

Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at 7:13 p.m., Mayor Eva Galambos presiding.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Possible Auto Museum

Mayor Eva Galambos recognized Oliver Porter to present this agenda item.

Oliver Porter introduced Gail Ripans. She is a long time resident of Sandy Springs and came up with an idea six months ago to build an attraction in the City of Sandy Springs.

Gail Ripans stated she and Mayor Galambos took a trip to Cartersville to visit the Booth and Tellus Museums. They realized Sandy Springs is in a better location, has a fantastic demographic base, and is affluent, but Sandy Springs does not have anything to bring people into the City. The original thought was to have a museum, but the concept has become more specific.

Mr. Porter stated there is a tremendous amount of work to do and a number of people have been working on it for some time. The project is called Sandy Springs Unique Vehicles (SSUV). It is called vehicles versus automobiles to leave it open for other forms of transportation. The mission for the organization is to establish an automotive transportation center in Sandy Springs for the benefit of residents and as an attraction for visitors. The organization is a not for profit volunteer organization currently filing for incorporation and 501(c) (3) tax status. The initial board consists of volunteers having extensive business, community, and collect-a-car experience. There is so much talent in this community and it is amazing to see the people with national and international reputations in the car collector community become involved. They originally agreed to serve as an advisory board and will continue as members on the board for the SSUV. SSUV is a hub of a number of activities including car transportation collections, corporate participation and exhibits, auto clubs, educational programs including grants, collections of transportation related memorabilia, art collections, auto sales, racing related activities, and accessories. The reason to have this large number of activities is to have something for the citizens to be involved in or attend. It also builds the level of traffic to interest corporate sponsors. The permanent facility will be in an accessible location within Sandy Springs. They are currently in negotiations for a great piece of property in the City. The site requirements include sufficient enclosed space to house a minimum of 20 vehicles, maintenance facilities, meeting rooms, gift shop, food facilities, administrative offices, parking spaces for several hundred cars, and a prominent, attractive location with accessibility to majority thoroughfares. SSUV has a timetable and a detailed business plan. The Board adopted the business plan, including a budget, and they are now entering the execution phase. The proposal is to have a completed site acquisition by the end of this year. The execution of this plan will require significant corporate and community support. They have plans on how to obtain that support and the first step is speaking to Council tonight to gain their support. It is important to acquire the necessary support of the City Council in order to obtain support from corporate sponsors. SSUV is not asking for any financial support from the City, just their endorsement that this will be a worthwhile project and activity for the City of Sandy Springs.

Mayor Eva Galambos asked Mr. Porter to share who is on the Board of Directors.

Mr. Porter said the Board is comprised of Gail Ripans, Chair, Fred Lawson, Treasurer; Allan Ripans, John Ripans, Kym Hughes, Ron Green, Don Peterson, Rick Skelton, Rick Wornicky, Dave Sibert, and himself.

Councilmember Ashley Jenkins stated the Council has been trying to remove anything dealing with Automobiles from the downtown area. She asked if the location would be downtown.

Mr. Porter stated it depends on what Council defines as downtown. He does not think the area is downtown.

Councilmember Dianne Fries stated it is not downtown.

Councilmember Jenkins stated it would be ironic to have an auto museum downtown when Council is trying to create a pedestrian friendly city.

Mr. Porter stated it is not downtown, but it would be a great area for people to spend time walking.

Councilmember Fries stated it is a great idea and likes the fact it is being opened up to all vehicles. The museum can incorporate road rallies, motorcycle shows, and antique bike shows. There are a lot of different routes SSUV could take.

Mr. Porter stated they would like to incorporate those types of things. If they can get the site they are pursuing, it would be a perfect showcase for those. The Board has adopted the concept that it is going to go big or not at all.

Councilmember Chip Collins stated the nicest facility his law firm has had their annual party at was the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum. He stated an additional use for this museum could be an events facility.

Councilmember Fries stated that Sandy Springs does not have any large event facilities.

Mr. Porter stated that use is not listed, per the advice of Kym Hughes, so as to not be in conflict with the hotels.

Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnerny stated she is very familiar with the concept, because she has classic sports cars. She thinks having another museum in the community is a good idea. She does not like the fact that they are asking for the City Council's endorsement when there are 400 non-profit organizations that work in the City who would like the Council's endorsement.

Mr. Porter stated he doesn't feel like it is one 501(c) (3) over the other, since the others have not asked. Council passed a policy, within the last months, concerning non-profit organizations. He studied the policy and SSUV is not asking for anything that is outside those guidelines.

Mayor Galambos reiterated that they are not asking for anything that does not fall within the guidelines of the policy that was adopted.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny stated the PowerPoint states that SSUV is asking the City Council to approve a resolution endorsing the establishment of a not for profit automotive transportation center as a desirable project, which is what she is objecting to. It is not the role of the Council to publicly endorse one not for profit over another. She supports the concept.

Mrs. Ripans suggested to replace the word endorse with the word support.

Mayor Galambos stated it is a matter of finding the correct wording to make it work out.

Councilmember Jenkins stated the objection is to the resolution.

Councilmember Tibby DeJulio stated that a resolution could not be done tonight.

Mr. Porter stated this was just an introduction for Council to consider. He understands the concern, but they do fall within the parameters of the resolution.

Mayor Galambos stated the issue is with sponsorships which involve money or some sort of risk.

Mr. Porter stated this is step one of their process. Before they can get off the ground, they will need some major financial support, and it would be desirable to present to the sponsors that this is an activity that the Council approves of and would like to see happen. Without that endorsement, he feels they are in trouble going forward.

Councilmember Jenkins stated she disagrees, because they have some high profile people on the board. They don't need the City's endorsement to raise money.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny stated the product will drive this.

Mayor Galambos asked how the Farmers Market was handled. Council gave them approval to use the Target location.

Councilmember Jenkins stated they gave them approval for the lease to use the Target parking lot.

Mayor Galambos stated to some extent Council supported them.

Councilmember Jenkins answered no.

Councilmember DeJulio asked if something was passed to endorse the Anne Frank Museum.

Councilmember Fries answered yes.

Councilmember Jenkins stated Council had to fund the Anne Frank Museum.

Councilmember Fries stated Council did not fund Anne Frank. It is just the mechanism the funds are going through to pay for things.

Councilmember Jenkins stated Council also had to promise to use the General Fund if the money was not raised for Anne Frank.

Councilmember Fries stated yes, that was part two of the agreement.

Mayor Galambos stated that Council would work through the issue and come to an agreement on what can be done.

Mrs. Ripans thanked Council for their consideration and stated that any ideas Council has are welcome. She would love to see the Auto Museum put Sandy Springs on the map.

Mayor Galambos stated when this idea came up she thought it was a great idea, because no one in the Atlanta area has a museum for vehicles.

2. Discussion on City Sponsorship of Sandy Springs Farmers Market

Councilmember Ashley Jenkins stated she put this item on the agenda to see how everybody felt about a sponsorship at the Sandy Springs Farmers Market to have food prepared onsite. Based on discussions with several Councilmembers, this is not a supported idea.

Andy Bauman stated Sandy Springs is their community and their friends and they don't want a divisive issue. There are two ways to handle this project. One is municipal and one is non-profit. They will find a way to do it by using the non-profit route. They really appreciate the support of the Council allowing them to use the City's property.

Mayor Eva Galambos stated it sounds like the issue is solved.

Councilmember Chip Collins thanked Andy and Jeff for the countless hours and dollars they have invested in providing the City with a great farmers market. Council knew there would be tweaks made, because they have never been done this before. Council has gotten hung up on the word "sponsor" instead of substance. It is the same issue that was in debate about a month ago with the word slum and blight. Those were just words and they hid the substance of what the City is trying to do. The word sponsorship is to be used for one single form, so they can make it a better farmer's market. If the non-profit works out, then the problem is solved, but in the future he hopes Council does not get caught up over single words. As a City, they are supposed to apply common sense and get the right results for the citizens. He feels Council is making a mistake in this situation.

Councilmember Dianne Fries stated she disagrees with Councilmember Collins, because this is a for profit business. The sponsorship is opening the door for other businesses in Sandy Springs. She proposed to the market to partner with her non-profit in return for a small donation to the police and fire department.

Mr. Bauman stated they are really proud that within three weeks they have raised \$300 dollars off of the water sales. This was pitched as a for-profit and there was some legitimate question about whether Council should be involved. They left that decision for Council to determine if they wanted to put it up for bid. He and Jeff just wanted to try and start a farmers market, which is happening with help and support from a lot of people. He recognizes there are legitimate policy issues and points of view on all sides of the issue, so he will find a different avenue to get things done.

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Works

1. Morgan Falls Road Concept Presentation

Public Works Director Tom Black stated this item is to discuss getting a road in service to Morgan Falls Park in time for the park opening and looking a long term master plan. The construction will pick up at the last apartment entrance on Morgan Falls. Staff is proposing to have a traffic circle at that point, with two 11 foot lanes for traffic. It is the quickest way to get the park opened and maintain the traffic for the GA Power service vehicles coming in and out of the park. Staff wants to leave the roadway with a trail that will go to the park and eventually to the river. For the first phase of the project, staff will move forward with that work, as long as the funds are available. The topography work should be done within the week and then staff can move forward with designs. Staff had to give GA Power three options. The second option was to continue on long term with a loop with a one-way road all the way around. The last option was a road that ran between the houses, was really steep, and not worth bringing to Council.

Councilmember Dianne Fries asked what the green fingers on the exhibit represented.

Public Works Director Black answered it is paved driveways.

Councilmember Fries asked what the yellow area is on the exhibit.

Public Works Director Black stated there will be several hurdles to overcome to get a roadway around the whole area. It would be wonderful long term to have a roadway. The bulk of this area already has an old roadway and a sewer easement, so it wouldn't require that much clearing. The option is to have a bigger wooded park setting guide, like in major parks, or a multi-use path that would be hard surface and ADA compliant.

Mayor Eva Galambos asked if it will be open to automobiles.

Public Works Director Black stated that option would not. Most of it will be determined through the permitting process.

Mayor Galambos asked if there will be coming and going on the current right-of-way.

Public Works Director Black answered yes.

Councilmember Tibby DeJulio asked if there is enough right-of-way and clearance to do it now.

Public Works Director Black stated they were sure there was enough clearance until today. It turns out that Fulton County may have recaptured Morgan Falls Road.

Councilmember John Paulson asked what recaptured means.

Public Works Director Black stated Fulton County claims they own the road now.

City Attorney Wendell Willard asked how they reserved ownership.

Public Works Director Black stated it was just announced this afternoon.

City Attorney Willard stated any right-of-way that was in the City when it was incorporated is the City's right-of-way.

Transportation Planner Mark Moore stated this project is extremely dynamic as changes are happening on a daily basis. There are so many stakeholders involved including Georgia Power, River Keeper, EPD, etc. Staff met with EPD this morning and what Fulton County indicated is that the boundary of the land fill encompasses the existing road. It is not necessarily that they own the right-of-way. The boundary of the landfill extends north of the road, which requires an additional permit called a minor modification. Fulton County would be the applicant to EPD and Sandy Springs will have to do the leg work for them. There is a meeting next Wednesday with GA Power to present the concepts to them and their design team. Staff will be meeting with Colonial Pipeline on Thursday morning.

Mayor Galambos asked how Fulton County got involved in the meeting.

Transportation Planner Moore answered because they own the landfill, they were invited to be involved. Staff wanted to be sure that all the permits were covered and stakeholders were involved. There is a small portion of the landfill that staff will have to cross which belongs to Fulton County.

Councilmember Karen Meinzen McEnerny stated that site is an environmental disaster and the City didn't want to have anything to do with it, because it has methane in it. The City never took control of the outline of that area. She wants legal advice on taking title to it, if the road is in that area.

Transportation Planner Moore stated the City is not taking any title. The boundary of the landfill as defined by EPD's Solid Waste Division is now on the north side of the road. It requires another permit that Fulton County has to submit to EPD, since they own it. It is not an ownership or liability issue.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny asked the width of the current road.

Public Works Director Black stated it varies from 16 -22 feet.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny asked if they will do a cut into the bank for 6 feet.

Public Works Director Black stated that will be determined as they move forward with the design. Staff will shift the road in the crucial areas that need to be cut. They are trying to dress the area where it slopes off the hill and doesn't look as nice. Staff will clean that area up to bring a trail off at that point and then come across and down into the new park through the wooded area. It will have less impact in saving the walls, trees, and clearing.

Councilmember Jenkins stated the trail will be elevated.

Mayor Galambos asked if the trail will be just pedestrian. She asked where parking will be for those who want to get on the trail.

Public Works Director Black stated there are sidewalks that come down from Morgan Falls Road.

Councilmember Fries asked if it will be trail or sidewalk.

Public Works Director Black stated it will be a multi-use trail.

Councilmember Fries asked if it will be ADA compliant.

Transportation Planner Moore answered yes, it will be ADA compliant.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny asked if the red marks show the trail area.

Public Works Director Black stated the area has not yet been determined. Staff is mapping the topography of the area. There is a 75 year old road that is in there and if it can be cleared, it can be made into a trail which is 35-40 feet above the existing road.

Transportation Planner Moore stated the red area is phase two, which is what staff can do next as a road or a multi-use path. Public Works Director Black is discussing phase one.

Councilmember Fries stated it will ideally be a road.

Mayor Galambos stated staff does not seem too optimistic about that.

Public Works Director Black stated it is a matter of how things go when Fulton County goes for the permit. There are a lot of people trying to stop it.

Councilmember DeJulio asked if it was citizens in Sandy Springs.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny asked if the City has the right to do something right now. Can staff only resurface the existing roadbed?

Transportation Planner Moore stated one reason staff is looking at the multi-use path across the top of the ridge is to reduce the amount of cut and eliminate the cut in as many areas as possible. The only reason to have any cut is because 16 feet is too narrow to have two-directional traffic, that would include vans and SUV's pulling kayaks and rafts.

Public Works Director Black stated his biggest concern is the Georgia Power trucks.

Transportation Planner Moore stated they will minimize the cut wherever possible and one idea to do that is to take the multi-use path off of the alignment and over the ridge.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny asked if 22 feet is needed. Staff has to go through the permitting process because permits and a construction easement will be needed.

Transportation Planner Moore stated the right-of-way width is not sufficient enough to do any type of widening.

Councilmember DeJulio asked the anticipated date when the park will be opening.

Public Works Director Black answered July 1, 2010.

Councilmember DeJulio asked if the construction will be done before the park opens.

Public Works Director Black stated no.

Councilmember Jenkins asked if staff will patch the road where it was cut and then filled with cement. It is hard, even in an SUV, to get down that road.

Public Work Director Black stated staff will do something to the road so people can get down there better.

Councilmember Paulson asked if that is waste in that area.

Transportation Planner Moore stated the waste boundary is just off the shoulder. There has been a lot of movement of the boundary over the years.

Councilmember Fries asked if a block can be put up when the road is put in.

Councilmember Paulson asked if staff builds the road, will EPD come back and say the waste has spread under the road and something exotic has to be done.

Public Works Director Black answered no.

Transportation Planner Moore stated the area is being monitored on the north side of the road. The apartment complex has initiated monitoring to protect their liability. They built a trench in the area to serve as a block.

Councilmember Meinzen McEnerny stated the City drilled sewer lines right there.

Finance and Administration

1. Approval of Waiver of Penalty and Interest for 2010 Business Occupational Tax Renewal for Project Management Technology at 5775 Glenridge Dr., Bldg B, Ste 500

Accounting Manager Robert Logan stated this item is a request form Project Management Technology for waiver of penalty and interest on occupational taxes submitted late. The Finance Director can waive up to \$500, which has been done. The applicant has requested in the form of a letter that the Mayor and Council consider waiving the remaining balance of \$450.

Councilmember Ashley Jenkins asked why this is being waived.

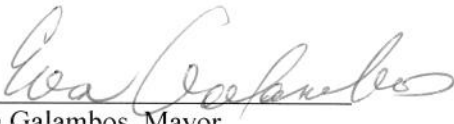
Finance Director Amy Davis stated the business owner has never been late on his bills before and he did not receive the bill, because the address was not complete in the City's records. It had the street, but not the building number.

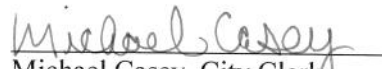
Mayor Eva Galambos stated it was the City's fault.

There was a consensus among Council to waive the fees.

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

Date Approved: August 3, 2010


Eva Galambos, Mayor


Michael Casey, City Clerk