

Minutes - Draft

PECS-Planning, Economic Development & Community Services Committee

Thursday, March 30, 2023

2:00 PM

Special Called Meeting

Meeting Started At: 2:00PM

Attendees: Commissioners Johnson, Long Spears, Patrick, Bradshaw, Cochran-Johnson

Present 3 - Commissioner Larry Johnson, Michelle Long Spears, and Robert Patrick

I. DISCUSSION

Multi-Family Enforcement Team

-presentation provided by Aaron Kimble - Planning & Sustainability, and Director Hardy - Code Compliance

-Question LJ: you have a standard code that we all have to adhere to in our region right?

T Hardy: that's correct, and that is upheld and regulated by our building official

-LJ: please ensure that we have a copy of that so people can see what the codes are. Each apartment owner gets that right, as part of certification?

T Hardy: each apartment owner gets the requirements of the multifamily inspection. Any activities that require permits are in a manual. Additional information provided by Director Hardy

-Question LJ: regarding the business license process to operate, does it happen in December? How long does it take for the apartments to get it back?

T Hardy: they don't have to wait until December, though most of them will. They can submit the code compliance certificate any time after the original. Most will wait until the renewal period to submit one. Additional response provided by Director Hardy

-Question RP: the slide with the different apartments - the AJC dangerous dwellings listed apartments on the north end. Do you coordinate with the cities and coordinate to look at who the same owner of the property is within the County?

A Kimble: we do; additional response provided by Dr. Kimble

-Question LJ: is there any reason why more inspections can't be done per month?

-response provided by Director Hardy

-Question LCJ: how many multi-family complexes are there in DeKalb?

T Hardy: 223

-Question LCJ: do you have a chart that you're utilizing year by year so there is a schedule to ensure we visit the multifamily units over a period of time?

T Hardy: we do; what drives that schedule is typically the number of complaints or level of deficiency we find on the complexes we inspect. Additional response provided by Director Hardy

-Question LCJ: we are being reactive and not proactive. Is that safe to say?

T Hardy: no; we schedule inspections in advance by month; that is the proactive pieces of it. Additional response provided by Director Hardy

-Question LCJ: are you familiar with the concept of rental registries?

T Hardy: I am

-Question LCJ: do you believe that such a concept would be beneficial?

T Hardy: it has value; particularly considering single-family rental units. Multi-family units are registered through the business licenses; we know who's out there from a multi-family rental standpoint. Additional response provided by Director Hardy

-Question MLS: what do you do to follow up to ensure changes were made to what you may have come across doing the inspection?

-T Hardy: we provide a reasonable time to comply, which is determined by a health or safety issue. There is always a follow-up inspection to make sure that problem has been resolved. Additional responses provided by Director Hardy

-LJ: we look forward to having this report and update in 2 months. Please start to share your successes

-Question RP: does the software package you use integrate with the environment?

-T Hardy: It integrates well with the land data; additional response provided by Director Hardy

-Question RP: you all can go out in the field with an iPad or tablet to view property history and such?

T Hardy: that's currently how we operate

-additional comments provided by Dr. Kimble

Mental Health:

State Legislative Mental Health Update

-information provided by Dan Baskerville on relevant bills within the General Assembly

-Commissioner Johnson requests an update on de-annexation and leaf blowing bills that passed in the General Assembly

-D Baskerville: whenever the committee would like me to come and present

-Question MLS: regarding SB 23, could you provide context on how the agencies report?

-response provided by Mr. Baskerville

-Question MLS: would this result in a data dashboard for the public to see or is this more on internal processes?

D Baskerville: it's more of internal processes

-Question LCJ: in previous years there was the opportunity to log in and speak to you on a weekly basis, but we didn't do that this session?

D Baskerville: I believe prior to COVID I would come down in person and discuss with you all. Any time the board wants me to give a report I'm happy to provide that; when I did that it was something that was requested

-information provided by Dan Baskerville on SB 404, as well as bills introduced regarding rental registries

County Mental Health Update

-presentation provided by CEO Van Der Merwe - DeKalb CSB

-Question LJ: regarding the intake sheet - the 25-34 age group; is it starting to get more pronounced in that age group?

Van Der Merwe: we are starting to see the highest amount in that age group; we are also seeing an increase from children regarding intakes as well. Additional response provided by CEO Van Der Merwe

-Question LJ: do we need more beds in the state psychiatric hospital?

-Van Der Merwe: the DBHDD is planning to do a bed study; that was in the budget. Per our calculation DeKalb would need at least 40 additional crisis beds to at least equal .5 beds per 1000 individuals

-Question LJ: what about beds regarding the regional hospital?

-Van Der Merwe: they have actually reduced beds; partly because of workforce shortage, and they are trying to move individuals back out to the community. This creates a hardship on us because we are seeing clients with a much more severe behavioral health needs that we can't serve in our crisis unit

-comments provided by Commissioner Johnson

-LJ: we will have you back in 2 months for an update

II. AGENDA ITEM

Previously Heard Agenda Items:

2022-1045

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
To Renegotiate the 1984 Grady Operating Agreement between DeKalb County, Fulton County, and the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority
This agenda item was recommended holding in committee to the Board of Commissioners due back on 4/25/2023 .

-information provided by COO Williams

-Question MLS: how many years is the \$100M grant and what does it do specifically?

Z Williams: I believe 2 years; there are a number of outcomes. Additional information provided by COO Williams

-Question MLS: we are looking at how we are going to implement those funds in the coming months?

Z Williams: those funds have been allocated specifically; additional response provided

-Question MLS: regarding ARP funds, are we allocated some of DeKalb's ARP funds?

Z Williams: we did to Grady. Additional response provided by COO Williams

-Question MLS: you said next month we would start joint meetings; are we looking to have those monthly?

Z Williams: I would imagine they would be monthly; whether they are face to face we'll let the elected bodies determine that. There will be ongoing staff discussions

-LCJ: I would suggest that each commissioner receive a copy of the proposed agreement

-additional comments provided by Attorney Phillips

-Question LCJ: at this point those conversations are yet to begin is that correct? Have Kauffman Hall and Dr. Ford been having conversations with Grady?

-response provided by COO Williams

-Question LCJ: who submitted the questions referenced in the document?

-response provided by COO Williams

-LCJ: it would be good if we received transcripts or updates on those meetings so we can follow throughout these discussions. That is my personal request

Z Williams: the thinking is that during future meetings they would be joint with the elected officials, whether the entire board or some subset

-LJ: we will have updates on this every 2 months to give the staff time to get some results and bring them back

-LJ: commissioners if you have topics you would like to see at the health, human services, and housing meeting just let me know and we'll make sure the staff is available to do it

III. STATUS UPDATE

Intrenchment Creek Park Update

-information provided by COO Williams on the executive order from CEO Thurmond

-presentation provided by Director Ellis on the master plan for the park

-Question RP: I was impressed by the idea of 'everyone's park'. When we does Pleasantdale Park in the future I would be interested in that as well

-Question MLS: could you provide a timeline on the re-opening of the park?

Z Williams: At this point I cannot

-LJ: we may have another update on April 11th. COO Williams keep us posted on where we're going so we can move forward

Meeting Ended At: 3:47PM

MOTION was made by Robert Patrick, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be adjourned meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Johnson, Long Spears, and Patrick

Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC