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RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

100 East Burkhalter Avenue
Buena Vista, Georgia
Minutes Summary
September 23, 2015
10:30 a.m.

Members Attending/Representing

- (Representing 15 Counties)
A. J. Rivers, City of Cordele
Barry Whitley, City of Butler
Bruce Hill, City of Oglethorpe
David Kinsey, Georgetown-Quitman County
Dr. Carole Rutland, Muscogee County
Chip Jones, Stewart County
Clinton Perry, Jr., Taylor County, RVRC Chair
Edward Lee, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Evelyn Turner-Pugh, Muscogee County
Fred Gordon, Muscogee County
Freeman Montgomery, Talbot County
George Moore, Webster County
James Morton, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
James R. "Bump" Welch, Marion County
Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Muscogee County
Jim Lawrence, Cusseta-Chattahoochee County
Knox Blackmar, City of Talbotton
Lawrence Young, Stewart County
Lee Hubbard, Clay County
Maggie McGruther, Sumter County
Melvin Crimes, Webster County
Mickey George, Macon County
Mike Speight, Crisp County
Pam Jordan, Talbot County
Patricia Goodman, Randolph County
Randy Howard, Sumter County
Rebecca Chambers, City of Hamilton
Richard Morris, Georgetown-Quitman County
Richard McCorkle, Marion County
Terrell Hudson, Dooly County
Tommy McKenzie, Macon County
Tom Queen, Taylor County

Members Not Present

- Carlton Wilson, City of Ellaville
Cecil "Butch" McMickle, Marion County

- Charles Gibson, City of Lumpkin
Clark Henderson, Crisp County
Doug Etheridge, Harris County
Eddie Daniels, City of Vienna
Greg Barineau, Schley County
Harry Lange, Harris County
Jason Hoch, Schley County
Jimmy Bradley, Randolph County
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County
Nelson Brown, City of Americus
Noel Williams, Crisp County
Ralph Brown, City of Buena Vista
Steven F. Martin, City of Ft. Gaines
Steve Whatley, City of Cuthbert
Wally Summers, Sumter County

Others Present

- Michael McFalls, Columbus State University
Jo Childers, DCA
Elaine Gillispie, Sanford Bishop's Representative
Judy Tucker, Columbus Mayor's Office
Edwina Turner, Stewart County Family Connections
Amanda Haynie, Taylor County Chamber
Ricky Hood, Hamilton Public Works

Staff Present

- Patti Cullen, Executive Director
Sarah Walls, Assistant Executive Director
Rick Morris, Planning Director
Gerald Mixon, Planning Director
Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director
Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director
Emily Chambers, Finance Officer
Janice West, WIOA Director
Tammy Collins, Finance Officer
Joel Hanif, Planner
Allison Slocum, Senior Planner & Historic Preservation Planner
Becky Holmes, Office Manager

Chattahoochee | Clay | Crisp | Dooly | Harris | Macon | Marion | Muscogee
Quitman | Randolph | Schley | Stewart | Sumter | Talbot | Taylor | Webster

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WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Clinton Perry, Jr., Chair, brought the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. He welcomed everyone and asked visitors to introduce themselves. Michael McFalls of Columbus State University and Amanda Haynie, Director of the Taylor County Chamber of Commerce introduced themselves.

Richard Morris, Vice Chair, led the council in prayer and Mike Speight, Secretary, then led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

Clinton Perry requested council approval of the August 26, 2015 Council meeting minutes. A copy was included in the Council packets. Melvin Crimes made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Evelyn Turner-Pugh seconded the motion. There being no opposition the motion carried.

Pasaquan Update

Allison Slocum, Senior Planner and Historic Preservation Planner, introduced Michael McFalls, Associate Professor of Art at Columbus State University. He gave a PowerPoint presentation of Pasaquan; a world-renowned art site located near Buena Vista, Georgia.

Review and Approval of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy*

Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director, presented the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to the council for approval. Tom Queen made a motion to approve the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy as presented; Richard Morris seconded the motion. There being no opposition the motion carried.

Budget Amendment*

Emily Chambers, Finance Director, presented Budget Amendment 1 of the FY2016 budget explaining the Executive Committee had met before the council meeting and recommended approval of the amendment. Evelyn Turner-Pugh moved that council accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee; Melvin Crimes seconded the motion. There being no opposition the motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS

Emily Chambers, Finance Officer; Jim Livingston, Community and Economic Development Director, Janice West, WIOA Director; Rick Morris, Planning Director and Katie Howard, Area Agency on Aging Director presented staff reports for their departments.

Other Business

Patti Cullen, Executive Director, gave a short PowerPoint presentation of the progress being made on the new office building for the Columbus office. She noted that the projected move date is the first part of November.

Clinton Perry, Chair, urged everyone to attend the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions’ Annual Conference being held November 4-6, 2015 on St. Simons Island. He noted that this was one of the most important meetings of the year.

Jo Childers, Department of Community Affairs, announced the Georgia Academy will be having a class beginning in the Spring of 2016 and urged council members and other community activists to attend to enhance leadership skills and knowledge in order to create successful communities.

Several council members announced upcoming events being held in their counties/cities in the coming months.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the council the meeting was adjourned.

In June of 2014 Pasaquan Preservation Society deeded Pasaquan to The Kohler Foundation for complete restoration. At the end of the restoration process Pasaquan will go to Columbus State University.

Date

Clinton Perry, Chair

Date

Mike Speight, Secretary

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