

Draft - Minutes

**PECS-Planning, Economic Development & Community Services
Committee**

Commissioner Nicole Massiah (Chair)
Commissioner Michelle Long Spears, Member
Commissioner Ted Terry, Member

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

3:30 PM

Meeting Started At: 3:38 PM

Attendance: Commissioners Massiah, Long Spears, C Johnson, Terry, Patrick

Present 3 - Chairperson Nicole Massiah, Commissioner Michelle Long Spears,
and Commissioner Ted Terry

I. MINUTES

2025-0125 Commission District(s): ALL
Minutes for January 14, 2025, Planning, Economic Development,
and Community Services Committee Meeting
**MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Michelle Long
Spears, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried
by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Chairperson Massiah, Commissioner Long Spears, and
Commissioner Terry**

II. AGENDA ITEM

New Agenda Items

WorkSource DeKalb

[2025-0078](#) Commission District(s): ALL DISTRICTS
Acceptance of Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Rapid Response Grant for Dislocated Worker - Fiscal Year 2025 from the Technical College System of Georgia not to exceed \$70,000.

MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 2/11/2025. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Chairperson Massiah, Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Terry

Presentation provided by Director Davis, WorkSource DeKalb

-MLS: motion to approve

Recreation, Parks & Cultural Affairs

[2025-0036](#) Commission District(s): 4 and 6
To approve the annual agreement for Little Creek Horse Park
MOTION was made by Michelle Long Spears, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 2/11/2025. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Chairperson Massiah, Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Terry

Presentation provided by David Flaherty, Recreation Manager, RPCA

Question MLS: How is the fee increase being received by patrons?

Flaherty: No one likes a fee increase; however, our fees are behind those of other boarding centers. We are trying to balance the increase to give borders enough time to adjust.

Question MLS: When will the fee go into effect?

Flaherty: March 1st. Additional information was provided by Mr. Flaherty and Director Ellis, RPCA.

Question TT: How do other boarding centers validate their fees?

Response provided by Mr. Flaherty

Question TT: Do you expect other boarding centers to have raised their fees in 2024 or 2025?

Flaherty: yes.

Question TT: does the Conservancy Board help support covering costs, do they look for grants or anything? Flaherty: They do, among other activities, that help raise revenue and support the Horse Farm.

-MLS: motion to approve

2025-0037

Commission District(s): 2 and 6

Acceptance of FY2024 Economic Development Initiative - Community Project Funding (CPF) - Congressional Grants Division Grant Award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the total amount of \$850,000.00 for the Kittredge Park Renovations.

MOTION was made by Michelle Long Spears, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be recommended for approval to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 2/11/2025. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Chairperson Massiah, Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Terry

Items 2025-0037 and 2025-0039 discussed together in committee

Information provided by Chuck Ellis, RPCA Director

MLS: please provide us with the supporting documentation on these grants.

Question MLS: do we expect this to be impacted by the sustention of grant

funding? COO Williams: we don't know yet, likely, but we need further review

-MLS: motion to approve

Question MLS: how long has this project been in process?

Ellis: For these grants, since the summer of 2024

2025-0039

Commission District(s): 3 and 7

Acceptance of FY2024 Economic Development Initiative - Community Project Funding (CPF) - Congressional Grants Division Grant Award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the total amount of \$850,000.00 for the County Line Park Improvements, with no match required.

MOTION was made by Michelle Long Spears, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 2/11/2025. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Chairperson Massiah, Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Terry

Items 2025-0037 and 2025-0039 discussed together in committee

Information provided by Chuck Ellis, RPCA Director

-MLS: motion to approve

Previously Heard Items

Board of Commissioners - District 2

2024-1273

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts
Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County, Georgia, to Establish a Plan for Addressing Homelessness and to Support the Housing First Model

MOTION was made by Ted Terry, seconded by Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be recommended for deferral to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 2/11/2025. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Chairperson Massiah, Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Terry

Information provided by Fabio Van Der Merwe, CEO of Claratel Behavioral Health

Question MLS: Can you provide us an update on the Behavioral Health Coalitions' work thus far and the next steps?

Merwe: We are finalizing our data and looking to wrap up the report with recommendations with a presentation in PECS in February. From there, we will work to expand the Coalition's membership, specifically focusing on unhoused support, and onboard a new Housing Director. We will then work with the Coalition to discuss the next steps.

Question MLS: so, in March, we will begin the unhoused planning?

Merwe: Correct

Question TT: If we pass the resolution, how will it affect the Housing Plan currently in implementation? Do you have any budget implications for it being completed by then?

Merwe: I don't have a budget estimate currently. It's going to come down to how we want to proceed based on the recommendations to develop that cost. Additional information provided

Question TT: To COO Williams, did we allocate the costs of the housing plan in last year's budget, or is it in this year's fiscal budget?

MLS: \$250,000 was allocated in July of last year for the plan, and the framework passed in August. I am in favor of updating the resolution to extend the deadline of work that is suitable to Claratel's timeline. My office is open to allocating funding for Claratel to hire someone to help support an unhoused plan.

TT: I am in favor of the friendly amendment expending the date. We can prepare that substitute before the next business meeting. If I could ask COO Williams to help us with the funding, how much is allocated now, and how would the administration would support us?

Comments provided by Commissioner Long Spears

NM: My suggestion is to hold this in committee while we work out the funding, onboard the Claratel housing director, and receive feedback from the CEO regarding this item. I'd like us to have a more mapped-out plan and goals.

Merwe: The goal of this plan is to reduce the number of unhoused residents; I envision the final product providing an outline of who we can engage with in our efforts and funding and who could provide funding support. I currently do not see a plan that unifies every entity that engages in this work, like the CoC, cities, and nonprofits.

TT: I think if we hold this item for two weeks, we would still have time for funding consideration in the March 1st budget. I see this resolution as an expression of support for coming back in the future with the details. Can we get a ballpark budget in the next two weeks?

Merwe: I believe we can. Additional comments provided.

MLS: This resolution shows support for this work, connects with the city, and develops a plan of action grounded in the Housing First model. I view this process as similar to developing the housing plan, coming up with a framework, and allowing the work to be conducted.

TT: I agree with the chair. Let's flush out the operational timeline and determine the budgetary impact.

TT: Motion to defer 2 weeks

Meeting Ended At: 4:29 PM

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

Yes: 3 - Chairperson Massiah, Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Terry

Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC