

MINUTES
MERIWETHER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION

January 28, 2020 - 4:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Chairman Bryan Threadgill, Vice Chairman Alfred McCoy, Shirley Hines, Mary Bray, and Beth Neely-Hadley,

Staff Present: County Administrator Theron Gay, County Clerk Beverly Thomas, and Finance Director Bill Gregory

Staff absent: County Attorney Michael Hill

I. WELCOME – Chairman Threadgill, 4:30 p.m.

Chairman Threadgill read the pre-meeting Work Session protocol from the ACCG handbook.

Kye Gibson, Clerk of Superior Court, provided information to the Board and asked if they had constituents who could be considered to fill openings on the Board of Equalization. Ms. Gibson discussed qualifications needed. The Grand Jury will meet on February 18, 2020 and can make the appointments.

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Administrator Gay provided the Board with a copy of the current Recreation Advisory Committee Ordinance section 2015-03 as amended and reviewed the suggested changes. We currently have nine-members and there has been discussion of reducing the number of Committee Members and having staggered terms. Administrator Gay stated if it was the desire to make a change, we would need to go through the Ordinance procedures.

Chairman Threadgill stated he attended the last meeting and there was not a quorum. Chairman Threadgill spoke with a few Recreation Advisory Committee members that work and they said they could attend the meeting if we move the time from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Bray stated we were no further along with Recreation than we were in 2015.

Commissioner Bray wanted to change the appointments on the Advisory Committee from nine members to five. Those five would be appointed by each Commissioner for their District. Chairman Threadgill asked the Board if we could wait and see how the meetings will work with the change of time.

Commissioner Hines stated this was voted as an Advisory Board. The Cities have most of the recreation facilities and we need a relationship with the Cities in order to expand. Chairman Threadgill stated we are relying on the Cities not only financially but for space. We need each other to move forward.

Commissioner Bray had no objections with the Cities and stated to advance we need a Director to bring in Lake Meriwether and the Lone Oak Ball Park. We are focusing on two areas now and need to broaden. We have no plan for future development.

County Administrator Gay wanted to talk about a Recreation Master Plan. Recreation Advisory Committee Chairman, Nneka Carter stated it was difficult to get some of their members to the table and one had said she resigned. Chairman Threadgill wanted a check list to move forward.

Commissioner Bray asked why we have someone from the School Board on the Advisory Committee and wanted all to go back and talk to members to see if they have other recreational interest. Commissioner Bray stated the gym is here and we have SPLOST. Nothing has happened in four years. Chairman Threadgill wanted to move forward and have someone give a rundown of the facilities, cost, etc. as a start. A plan needs to be in place.

Commissioner Hines stated other Counties have an application process for Boards and we may also want to look at that. This is an Advisory Committee limited to what can be done. They submitted to the Board who had not been in attendance and the Board has not acted. There have been letters sent on who is responsible and who in not in attendance. The Board has dropped the ball. Money is always a concern and sometimes you must invest to get a long-term effect. We need an outside firm or the Georgia Recreation

and Parks Association (GRPA) to help, a buy in and hire a Director. We may need to bring in a consultant. Administrator Gay states we need to address a Recreation Master Plan to figure out the facility, future facilities, and staffing.

Commissioner Hines felt we needed a basic plan before a Master Plan. There was additional conversation of a Plan for Recreation and having a consultant.

Nneka Carter stated many things had already been discussed. What is needed now is a quorum. The Board will speak to their appointments to make sure they are still willing to serve. The next Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on February 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Administrator Gay provided maps showing land owned by the County, IDA and School System.

Commissioner Hines stated as we look at growth of the County, we need to consider a future Jail to be built in the County, future Administration Building because we can only retrofit for so long. We also need to consider the services and projection of the building for the next 10-15 years.

2. Administrator Gay stated we need to establish a criterion for dirt roads, consider homeowner benefits, culvert and bridges repair/replacement, utilities, and condition. The funding from T-SPLOST started in April and we will discuss this and plans for SPLOST during a Work Session on February 25, 2020 at 4:30 pm.

Administrator Gay reviewed the Rules and Regulations for Public Hearings and Regular Scheduled Commissioners Meetings.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

IV. CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The Work Session concluded at 5:52 pm.

V. FUTURE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Meetings were listed on the Agenda.

Approved by: *Majority vote of the Board of Commissioners*

Attest: *Penelope Sherris, County Clerk*

Date: *February 12, 2020*