



MINUTES
Spartanburg County
Legislative Delegation
Monday, August 3, 2009
5:00 p.m.

A public meeting of the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation was held on Monday, August 3, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the David Reid Theatre of the Chapman Cultural Center, 200 East St. John Street, Spartanburg, SC. The following members were present or absent as indicated:

Senator Glenn Reese – Absent
Senator Lee Bright – Present
Senator Shane Martin – Present
Senator Harvey Peeler – Present
Representative Harold Mitchell – Present
Representative J. Derham Cole, Jr. – Present
Representative Lanny Littlejohn – Absent
Representative Mike Forrester – Present
Representative Keith Kelly – Absent
Representative Rita Allison – Present
Representative Steve Parker – Present
Representative Joey Millwood – Present
Representative Mike Anthony – Absent

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notices of this meeting were mailed in advance to the local news media and other interested parties.

Senator Shane Martin presided, and called the meeting to order. Senator Martin thanked Kyle Boyles and Perry Mixter of the Chapman Cultural Center, and the Chairman of the Arts Partnership, Jamie Fulmer for inviting the Delegation to the Center.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation was rendered by and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Senator Lee Bright.

1. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED MAY 2, 2009, MEETING MINUTES

Senator Shane Martin moved to approve the May 2, 2009 meeting minutes as printed and mailed by acclamation. Senator Lee Bright and Rep. Joey Millwood abstained. The motion carried.

2. DR. JOHN STOCKWELL, CHANCELLOR, USC-UPSTATE – UPDATE

Enrollment at USC-Upstate continues on the upward spiral as a 4% enrollment increase is expected. USC-Upstate is excited the additional enrollment into sciences and mathematics.

The federal stimulus funding did not have wide spread support across the legislature, but it has made it possible for USC-Upstate to address some profound needs. Over the next two years the stimulus money would mean about \$4M in revenue. USC-Upstate is putting that toward one-time expenses with the bulk going towards developing additional science labs in the Smith science building. Other uses include mitigation of some tuition cost by addressing some student housing expenses, small scholarships, and funding for some security systems on campus. These one-time funds are designed to benefit people who need subcontract work and the demands of the increasing number of students.

Dr. Stockwell plugged the potential for a bond bill, which was recognized as a long shot, but if one would materialize, USC-Upstate would benefit immensely. A new library has been sought for the last twelve years and is very high on the Commission of Higher Education priority list. The current library was built for about two-thousand students. The university has crested at five-thousand students and continues to grow. There are times during the academic year when students sit on the floor in the library because USC-Upstate does not have the seating space for them. This is a critical project from Dr. Stockwell's point of view. The state needs the construction activity that a bond bill would stimulate and USC-Upstate is a project that would be beneficial.

The USC-Upstate library is the heart and soul of the campus where students research, read, and study in preparation for exams as the library is the collection of materials, books, journals, etc. of importance to faculty in teaching their courses. All the various enterprises on campus are entered in the University library. The library would be an attraction for investment because the information technology infrastructure in the library will be sophisticated and attractive to potential investors in the significant property that surrounds the University and beyond. Most significantly is when USC-Upstate's major accreditation agency (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) SACS did their accreditation visit eight years ago; they left with one recommendation that has not been implemented. SACS recommendation is the strongest directive provided short of losing accreditation, and that is to get the library built. Each year USC-Upstate is required to provide SACS with a progress report. USC-Upstate is working with an architect on not only designing the engineering drawings, it is absolutely shovel ready. The sight prep work has been completed for construction to begin except for the funding. USC-Upstate's accreditation is seriously at-risk when SACS returns in two years.

3. MS. ELIZABETH HALL, FUNDS FOR A LIBRARY IN PAULINE

District 6 is the largest school district in Spartanburg County. When Ms. Hall moved in 1983 she had never lived more than five miles from a library. At the present time she lives eighteen miles of a library and has been campaigning since 1989 to get something opened up in the Pauline, Glenn Springs and Roebuck areas. Last August, she presented her request to the library board and was informed the Pauline area will be next in line for a library to be built. However, funding for the project has not been secured. If

known funding is available for the project, Ms. Hall is asking to be informed. The Pauline, Glenn Springs, Cross Anchor, and Enoree area represents 20% of Spartanburg County which does not have access to any branch library, cable, or internet service. The children need a hands-on library facility to access computers and reference books for projects.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

4. REPRESENTATIVE ALLISON – SPARTANBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

No report

5. REPRESENTATIVE KELLY – COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

A copy of the proposed County Transportation Committee July 16, 2009 meeting minutes are included in notebooks.

6. REPRESENTATIVE FORRESTER – COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT (COG)

Representative Forrester reported that ACOG is accepting energy grants until August 22.

7. REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN – SPATS

The next SPATS meeting will be held on August 9th at 10:00 a.m. in the County Administration Building.

8. REPRESENTATIVE MILLWOOD – CHILDREN’S SHELTER

The Spartanburg Children’s Shelter has recently changed their name to The Children’s Shelter of the Upstate, an idea that the name change will help with fundraising which helps bring in funds not only from Spartanburg County but other parts of the Upstate.

9. REPRESENTATIVE ALLISON – DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

a. Mr. Ted Beaty, Sheriff’s Office – Request for dive team equipment to be used for dive and flood rescue from DNR

When Sheriff Wright took office several years ago, Sergeant Beaty was assigned the responsibility of creating a dive team and support unit for water rescue purposes for the citizenry. The original request had scuba equipment listed as part of the grant request; however, DNR does not recognize rescue equipment. Sergeant Beaty composed two separate lists - one for rescue and one for

recovery. Rubber rafts can be used on rivers and streams. There are a number of rescue boats that are not capable of being used on regional environments. Life vests are listed as safety equipment for the members on the boats. The hover craft requested comes with a trailer and all attachments. Mr. Beaty is also requesting other equipment to upgrade their other boat with sonar system that can draft out the body of an automobile, and in some situations a weapon in the water. Mr. Beaty has been in touch with Mr. Meggie at DNR. Mr. Meggie has stated that watercraft related to a rescue would fall under this request. The total amount of the requests is \$99,000.

A weighted vote form was distributed for endorsements of the request. Signatories combined weight factor must be greater than 50% for the application to be processed.

10. REPRESENTATIVE MITCHELL – PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

- a. Town of Pacolet, Pacolet Trail Phase III - \$7,500 (Approved at May 4, 2009, meeting).
- b. City of Inman, Inman Mills Ballpark renovations at \$10,800 (Approved at May 4, 2009 meeting)
- c. Town of Wellford, Wellford Sports and Recreation Park sight graded and surveyed - \$16,000

Representative Mitchell reported that the Town of Pacolet and the City of Inman application requests were both approved at the May 4, 2009 meeting. The Town of Pacolet was approved for Phase III of the Pacolet Trail in the amount of \$7,500, and the City of Inman was approved for the Inman Mills Ballpark renovations in the amount of \$10,800. Another application has been received from the Town of Wellford, but at this time there are no funds remaining to support the application at this time. New funding will not be available from Parks Recreation and Tourism until 2010.

11. REPRESENTATIVE PARKER – POLICY AND PROCEDURES

- a. Proposed policy regarding Boards and Commissioners paperwork returned to the Governor’s Office for confirmation

Over the years there have been issues regarding paperwork being returned to the Governor’s Office for confirmations of recommended appointments. Therefore, the Policy and Procedures committee is recommending a time frame be set of 90 days from the date on the letter from the Delegation office for all paperwork to be submitted and returned to the Governor’s Office for confirmation. If paperwork is not submitted in a timely fashion, then the appointment will be reconsidered at the next scheduled delegation meeting. Seven delegation members voted to approve the new policy.

12. SENATOR MARTIN – UPSTATE CAUCUS

An Upstate Caucus was formed at the end of the General Assembly session. It is a group of fifteen senators and almost forty house members from eleven counties that is committed to working together for upstate businesses. The upstate businesses make up over 60% of the Port of Charleston’s business. The upstate needs to keep the area strong and not be worrying about Greenville versus Spartanburg, or Spartanburg versus Greenville and organize the Upstate to protect those interests. Representative Dan Hamilton from Greenville was elected Chairman, Representative Rita Allison was elected Vice Chairman, and Senator Martin was elected secretary/treasurer of the organization. E-mails have been sent out for contact information. About 85% have responded. Discussions have included a fall meeting before the

upcoming legislative session begins in January.

APPOINTMENTS

Signatories combined weight factor must be greater than 50% for endorsement of nominated applicants.

13. ARKWRIGHT FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Resignation of E. R. Thomas. Application received: None.

There were no applications received, therefore, Senator Martin moved to carry this appointment over until the next meeting.

14. SPARTANBURG AREA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Term of Kathleen Baechle and Dr. Jack Evans. Application received: None

Senator Martin moved to carry this appointment over until the next meeting. The motion carried.

15. WHITNEY FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Term of James R. Forbis. Applications received: James R. Forbis and Claude Lamar Cooper.

Senator Martin moved to nominate Mr. James R. Forbis. Representative Cole seconded the motion. The motion carried.

16. FORESTRY BOARD

Term of Eddie W. McBride. Applications received: None

Senator Martin moved to carry this appointment over until the next meeting. The motion carried.

17. COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Term of Belton Workman (House District 35). Application received: Charles R. Morris, Jr. (House District 35).

Senator Martin moved to nominate Mr. Charles R. Morris, Jr. by acclamation. The motion carried.

18. DRAYTON FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Term of A. Leon Tennyson. Application received: A. Leon Tennyson

Representative Derham Cole moved to nominate Mr. A. Leon Tennyson and the nominations be closed. The motion carried.

19. STARTEX FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Terms of Leland D. Harvey, Sr. and Charles Wayne Mason. Application received: Charles Wayne Mason and Leland D. Harvey, Sr.

Representative Allison moved to nominate Mr. Charles Wayne Mason and Leland D. Harvey, Sr. Representative Forrester seconded the motion. The motion carried.

20. HOLLY SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Term of Robert L. Golightly, Jr. Application received: Robert L. Golightly, Kelly Camp Waters, Fain A. Hawk, Sr., Mark A. Waters, and Ryan Phillips.

Senator Lee Bright moved to nominate Mr. Ryan Phillips. Representative Millwood seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Representative Allison moved to nominate Robert Golightly, Jr. The motion was not seconded.

21. OLD BUSINESS

No old business discussed.

22. NEW BUSINESS

Representative Mitchell reminded the delegation of Health Care Week. ReGenesis is hosting a legislative breakfast to update what is taking place in Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union Counties.

Representative Mitchell thanked Senator Martin for accepting to serve on the South Carolina Housing commission which was passed this past session and is looking forward to working on some strategic planning for affordable housing in South Carolina.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on November 9, 2009

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED.

Shane Martin, Delegation Vice Chairman

Attested:
Carol Crowe