

MINUTES
Spartanburg County
Legislative Delegation
Monday, August 7, 2006
5:00 p.m.

A public meeting of the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation was held on Monday, August 7, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. in County Council Chambers of the Spartanburg County Administrative Office Building. Representative Doug Smith presided. The following members were present or absent as indicated:

Senator Glenn Reese – Present
Senator John Hawkins – Absent
Senator Jim Ritchie – Absent
Senator Harvey Peeler – Present
Representative Harold Mitchell – Present
Representative Doug Smith – Present
Representative Lanny Littlejohn – Absent
Representative Scott Talley – Absent
Representative Phil Sinclair – Present
Representative Joe Mahaffey – Present
Representative Ralph Davenport – Absent
Representative Bob Walker – Present
Representative Mike Anthony – Present

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.

Invocation was rendered by Representative Phil Sinclair, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Miss Cameron Smith (Chairman Doug Smith's daughter).

1. APPROVAL OF MAY 1, 2006 MEETING MINUTES

Representative Phil Sinclair moved to approve the May 1, 2006 meeting minutes as printed. Representative Bob Walker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. MR. BARRY BARNETTE, DEPUTY SOLICITOR – VEHICLE HOMICIDE BILL

Mr. Barnette illustrated the huge problem in South Carolina with people driving under suspension, without licenses and uninsured. When these people have a wreck and kill somebody, the most they are facing is 30 days in jail or a fine. There were two bills filed last year in the General Assembly that did not get out of committee. The Solicitor's Office would like for the delegations from Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Union Counties to lead support efforts for this newly submitted proposed bill to become law. (See Attachment I) This proposed bill can not be used as a plea bargain. Penalties are severe.

This proposed bill will be prefiled and considered in the next legislative session.

3. DR. SHEILA BREITWEISER, SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND - UPDATE

Dr. Breitweiser thanked the delegation for everything that was done to make this past legislative session successful for the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind (SCSDB). The School is appreciative of not just the money, but support for programs and other efforts that touched the School through larger programs - whether it was Medicaid, or looking at the early intervention services around the state that have made a huge difference for the School.

Dr. Breitweiser submitted a preliminary budget request for the upcoming session. This budget request is due in the Governor's Office on August 25. One of the things the SCSDB is looking at is the possibility of a bond bill this year. Whether or not there is a bond bill the SCSDB is looking at a tremendous number of facility needs. The majority of the budget request is focused on facility needs at the SCSDB. The SCSDB is the largest institute serving blind students twenty-four hours a day with disabilities in the state of South Carolina.

As session begins, Dr. Breitweiser will be visiting members in Columbia seeking guidance of the budget requests.

4. CHANCELLOR JOHN STOCKWELL, USC-UPSTATE – UPDATE

The University has been pushing for parity in funding for the last several years and the Legislative Delegation has brought it forward last year and again this year. This year \$1.8M was added to the University non-recurring budget, but also added to other institutions budgets around the state that were suffering from low funding relative to other comprehensive universities in the State

of South Carolina. The work the delegation did on behalf of the university rippled across the state and is recognized by others like Coastal Carolina and other institutions that have been growing like USC-Upstate has been in the last couple of years and suffering for lack of parity in funding.

Next year, the University's single biggest need is for parity increase to be made recurring. Others from universities would say the same.

Dr. Stockwell thanked the delegation for helping to handle a difficult situation in Greenville. The University had asked for \$3.9M to fund an expansion in Greenville operations. \$1M was received last year as recurring money and a decision was made on the basis of an authorization and gift of property from Greenville Technical College to build the building. In retrospect that was not the right decision. The delegation helped the University address the problem, particularly in as many of the delegation made contact with the Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee and others. The University has directed that \$1M into programming expansion in Greenville, which is the contention for continuation.

The University anticipates parity in funding remains the key issue with a major need for capital funding. If there is a bond bill there will be two requests that will be highly supported by both the USC administration and the Commission on Higher Education. The first is the library. It is about a \$17M project. The accreditation agency is saying if that library isn't built when renewal comes around again in five years, the University will face difficulty. The Commission on Higher Education has ranked that as one of the top 10 out of 70 requests from universities around the state.

The second priority, about \$5M, is to renovate other spaces when the old library is vacated for additional classrooms and faculty offices. The University Campus has greatly outgrown classroom space. The Commission on Higher Education has also ranked that as one of the top 10 among the 70 category requests.

Enrollment will be up about 8% this year. The University is the fastest growing university in the state next to Coastal Carolina. This year there will be about 1500 new students, of which 800 will be new students, 700 will be transfers from technical colleges. The University is by far the largest single university for transfer students from the technical colleges.

5. BETH SUMMER-STRAIT, MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF THE PIEDMONT-EVENTS AND TASK FORCE

The Mental Health Association has been very fortunate this year as they have received some very nice grant funding. An eight thousand dollar grant was received from the Mary Black Foundation to be used strictly for education involving mental illness as it relates to very young children 5 and under. The Association is partnering with First Steps, the early childhood program at Spartanburg Tech and also the Center for Non-Profit Leadership at USC-Upstate. With the grant funds, the Mental Health Association will bring in a nationally known trainer, Dr. John Rosemond, a nationally known psychologist, to Spartanburg in October. Dr. John Rosemond will present a full day of training for parents and educators on raising young children on the impact of mental illness in

a family with a young child.

Secondly, the Mental Health Association was awarded an eighteen thousand dollar grant from the Spartanburg County Foundation in conjunction with Clemson University's compassion project. The Association is using the grant for a program called Capacity Building. It takes a strong strategic look at the organization as to where the organization has been in the last 62 years and where the organization needs to go in the future.

The Spartanburg Mental Health Association also received three awards at the state Mental Health Association meeting in May. The Spartanburg Mental Health Association was named Affiliate of the Year.

The Mental Health Association is working very hard in spreading the word about mental wellness and the impact a mentally healthy community can have. Word is also being spread regarding mental wellness in the workplace, and among children in schools.

The Mental Health Association has two events scheduled for October: a free depression test clinic, and Dr. Rosemand. The Former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingerich will be the speaker at the annual leadership breakfast which has been scheduled for November.

There are still ongoing problems with large numbers of mentally challenged patients presented at the emergency rooms. The Department of Mental Health has instituted the Crisis Stabilization Program. This program has not been utilized as much as the Department would prefer. The Mental Health evening crisis center is open and available on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings.

A task force will be implemented to brainstorm and identify treatment gaps. Representatives from the Delegation, Solicitors office, Probate Judges, Department of Mental Health, and hospitals have been asked to serve on this task force. A meeting will be arranged for this fall.

6. MAYOR PAUL BELL, CITY OF WOODRUFF – APPRECIATION TO REPRESENTATIVE PHIL SINCLAIR

Mayor Paul Bell thanked the entire delegation for the help given the City of Woodruff and the Woodruff area. Mayor Bell expressed his appreciation to Representative Phil Sinclair for being one of the best representatives the district has had, while also being a friend to the two municipalities in the district. The city administration is looking forward to working with the new representative once elected in November.

On behalf of not only the children of the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind, but on behalf of all state citizens with disabilities, Dr. Breitweiser thanked Representative Sinclair for his leadership in the State House but also in the community. Representative Sinclair made a difference in lives of so many people through his caring compassion.

Dr. Breitweiser presented Representative Sinclair with a framed print of Walker Hall in appreciation for his outstanding commitment to the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind.

7. MS. JANET AGNEW – CONCERNS ABOUT THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ms. Agnew was not present to deliver the presentation.

8. LENNY MATHIS, PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF DUNCAN PARK – POSSIBLE STATE FUNDING AND SUPPORT OF THE PROJECT

Mr. Lenny Mathis states that there are not many places left in the community that are a subject of family togetherness and affordable family entertainment for 80 years, and, Duncan Park is virtually the last place left in Spartanburg. In fact, Duncan Park is the last wooden baseball park stadium in the nation. Many baseball leagues that have played at the park include Negro leagues, textile leagues, 77 years of American Legion baseball, Lou Gehrig, Nolan Ryan, Ryne Sandberg, etc., etc., played over 80 summers at the facility.

The Friends of Duncan Park is working with the City of Spartanburg on a goal to revitalize the stadium and make it viable for the future. On July 10, Spartanburg City Council passed a Resolution to work with the organization on a Plan to maintain the historical integrity of the Park while tackling its well documented structural and cosmetic issues.

In a span of just over a month, the organization has grown from about 60 members to 845, and well over 1,000 after the Stinger's finally. The "Friends" realize how large of a task that is undertaken. The "Friends" feel like anything that is well worth saving is worth the effort. The "Friends" want the revitalization not just for the Stingers and the American Legion, but for the community of Duncan Park. The "Friends" have sat down with the neighborhood association in Duncan Park and they do not want to see the facility closed forever. The "Friends" has an opportunity to take Spartanburg and Duncan Park around the country and promote it in a similar fashion to what has been done at Rickwood Field in Birmingham. The organization wants Duncan Park to serve as a big all-be-it older brother to Wofford and USC-Upstate. Many of the ideas that are being considered for research are coming from Birmingham Alabama, Wilson North Carolina, and Sumter South Carolina. The organization has made contacts with all the places and working to take ideas and mold them to what will work here in Spartanburg. The organization would like to take Duncan Parks marketing ideas regionally and nationally – marketing it as "South Carolina's Oldest Baseball Park", built in 1926. As the organization witnessed in Birmingham, people just stop by these places, from history buffs to baseball fans, and the doors just happen to be unlocked. The organization feels like a well marketed Duncan Park could be the same thing. Not just tournaments and other activities that is anticipated to be brought here, but it is thought to be an attraction for the state for people to point to – a place where baseball and cultural events can call home in one spot in Spartanburg.

Historical money goes to Charleston and Columbia for different projects. This particular venue is the oldest and most significant of its kind left in the state.

Friends of Duncan Park are a non-profit organization under the Spartanburg Jaycees Charities Incorporated to bring all this into being. The “Friends” will meet with the City of Spartanburg to prioritize a to-do-list first to get the park back open as soon as possible. The City’s plan is to work toward 2008 with multiple events.

In addition to the funds, the City of Spartanburg is in arrears \$200,000 for the ballpark, but never spent on the ballpark. Senator Reese has obtained funds from the state for renovations of the stadium. The “Friends” is asking the state, since this is state historical value venue, for \$500,000 to help with the local plan to get the park back together and going with a completely new infused energy. An architect study, phase I, will get the code violations fixed at about \$1.5M.

The Friends of Duncan Park want to continue to revitalize the area with the Renaissance downtown, ReGenesis on the South Side, and they want to extend it into Duncan Park help out with the walking trails in the neighborhood. As this expands, revitalization will progress toward the School for the Deaf and the Blind.

All this information will be taken into consideration and other avenues will be explored for grant funds such as Park, Recreation, and Tourism, and the Historical Preservation, as well as naming rights to park fixtures.

9. ANNE POLIAKOFF – CITY OF SPARTANBURG 175TH ANNIVERSARY GOVERNANCE MONTH

Anne Poliakoff distributed a calendar representing a monthly theme which is how the City of Spartanburg formatted the year for the 175th Anniversary Celebration. From the beginning, in January, the City had significant events to kick off the year.

The first 175 babies born in Spartanburg were given special packages in recognition. The babies will be invited back on the actual birth date of the City of Spartanburg, which is December 17. A huge party for the City has been planned for the celebration.

The City has focused on education and youth. A curriculum has been prepared for the school systems for all ages helping celebrate the history of Spartanburg.

In April, the City celebrated architectural month. In conjunction with the City Channel, the City aired 175 minutes in downtown Morgan Square. It was interesting to focus on the current and the existing architecture in the downtown area.

To celebrate May as health care month, Spartanburg Regional Health Care system opened a museum. Wings and Wheels were presented at the Spartanburg downtown airport as part of the celebration.

August is governance month. Ms. Poliakoff has asked Senators DeMint and Graham to recognize Spartanburg from the federal level, and is asking the delegation to consider recognizing Spartanburg with significant recognition for such a significant event by or around December as the year is completed.

A local resolution will be drafted. However, if the senate and house are scheduled to be in session on the same date in Columbia, a state resolution could be passed and presented as well.

Representative Smith will ask if a Spartanburg City flag could possibly fly over the state capital representing the official proclamation of Spartanburg's 175th Anniversary.

10. SPARTANBURG TECHNICAL COLLEGE NAME CHANGE

Dr. Dan Terhune and Chairman Smith have discussed the issue of Spartanburg Technical College name change. Spartanburg Technical College would like to move forward with the name change once the Commission Board has met to approve such a change.

Chairman Smith moved to adopt a Delegation resolution for Spartanburg Technical College to change their name to Spartanburg Community College. Representative Bob Walker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Spartanburg Technical College is willing to make the name change a pilot program for the state with regard to the affect it will have on the community.

Harold Osborne has requested to meet with the Delegation members regarding his concerns and wishes to serve on the state Cemetery Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

11. RRESENTATIVE BOB WALKER, COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (CTC)

The County Transportation Committee held its last quarterly meeting in July. A number of projects were approved. Approximately \$4M is received from the state in the form of C Funds to go toward basically resurfacing and intersection improvements on streets and roadways. Twenty five percent of C Funds in the County is required to be spent on state roads with the remaining funds spent on county roads. House delegation set-aside project requests are to be turned in no later than November 15.

12. SENATOR JIM RITCHIE, SPARTANBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

No report

13. REPRESENTATIVE HAROLD MITCHELL, SPARTANBURG CHILDREN'S SHELTER

A report on the Children's Shelter will be presented in November.

14. REPRESENTATIVE DOUG SMITH, SPATS

No report on SPATS except that projects are not getting funding as would like to due to the cost of petroleum. A number of projects that were online are now put on hold i.e., Skylyn Drive. The Department of Transportation State Infrastructure Bank needs to focus more on Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union counties. It was noticed that the infrastructure bank approved a \$520M project for the County of Charleston for continuation of 526. However, the upstate has some very serious issues that need to be addressed with the State Infrastructure Bank.

15. REPRESENTATIVE LANNY LITTLEJOHN, COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT COG)

No report

16. REPRESENTATIVE DOUG SMITH, SPARTANBURG COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

No report except that EcoStar has finalized their agreement with the County, despite the early release of information. There are at least two other projects that are possibilities to locate in the county – one closer to Cherokee County that will have some job impact, and one near I-85.

Representative Walker would like clarification on Spartanburg County Parks and Recreation Commission taxing district as there has been a change in the procedure. Municipalities are given an option as to whether or not they want to participate with Spartanburg County Parks and Recreation Commission's taxing district. Landrum has already opted not to join the commission's taxing district. Therefore, the monies formerly appropriated for the City of Landrum's Brookwood Park improvements will stay in Landrum.

Representative Doug Smith stated that some people are eagerly awaiting a report from the Task Force regarding Special Purpose Districts. The report should be coming within the next two or three months. With the report will come a recommendation for statutory changes as well

as local changes in ordinances.

Representative Doug Smith has agreed the Delegation would host a fund raiser for the Boys Home of Spartanburg at his residence.

APPOINTMENTS

17. ARKWRIGHT AREA FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Term of Daniel Winn and resignation of Earl Melton. Applications received: Philip “Greg” Turner and Elizabeth R. Thomas

Representative Harold Mitchell made a motion to nominate Philip “Greg” Turner and Elizabeth Thomas to the Arkwright Area Fire District Commission. Representative Sinclair seconded the motion. The motion carried.

18. CROFT AREA FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Term of William B. Littlejohn, Jr. Applications received: M. T. Myers
Since Representative Talley and Representative Lanny Littlejohn were not in attendance, this appointment will be carried over until the next meeting.

19. SPARTANBURG COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Term of Dorothy T. Moss (House District 31). Application received: None
There were no applications received for this appointment, therefore, this appointment will be carried over until the next meeting.

20. NEW PROSPECT AREA FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Term of Reggie Pryor. Application received: Reggie Pryor
Representative Bob Walker moved to nominate Reggie Pryor. Senator Reese seconded the motion. The motion carried.

21. NORTH SPARTANBURG FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Term of Danny E. Bridgeman, Sr. Application received: None

There were no applications received for this appointment, therefore, this appointment will be carried over until the next meeting.

22. BOILING SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Term of Joey Lathan and unexpired term of Johnathan Edwards. Applications received: Joey Lathan and Jeff Moss

Senator Reese moved to nominate Joey Lathan and Jeff Moss. The motion was seconded and carried.

23. WHITNEY AREA FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Terms of Donna S. Brown and Gaston C. Haywood. Applications received: Donna S. Brown and Gaston Haywood

Representative Doug Smith moved to nominate Donna S. Brown and Gaston C. Haywood. Senator Reese seconded the motion. The motion carried.

24. STARTEX FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Unexpired term of William C. Ezell (deceased). Application received: Leland D. Harvey, Sr. and Delano B. Williams

Representative Joe Mahaffey moved to nominate Leland D. Harvey, Sr. Representative Phil Sinclair seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. The motion carried.

25. HOLLY SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Unexpired term of Marvin Kaye. Application received: Ronald R. Garrett.

Representative Walker moved to carry this appointment over until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Representative Mahaffey. The motion carried.

26. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

27. NEW BUSINESS

Representative Walker announced that there is a reception scheduled for August 8th from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Marriott sponsored by the CPAs.

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED.

Doug Smith, Delegation Chairman

Attested:
Carol Crowe