



**MINUTES**  
**Spartanburg County**  
**Legislative Delegation**  
**Monday, May 12, 2014**  
**5:30 p.m.**

A public meeting of the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation was held on Monday, May 12, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in County Council Chambers of the Spartanburg County Administrative Office Building, located at 366 North Church Street, Spartanburg, SC. Representative J. Derham Cole, Jr. presided. The following members were present or absent as indicated:

Senator Tom Corbin - Present  
Senator Glenn Reese – Present  
Senator Lee Bright – Present  
Senator Shane Martin – Absent  
Senator Harvey Peeler – Present  
Representative Harold Mitchell – Present  
Representative J. Derham Cole, Jr. – Present  
Representative Edward R. Tallon, Sr. – Present  
Representative Mike Forrester – Present  
Representative William Chumley – Absent  
Representative Rita Allison – Present  
Representative Donna Wood – Present  
Representative Doug Brannon – Present

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Invocation was rendered and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Representative Donna Wood

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Representative Harold Mitchell presented Ms. Melba Blakely a Resolution honoring her for almost forty-four devoted years of service on the Spartanburg County Election Commission.

**1. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 3, 2014 MEETING MINUTES**

Representative Allison moved to approve the February 3, 2014 meeting minutes as printed and mailed. Representative Brannon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## **2. MR. BILL BARNET AND MR. CURT MCPHAIL – PROGRESS OF THE NORTHSIDE PROJECT**

The Northside project grew out of a private investment by VCOM. The idea was to try to take that energy and investment and build something important for the community.

The Northside project is west of Wofford – west of the County Administrative Office building – west of Spartanburg Regional Hospital over to the railroad tracks, bordered on the south by VCOM, and, on the north side by Cleveland Park and the County Fairgrounds. This area is an important opportunity for communities to build and improve.

The City of Spartanburg has about twenty-five percent of its population who are poor by federal standards. Of the four hundred Northside Development acres, sixty-five percent of the people live in poverty. The one school that exist (Cleveland Elementary School) has been renamed ‘Cleveland Academy of Leadership’ the major focus of these efforts. It is viewed that education is a critical issue associated with changing society for the better. But to change an educational environmental, changes are also needed in the surroundings. It is not just up to teachers to teach the children, but it is also up to others to create an environment from which these children come to school and to which they return at night. The goal is to create a holistic new environment for all the people on the north side of Spartanburg.

The Northside Development Corporation has brought together a large number of individuals and institutions to help achieve this vision. USC-Upstate is a part of the effort along with Wofford, Converse, Spartanburg Methodist College, and the hospital. The Development Corporation Board has representation from the Mary Black Foundation and the Spartanburg County Foundation. Nearly \$5M in either loans or resources from individuals has been raised to help the project become successful. The goal, over the next five to ten years, is to completely transform the community - making it a safe, positive place for people to live.

The Northside Development Corporation is seeking a large competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In order to accomplish this, the Northside Corporation needs to create the reality of a very unique energy around the community.

The Corporation would like encouragement, support, knowledge and ideas as this project is difficult work and requires a lot of effort.

This project is being built on a model in Atlanta called the East Lake Community. The East Lake Community was completed by a group of people lead by Tom Cousins, a wealthy developer in Atlanta, who saw the worst area of Atlanta and decided to do something about it. Now the area is where the Bobby Jones golf course exists and the FedEx Cup tournament is held. Bobby Jones bought the golf course and started getting his friends to give him money. He took what was called ‘Little Vietnam’ and turned it into something that is absolutely amazing with a combination of affordable and market rate housing. The area now includes a YMCA, Publix, and a declining crime rate.

The school was at the very bottom of all Atlanta schools statistics. Today it is at the very top – fourteen years later. A remarkable story – which is a goal the Northside Development, has set out to attain.

Mr. Curt McPhail presented a PowerPoint map of the Northside Project.

The goal is simple as the Northside Development Corporation is trying to build a neighborhood of choice – where the folks who live in the Northside now will choose to stay; and, those who can choose where to live will decide they want to live on the north side of the City. The area identified as the ‘Northside’ encompasses four hundred acres. When the initial investment came into existence, there was talk of about making it an economic opportunity, but recognizing the probability to develop different, the area was also sought to try to make it a social opportunity; and, to do it with the folks living in the Northside.

Northside is two blocks from downtown, across the street from Wofford, two blocks from the hospital, and the Cleveland Academy of Leadership is within the footprint. In addition, there is Cleveland Park, and the future sight of the Food Hub. The Northside Development Corporation believes there is the opportunity to create something special in the heart of the city that would have benefits reaching out to all areas of the County.

Mr. Barnet is the Chair of the Northside Development Corporation; Mr. McPhail works for the Development Corporation. They are a diverse group of people, passionate about bringing Spartanburg's Northside to its well deserved potential investing time, skills, and dollars. The goal is to create a safe, strong, and thriving community through diverse partnerships, land acquisitions, and leveraging resources.

The Atlanta East Lake Community is now called the Purpose Built Community. Spartanburg is one of eight cities across the country in the Purpose Built network replicating what has been completed in Atlanta. The area is also part of the Choice Neighborhood's planning effort. There are only seventeen other cities across the country that were awarded a planning grant last year. Through that process, the Northside Development Corporation has engaged over fifty institutions in Spartanburg. Most importantly Northside residents are leading the charge in helping facilitate the conversations and being a part of the change that is to be created.

The Spartanburg Housing Authority has been able to build a model on Brawley Street. There are three, fifteen hundred square foot duplex units going up in an effort to honor the Old Mill history. Residents said they wanted the area to look like things have been there for awhile. The folks, who are currently on public housing, will have three years to own their own unit.

Collaborative efforts are being put forth by the Northside Development, the City, Mary Black Foundation, Hub City Farmers market, and the Butterfly Foundation towards the Howard Street Healthy Food Hub. A greenhouse will be the new home for the Farmer's Market. There will be an urban farm that is actually working, growing and selling vegetables and where folks can buy healthy foods and vegetables as well as prepared foods. There will be an incubator kitchen for those folks in the neighborhood that may have Grandma's famous apple pie recipe they want to make and possibly sell. They will be able rent space and make that pie in a DHEC approved kitchen. This project is slated to be finished by the end of the summer.

The key to our world is making sure that children are ready for kindergarten, middle school, high school and on to graduate. When you walk in the front door of the Cleveland Academy of Leadership, you are greeted with quotes. There is a sense they are going places. It is also worth noting this is the only public school in the State of South Carolina that goes 205 days a year and they do that out of their own pocket and it shows that it works.

On their federal report card in 2012 they scored a 39.6. We can all agree that's an F. One year after implementing the five extra weeks they were at 68.2. And, in 2013-2014 school year the Cleveland Academy won the State Palmetto Silver award – mainly for the ability to improve their statistic. Out of the 686 elementary schools in the State of South Carolina, its improvement ranking has the school listed at 91<sup>st</sup>. This kind of progress keeps the Corporation incredibly happy.

One of the things the Northside Development Corporation wanted to do was to do re-development different. Therefore, the Northside Development was established as a non-profit landbank to make sure residents had a say in the development of the area. They were able, along with the City, to secure about 175 parcels of land. Securing these parcels of land made the project become one step closer to implementing the plan.

The Corporation has leveraged about \$4.9M. \$1.5M of that is for an Early Childhood Development Center – thanks to a \$1M commitment by Mary Black and another \$500,000 commitment by a private individual.

In closing, the mixed income housing means multi-family housing so that all levels of income

can be there. A third of the folks would be public housing residents, a third would be tax credit residents, and a third would be market rate residents. That model has worked across the country and it is exciting to make it work in Spartanburg.

The Northside project plan is to implement a cradle to career education in a high quality social services environment.

The Northside Corporation spent a week in January working with residents and other stakeholders. About three hundred and fifty people assembled in the Green Street Baptist Church to offer their ideas about what the Northside project could be. Some of their inspired ideas was to have Green space across the street from Freemont School. A creek runs through the heart of Northside that used to be called 'nasty branch', but now it is called 'Butterfly Branch', thanks to the children at Cleveland Academy of Leadership. Part of effort will be to light the creek establishing a walking path from Cleveland Academy of Leadership to VCOM. The people also expressed ideas of townhouses on traditional neighborhood streets. This is a level of which the Corporation is thinking in developing the four hundred acres.

The City has committed to build a new community center and is looking at Archibald Rutledge for they know there needs to be a high quality place for seniors in the Northside footprint.

The education corridor includes the Cleveland Academy of Leadership, a new community center and playing fields behind it.

The Corporation feels like they are on the way to developing an equation for success, but, are not there yet as it is a ten year journey –but, it includes momentum, both with partnerships and leverage resources that includes a unique location, and also includes what is considered to be an unprecedented level of involvement from all different entities deep within neighborhoods across Spartanburg County.

### **3. MS. JENNIE THOMAS, SC VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION – UPDATE ON THE BRYANT CENTER IN LYMAN; SERVICES TO UPSTATE COUNTIES; AND, PLANS FOR COMPLETION OF THE WORK TRAINING CENTER IN LYMAN**

About sixteen years ago, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation department began planning for the completion of the Bryant Comprehensive Center in Lyman. This Center is dedicated to providing services to individuals with disabilities who need more advanced services to remove barriers and to achieve competitive employment. The phase one plans included an area office to serve the Lyman, Duncan, Greer, Pelham, Taylors and Travelers Rest areas as well as most of the west side of Spartanburg County. They provide such services as career exploration, individual plans for employment, counseling and guidance, and job placement assistance.

The Comprehensive Center serves Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Lauren, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg and Union Counties with such programs as the Brain Injury program, Pain Management program, a Therapeutic exercise program, Rehabilitation technology, IT training and summer transition programs for high school students.

Just four years ago, the doors opened at the Bryant Center. Since that time, they have received over 1600 referrals to their Comprehensive Programs. By the end of this fiscal year, they expect to surpass the yearly goal of serving more than 400 individuals with disabilities. They also receive over 500 new referrals every year for the area office. Annually they have been able to assist more than 200 individuals with disabilities to become successfully employed in competitive employment.

Vocational Rehabilitation is now looking at completing their initial plan, which included a work training center as a component at the Bryant Center. The project went through the State approval process a few years but the program was put on hold due to budget constraints. Now, the budget situation has improved. Commissioner Barbara Hollis has asked Ms. Thomas to inform delegation members that she is looking to get the project rolling again. They are excited about the idea of fulfilling

the initial goal for the community served. Ms. Hollis has requested a follow-up to gauge if the needs and the desires of the community remain the same. Therefore, the Rehabilitation Center is introducing the Delegation whose citizens utilize the center, to this goal of taking services to the Bryant Center to an added level in job readiness training. Ms. Thomas would welcome input on how the Rehabilitation Center could better serve the communities. Many have seen services at other Vocational Rehabilitation facilities, such as their business and industry partnerships which would enhance the job readiness training services. In tandem, with the specialized services mentioned earlier, Vocational Rehabilitation wants to tailor specific skills needed by employers in the area. Vocational Rehabilitation will have a unique array of services to help people with disabilities in the Upstate get ready to go into employment with the skills they need to succeed in local businesses.

As the plans are being reviewed for this phase, Vocational Rehabilitation will welcome delegation input regarding the needs seen of the constituency, and is excited about the possibility of completing the project that was started so long ago.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**4. SENATOR SHANE MARTIN - LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND COMMITTEE**

No report.

**5. REPRESENTATIVE ALLISON – SPARTANBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

No in-depth report other than the Chamber is interviewing for the new Chairman.

**6. SENATOR SHANE MARTIN – CHAPMAN CULTURAL CENTER**

No report.

**7. REPRESENTATIVE FORRESTER – COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT (COG)**

Representative Forrester reported there were issues of senior centers vendors not being paid in a timely manner through the Lieutenant Governor's office. A report has since been received from the Executive Director of the Appalachian Council of Governments which states that it appears the formula in the AIM software (in the Lieutenant Governor's Office) is now working correctly, as they have received payment for January last week and have distributed payment to the service providers. February has also been processed and the formula has worked. The numbers came out as expected and all is reconciled.

**8. REPRESENTATIVE FORRESTER – SPATS**

The Highway 9 construction with SPATS is on target and continues to move forward. When completed, the project will be a nice addition to the Boiling Springs area.

**9. REPRESENTATIVE WOOD – HOPE CENTER FOR CHILDREN**

The Hope Center is working well and doing a great job.

**10. REPRESENTATIVE CHUMLEY - DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

No report.

**11. REPRESENTATIVE BRANNON - POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

No report.

**12. REPRESENTATIVE MITCHELL – UPSTATE ALLIANCE**

No report.

**13. REPRESENTATIVE TALLON – SPARTANBURG COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Total approved funding for CTC projects at the April meeting was \$988,257.00

The projects approved include Representative Allison’s set-aside @ \$46,248 for underpass resurfacing and storm drainage repair in the Town of Wellford.

Representative Mitchell’s set-aside @\$41,454 to demolish existing sidewalk curb and gutter on Collins Avenue.

The City of Spartanburg to construct 4 feet of sidewalk on Collins Avenue; C Funds contributed \$6,148.80.

Representative Tallon set-aside for the Town of Pacolet River Gateway @ \$17,000; and, \$11,406.82 for the Town of Cowpens to upgrade street signs per DOT recommendations and two welcome signs.

Town of Pacolet, Sunny Acres Road safety project, an additional phase to the Pacolet River Gateway Project @ \$250,000

City of Spartanburg to resurface city streets at \$350,000

**14. REPRESENTATIVE MITCHELL – PARKS AND RECREATION DEVELOPMENT**

No report.

**NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS**

**15. FIRST STEPS**

Terms of Kelly Pope and Susan Ridings

Applications received: Susan Mottshaw

No applications have been received therefore, Representative Wood moved to carry the appointment over. Representative Tallon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**16. UPSTATE EDUCATIONAL CENTER ADVISORY BOARD**

Terms of Mark Koenig, Gregory Scull and Fred Marsh

Applications received: None

No applications have been received therefore; a motion was made to carry the appointment over. The motion was approved.

**17. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD**

Term of J. C. Caldwell, II

Application received: J. C. Caldwell, II

Senator Reese moved to nominate J. C. Caldwell. Representative Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**18. SPARTANBURG AREA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**

Terms of Sarah Gadus, Robert K. Hendrix and Gayle Singletary

Applications received: Sarah Gadus, Robert K. Hendrix, and Gayle Singletary

Representative Brannon moved to nominate Sarah Gadus, Robert Hendrix, and Gayle Singletary. Representative Tallon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**19. BOILING SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Term of Everett Matthews

Applications received: Walter Andrew 'Andy' Mills, Marcus R. Randy' Coggins, and Luther 'Luke' E. Pye, Jr.

Representative Wood moved to nominate Marcus R. 'Randy' Coggins. Senator Reese seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. The motion carried.

**20. FORESTRY BOARD**

Term of Philip Caruso

Application received: Philip Caruso

Representative Brannon moved to nominate Mr. Philip Caruso. The motion was seconded by Representative Wood. The motion carried.

**21. CROFT FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Term of Mike Shackelford

Application received: Mike Shackelford

Representative Tallon moved to nominate Mike Shackelford. Representative Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**22. NORTH SPARTANBURG FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Terms of John L. Prince, Jr. and George Rush

Applications received: John L. Prince, Jr. and George Rush

Representative Wood moved to re-elect Mr. Prince and Mr. Rush. Representative Brannon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**23. PELHAM BATESVILLE FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Terms of Davis Holder  
Application received: Davis Holder

Representative Allison moved to nominate Mr. Davis Holder. Representative Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**24. FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD 7A**

Term of Ashley Michele Wright  
Application received: Ashley Michele Wright

Representative Brannon moved to re-appoint Ms. Wright. Representative Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**25. WESTVIEW FAIRFOREST FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Terms of John Mason and Bobby Wilder  
Applications received: Dwight L. Phillips, John Mason, Bobby Wilder, and Walter White

Representative Forrester moved to re-appoint John Mason and Bobby Wilder. Representative Wood seconded the motion. Representative Brannon moved to close the nominations. The motions carried.

**26. WHITNEY AREA FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Unexpired term of William Brashears  
Applications received: Gaston C. Haywood and Bruce Scott Ramsey

Representative Forrester moved to nominate Bruce Scott Ramsey. Representative Tallon seconded the motion. Representative Brannon moved to close the nominations. Both motion carried.

**27. SPARTANBURG COUNTY COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

Unexpired term of W. Sterling Anderson  
Applications received: Dr. John (Jack) William Davis, David Benjamin Graves, and Larry L. Ware

Representative Forrester moved to nominate David Benjamin graves. Representative Allison seconded the motion. Senator Bright moved to nominate Dr. John (Jack) Davis. Senator Corbin requested to carry over the appointment as the Chairman may have an interest in the appointment. Representative Cole had spoken to Senator Martin regarding this appointment. Therefore, Senator Corbin withdrew his motion. Senator Corbin seconded the motion.

A vote was taken with Mr. John Davis receiving 22.97 percent of the vote and Mr. David Graves receiving 59.52 percent of the vote. Therefore Mr. David Graves name will be sent to the Governor's for confirmation of the appointment.

Before the meeting adjourned, Representative Wood announced and introduced the new Fire Chief for Boiling Springs, Mr. Scott Miller, as Mr. Leroy Searcey retired due to health conditions.

**28. OLD BUSINESS**

Representative Mitchell congratulated Ms. Kathy Rivers and her department for the Community



Block Grant received for Spartanburg County.

**29. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Henry Laye has requested delegation approval to change the St. John Lutheran Church Polling Place to the Pine Street Elementary School on Primary Election Day (June 10<sup>th</sup>). This will be a temporary Polling Place for the Primary Election as Day Camps and Bible School functions requires use of all the Church facilities. The temporary Polling Place for June 10<sup>th</sup> will be the Pine Street Elementary School.

**WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED.**

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Shane Martin, Chairman

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Attested: Carol Crowe