

TO: PLANNING AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE

FROM: MR. BRIAR JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN, PLANNING AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE
THREE RIVERS REGIONAL COMMISSION

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF PLANNING AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE MEETING

The Planning and Projects Committee held a meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 29, 2018 at the Turin Town Hall in Turin, Georgia.

WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Kay Pippin presided over the meeting in lieu of Committee Chair Briar Johnson; Committee Chair Johnson had a scheduling conflict and could not attend. Ms. Pippin welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order. Mr. Alfred "Buster" McCoy gave the invocation; and afterwards, Ms. Pippin led the committee members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Planning and Projects Committee Members in Attendance

Ms. Kay Pippin, Mayor, City of Jackson
Mr. Greg Wright, Non-Public Member, Coweta County
Mr. Lee Boone, Chairman, Heard County
Mr. Alfred "Buster" McCoy, Chairman, Meriwether County
Mr. Douglas Hollberg, Mayor, City of Griffin
Mr. Curtis Brown, Jr., Non-Public Member, Troup County
Mr. Norman Allen, Chairman, Upson County

Regional Plan Stakeholders (Executive Team) Members in Attendance

Ms. Frankie Willis, Business Owner, Butts County
Ms. Janet Hyde, Planner, Carroll County
Mr. David Rast, County Planner, Coweta County (attending for Mr. Tavoires Edwards, Transportation Planner, Coweta County)
Mr. Dick Morrow, Business Owner, Griffin
Ms. Jennifer Rogers, Project Coordinator, Thomaston-Upson Community Heart and Soul

Staff Present

Mr. Kirk Fjelstul, Executive Director
Ms. Jeannie Brantley, Planning Director
Ms. Kim Dutton, Planner
Ms. Cymone Haiju, Planner
Mr. Paul Jarrell, Planner
Ms. Jan Perez, Secretary

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2018 MINUTES (action item)

Mr. Douglas Hollberg made the motion to approve the September 27, 2018 meeting minutes; it was seconded by Mr. Curtis Brown, Jr., and carried unanimously by the other committee members.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (action item)

Mr. Hollberg made the motion to approve the agenda as presented; it was seconded by Mr. Norman Allen and carried unanimously by the other committee members.

REGIONAL COMMISSION MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT (action item)

Mr. Kirk Fjelstul presented this portion of the agenda. The Planning and Projects Committee drafted both a mission and vision statement during a previous committee meeting. The Mission statement reads as follows: *To provide leadership, resources, and solutions to promote community improvement and economic competitiveness for the communities in our 10 county region.* The Vision statement reads as follows: *To be the leader in planning, promoting and facilitating improvements in our 10 county region.* **FORMAL ACTION: Mr. McCoy made the motion to adopt and recommend to the full commission the Mission and Vision statements; it was seconded by Mr. Hollberg.** Hearing no further discussion from the committee, Ms. Pippin called for the vote. **FORMAL ACTION: The committee passed the Mission and Vision statements' adoption and recommendation to the full commission unanimously.**

EXECUTIVE TEAM MEETING (PLANNING & PROJECTS COMMITTEE AND STAKEHOLDERS)

TRRC Regional Plan Update

Mr. Fjelstul earlier explained the function of the Executive Team, which includes the Planning and Projects Committee members as well as stakeholders (individuals that were appointed by the committee members and are from the same areas as the committee members). Ms. Pippin asked the Executive Team members to introduce themselves; afterwards, she asked Ms. Cymone Haiju to present the summary on the survey and public listening sessions.

Summary Presentation on Survey and Public Listening Sessions

Ms. Haiju advised the Executive Team that an online survey was conducted from October 1st – November 15th; a total of forty-three (43) individuals participated in the survey. She then gave a brief overview of the survey's responses. The survey questions established where the participant resided, what issues that the participant thought that should be a local government's top priority (crime prevention and policing garnered 77% with economic development gathering 67%), rating roads in the areas (42% voted for

“somewhat good”), what type of housing would they like to see (majority voted for single family dwellings with large lots as well as single family dwellings with small lots), health services, recreation facilities, etc. Ms. Haiju mentioned that the Three Rivers Regional Commission (TRRC) Planning Staff hosted six (6) Public Listening Sessions across the region (Barnesville, Carrollton, Griffin, LaGrange, Newnan and Thomaston) during the month of October. At these sessions, the staff asked the public, “what assets make the Three Rivers a great place to live, to visit and to invest in?” The responses included visiting the abundant natural resources and recreational opportunities and moving here for affordable housing, sense of community, etc. It was also noted that residents appreciated being close to Atlanta while still enjoying the region’s rural areas and communities.

The SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis prompted discussion from the Executive Team members; several members mentioned that our strengths should also include natural resources (such as Lake Jackson and the proximity to the Chattahoochee, Flint and Ocmulgee Rivers), small town communities (with “quaint, historic and vibrant” downtowns), quality of life, lower cost of living, and economic diversity.

Weaknesses included uneducated and tight labor market, the need for diverse housing opportunities, lack of broadband, lack of public transit options, poverty rate, etc. One member mentioned that infrastructure could be listed as a weakness as well.

Regarding opportunities, members mentioned that the film industry has shown huge interest in the TRRC region by filming television shows, movies, etc. in several areas. Could TRRC have a department that specializes in film locations to assist production managers or could TRRC take the lead in organizing the development authorities and tourism agencies throughout the region? Another opportunity is that TRRC region has land, labor pool, etc., that needs to be promoted as a region.

Threats were listed as “growth encroachment from Atlanta, crime, traffic congestion and rapid urbanization. The members discussed crime (gun violence in schools, domestic violence cases, etc.); while crime to be taken lightly, several members remarked that crime in the region does not compare to other areas of Georgia or other states.

Regional Needs and Opportunities Discussion and Regional Needs and Opportunities Prioritization Exercise

Mr. Paul Jarrell presented these items. He mentioned that the list of regional needs and opportunities were cultivated from the listening sessions that were held throughout the region. He asked the members to review the lists and advise the staff if anything needed to be added and then he asked them to vote on the top two (2) regional needs and opportunities for the categories.

Discussion of Next TRRC Regional Plan Executive Team Meeting

The Executive Team will hold their next meeting on January 24, 2019.

OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing was mentioned under the portion of the agenda.

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The Planning and Projects Committee will meet on Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 11:00 am.; the meeting location is the Turin Town Hall in Turin.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

Briar Johnson, Chairman
Planning and Projects Committee