

Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2011, at 7:07 p.m., Mayor Eva Galambos presiding.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Presentation on the North Fulton County Voter Initiative

The information for this agenda item was presented during the Regular meeting.

2. Children's Playable Art Pieces for Abernathy Greenway

Cheri Morris, Boardmember of Sandy Springs Conservancy, stated this presentation is about the playable art pieces which will be located along the Abernathy Greenway. This project includes a \$300,000 grant from Northside Hospital. She recognized the Sandy Springs Conservancy for continuing to raise private funds for the community and thanked Executive Director Linda Bain. Careful consideration was taken to find beautiful works of fine art to ensure that they inspire play, are safe, and last for many years. There was guidance from the Abernathy Arts Center, The Conservator of Public Art for Fulton County, Director of Recreation and Parks Ronnie Young, and City Manager John McDonough. Many judges were used to look at the sculpture submissions including: Former Senior Editor of Art Papers Magazine, Dr. Jerry Cullum; Founder of the Atlanta Taskforce on Play (ATOP) in 2006, Cynthia Gentry; Exhibition Program Manager for the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Cathleen Cook Hunt; Chair of Sculpture at Savannah College of Art and Design in Atlanta, Susan Krause; and Associate Conservator of Objects for the High Museum of Art, Michelle Savant. Over 120 entries were received for the competition. She asked that Council accept the playable art as a gift to the City at the next Council meeting. This would allow the sculptors to begin fabricating the art pieces to ensure deadlines are met for the opening of the park in the fall. She discussed the individual art pieces that will be in the park. The first sculpture is called the Big Imagine. It is steel tubing, sixty-five feet long and seventeen feet tall, that will hold seven individual swings. It is a new look for a traditional swing set. The next piece is the Dragonfly made of hand formed brick. Many of the bricks have petroglyph designs and are beautifully detailed. This piece will be sixty feet long, thirty-six feet wide and twelve feet high. Children can walk up a trough inside the back of the dragonfly and slide through its head and out its mouth. The wings are a climbable structure. Another piece is called the Wonder Wall, which is a mosaic play wall made of kilned glass beads and tiles. It is lightweight concrete on a recycled steel armature. She referenced the drawing which will be installed at the park. This piece was picked for its beauty and because it is handicap accessible. Children without sight can have a tactile experience with it. The next art piece is called Twist & Shout. This piece is forty feet long, twenty feet wide, and ten feet high. All of the art pieces will have the special fall surfaces underneath. The next piece is called Spider Walk. It is an abstract spider where children can climb up the spider's legs. The entire piece is eleven feet in height and forty feet wide. The artist may be asked to add hand hold options such as rungs or ropes. The artist is Phil Proctor, from whom Art Sandy Springs has previously bought pieces, one being the Skylark located at the library on Mount Vernon Highway. The last piece is called It's You and Me Kid, which is a study of positive and negative space. This piece is a laser cut granite boulder. The child that is cut out of the boulder is on the ground in a couple different places and shapes. The art piece will fill up an area of about 20x20 feet. She referenced a map of Abernathy Park showing where the sculptures will be located once they arrive. The Abernathy Greenway Committee has also been involved with the art pieces.

Mayor Eva Galambos asked when the art pieces will be installed in the park.

Ms. Morris stated the art pieces will be installed in the Fall of 2012 and are scheduled to be unveiled in October.

Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnerny stated this project is fabulous. She asked who will be responsible for the cost of getting the art pieces to the park.

Ms. Morris responded it is the artist's responsibility to deliver the art pieces to the spot the City designates.

Councilmember Tibby DeJulio stated he was impressed with the quality of jurors and artists participating in this project who are internationally famous. He commended the Playable Art Park Steering Committee on the project.

Ms. Morris stated the judges saw 45 of the 120 entries. One criterion for the artist was a portfolio of spectacular pieces that are already installed in public spaces. The park and the art pieces are going to be iconic for the City.

Councilmember Dianne Fries stated this project is unbelievable. She is thrilled that the art pieces are spread throughout the park. She asked where parking and the bathrooms will be located.

Councilmember Chip Collins stated parking will be located along Wright Road.

Councilmember Fries stated at the last community meeting the bathrooms were removed from the plan.

Mayor Galambos stated the parking area needs to be added back into the plan.

City Manager John McDonough stated staff will work with Director of Recreation and Parks Ronnie Young regarding the parking. The Abernathy Park master plan needs to be brought back to Council again for review and endorsement, including the playable art, parking, and restrooms.

Councilmember Fries asked if the time schedule for the art to be delivered will be postponed until the parking situation is corrected. She asked if acceptance of the gift should be done first and then the parking can be dealt with later.

City Manager McDonough stated the approval of the items can be done separately.

Councilmember Fries stated this item can be included on the consent agenda for the next regular meeting.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny asked if this regular meeting agenda can be amended in order to accept the gift this evening.

City Attorney Wendell Willard stated in order to vote on this matter, Council would first have to go back into regular session. Council can choose to amend the regular agenda and include a resolution to authorize the City to accept the art pieces.

The City Council returned to the Regular meeting at 7:22 p.m. in order to take action on the Children's Playable Art Pieces for Abernathy Greenway. The Work Session resumed following the conclusion of the regular meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Public Works

1. Consideration of approval of a design contract modification to provide final construction plans and associated coordination in support of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Sidewalks, Phase 2 and 3 Construction Projects (T-0033)

Capital Improvements Project Engineer Marty Martin stated about two years ago Council was briefed on financing options for the CDBG construction. At that time staff contemplated one large construction project to execute construction of the CDBG sidewalks. A decision was made at that time not to seek advance funding from HUD with interest payments on that advance funding. It was decided to phase the CDBG construction project as funding is earned. That includes a requirement for the design consultant to prepare two additional complete sets of construction documents to put out for bid. The cost increase to the contract is approximately \$59,000 to render the work for the two additional sets of construction documents.

Mayor Eva Galambos asked if the contractor will do additional construction or design work.

Capital Improvements Project Engineer Martin stated the additional work will be producing and reviewing the complete construction document set. Phase I of the CDBG sidewalks is 140 to 150 sheets of drawings. These drawings are reviewed by both the City and by GDOT, since the work is on Roswell Road/State Highway 9.

Mayor Galambos asked if all of the drawings would be reviewed at one time, if the project was not separated into phases.

Capital Improvements Project Engineer Martin responded yes.

Mayor Galambos asked if the project being separated into phases is the reason it is costing the City \$59,000 more to review the plans.

Capital Improvements Project Engineer Martin stated the cost is for creating the plans and for the review process.

Mayor Galambos stated she does not understand why the cost of reviewing the plans is so high.

Capital Improvements Project Engineer Martin stated the contractor has a fairly deliberate workload whenever they take an increment of a project through the review process. Starting in January 2011, it took about three months to complete the GDOT encroachment permitting along with the first phase. This part of the project will probably take four months of review.

Mayor Galambos asked if the encroachment permitting process includes attending meetings, telephone calls, and no construction or engineering work.

Capital Improvements Project Engineer Martin stated the process will include engineering work in response to construction comments. On Phase 2 and 3 there has been significant redesign to satisfy the requirements from the GDOT review engineers.

Mayor Galambos asked staff to check to see if the cost of \$59,000 is for additional work.

City Manager John McDonough stated staff will further review this and confirm the cost.

Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnerny stated since the cost includes paperwork, time, phone calls, and meetings, both phases should be designed and approved at one time.

Capital Improvements Project Engineer Martin stated the City has already let Phase 1 of this project and it is actually being constructed right now. This item is a proposal to combine the last two phases of the project.

Mayor Galambos stated there may be justification for the cost, but she feels it should be reviewed.

City Manager McDonough stated staff will review the alternatives, with their respective costs, and will provide Council with an in depth rationale.

Mayor Galambos stated the cost has already exceeded the \$426,000 that was approved in the budget. Now an additional \$59,000 is going to be added. She expressed concern on where the funds will come from.

Capital Improvements Project Engineer Martin stated a more detailed breakdown of the project can be brought back to Council. The total construction effort that is being contemplated is from Dalrymple Road to the Chattahoochee River. Any further design work was held until the construction project was let. Staff did not want to bring Council another request for design without upcoming construction.

There was a consensus of Council to move this item forward to the next Regular meeting agenda.

City Manager John McDonough stated staff is trying to plan a mid-year budget update plus contract updates and recommended budget adjustments to the FY2012 budget. He suggested holding the update meeting the same day as the next City Council meeting on February 7th. He asked Council what time they would like to start the update meeting.

Mayor Eva Galambos asked if the meeting can start at 4:00 p.m.

Councilmember John Paulson suggested the update meeting start at 3:00 p.m.

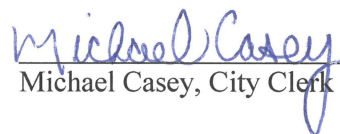
There was a consensus of Council that the briefing meeting should start at 3:00 p.m. on February 7th.

Councilmember Karen Meitzen McEnerny thanked Councilmember Fries and staff for a wonderful Martin Luther King Day ceremony at the City.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Date Approved: February 7, 2012


Eva Galambos, Mayor


Michael Casey, City Clerk