie Loper, Herb Jones, Michael Browning, Shirley Frasier, David Boland, Lannie Brant, Donald Lovette, Hugh Hodge, Jason Coley, Chester Ellis, Shaw McVeigh, Chris Blaine, Richard Hayes, Jordy Evans, Bill Watson, Walter Gibson, Dr. Priscilla Thomas, and Rosa Romeo.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carter Infinger, Tom Ratcliffe, Mary Hamilton, Dan Coty, Rick Freeman, Allen Amason, Brian Foster, Jonathan McCollar, Chap Bennett, Robert Parker, and John Morrissey.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Dorothy Glisson, Screven County and Chris Fletcher, Fort Stewart.

GUESTS: Devaki Gordon and Lori Heeman, Great Promise Partnership; Jeff Ricketson, Liberty Consolidated Planning, and Charisse Lee, Eckerd Connects.

STAFF PRESENT: Allen Burns, Executive Director; Eric Landon, Planning & Gov't Services Director; Tayler Hames, Grant Specialist/Planner; Hunter Key, GIS/IT 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 August 14th meeting.

Motion: Jordy Evans
Second: Mayor Preston Dees
Vote: Unanimous

APPROVAL of RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2019-2023 REGIONAL WORK PROGRAM

UPDATE: *(See Attachment 1, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Eric Landon, Planning & Gov't Services Director reminded members they had approved the update in June for submittal to DCA. DCA has since approved and formal adoption is needed by the Council. A motion was made to approve the Resolution as presented.

Motion: Shaw McVeigh
Second: Commissioner Chester Ellis
Vote: Unanimous

APPROVAL of UPDATE TO CRC HANDBOOK: *(See Attachment 2, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Executive Director Burns referred members to the salmon handout and explained that prior to his arrival, there was a policy in place whereby if the office was closed for severe weather, the employees were paid for the time they missed work. He stated with their being an occasional storm and only 30 employees, this was not a big problem. However, lately we've had several storms and now have 100+ employees; Hurricane Dorian cost about \$70,000 with staff out of work for three days. He stated he is recommending that "severe weather" be taken out of the handbook as an administrative cost, and opened it up for discussion. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that he should take everything discussed into consideration and bring something back to the Council next month. **A motion was made to defer this item to the October meeting.**

Motion: Commissioner Julie Martin
Second: Ray Howard
Vote: Unanimous

APPROVAL OF CADDA BOARD APPOINTMENT: *(See Attachment 3, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Chairman Brown referred members to the yellow handout. A motion was made to approve the appointment of Caroline Nelson (Bulloch County) to the CADDA Board to complete the term of Jeremy Reagan.

Motion: Shaw McVeigh
Second: Commissioner Rosa Romeo
Vote: Unanimous

NOVEMBER 2020 COUNCIL MEETING DATE: Executive Director Burns stated that next year (2020) our meeting in November falls on Veteran's Day and since we are in the process of doing our Annual Report/Calendar, the Council needs to decide if they wanted to meet on Veterans Day (which is a holiday) or change the meeting date. A motion was made to move the meeting to Thursday, November 12, 2020.

Motion: Mayor Ken Lee
Second: Ray Howard
Vote: Unanimous

PRESENTATION

Great Promise Partnership (GPP) – Ms. Lori Heeman, Executive Director, Great Promise Partnership, introduced Ms. Devaki Gordon, who serves our region. A handout was also provided to attendees *(See Attachment 4, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Ms. Heeman stated that when former DCA Commissioner Mike Beatty would tour the state, the one thing he was constantly hearing from everyone was that high school dropouts and workforce development were two of the biggest problems. In response, the Great Promise Partnership was created under DCA; but is now a stand-alone 501C3 program. The program is a public-private partnership that targets teens who are at a high risk of dropping out of school. This program has only seen a 2% failure rate. It is important to get employers on board; once they are, the GPP provides the employer with training for the supervisor and mentor who will work with the student. Students receive a wage for the hours they work, and if they don't go to school, they are not allowed to work. Schools help to identify the at-risk students. There was a brief discussion about similar programs that are operated in our region. Ms. Heeman stated this was good to know, because they don't want to recreate the wheel or compete, they want to work in partnership with others. Executive Director Burns stated this was why he had asked her to come today since we were taking over Work Source. She stated they would be staying for lunch and would be available to discuss their program with anyone interested.

Grants Newsletter – Ms. Tayler Hames, Grant Specialist/Planner, stated she had created a newsletter to inform our region about available grant funds and it was included with the planning report; this newsletter is also sent out via email and is in color. She encouraged everyone to let her know what projects they have so she could look for funding. She stated she was attending the economic development conference upstairs today, but if anyone would like to contact her later, they could get her business card from Eric.

OTHER BUSINESS

Project Status Reports - *(See Attachments 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* No questions were raised.

CADDA Report: No questions were raised regarding the CADDA report. *(See Attachment 10, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Currently have 592 on our waiting list for aging services. We received our first budget amendment of about \$246,000, and then were notified that the Governor has called for a 4% reduction across the board that will become effective in October. This will probably impact us around \$60,000, but it is just the state portion, so we should still be good. They are proposing a 6% cut next year.
- Tayler Hames, our Grant Specialist, who replaced Quentin McPhatter, is doing a great job; please call on her if you have projects that need funding.
- Regarding the financial report, our expenditures/costs are in line with our allocations, including transportation.
- Today is a day of reflection for what happened 18 years ago on 9/11.
- We were very blessed that the hurricane missed our region. We had volunteer bus drivers that helped fulfill our contractual obligations with GEMA to evacuate non-ambulatory passengers that were currently on a list. 281 passengers were evacuated to Waycross, Augusta, and Macon. If you know of someone needing to be on this list, have them contact Public Health or GEMA. David Dantzler and Jimmie Green did an excellent job with the evacuation. GEMA does pay us for our costs.
- A ship has turned over and blocked access to the Brunswick ports. Fortunately, there was no loss of life, and the four men that were trapped were rescued. If you want to see how big these ships are, visit St. Simons (to see the front side) and Jekyll Island (to see the underside); there is no rush, it will be there a while.
- The CLEO's will be meeting at 12:30 in this room and I will be attending that meeting. They voted last month in favor of the CRC taking over the program.
- Met with the College of Coastal Georgia; they are beginning a Cyber Degree program and we will assist them.
- We received a decrease in our building and fleet insurance of about \$35,000.
- On September 19th at the CRC office in Darien there will be an Asset Management for Small Water Systems training. If you have not received information about this let me know; this will save you or your staff from having to go to Atlanta for training.
- Mike Beatty has still not confirmed the meeting date for Communities of Faith; wants to do in November and we will send an email when it has been confirmed.
- We will work to schedule one of our meetings in Darien so everyone can see our transportation operation and the Tools for Life Lab.
- Transportation switch over has gone pretty smooth, thanks to some of the lead staff from Transitions becoming CRC staff. We've had some issues with personnel, the previous TPO did some things differently than we do, so we are having to train them on state and federal requirements of employment.

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- The Brunswick building is occupied and still under the lease/purchase agreement and they are making payments.
- The Development Authority extended our loan for eight years for the full 15 years.
- The City of Darien is receiving bids to build their police department. We are working with interested parties to either sale or lease them that portion of our Darien facility. If we can sale it, the sooner we will be out of debt.
- **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 9, 2019, at the Richmond Hill City Center at 10:00 a.m.**