Tuesday, March 11, 2014
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Commissioner Schlesinger - Chair
Commissioner Tillman - Vice Chair
Commissioner Lucas
Commissioner Defoe
Commissioner Watkins
Julie Moore - Staff Contact

1. Approval of Minutes

Subject A. Approval of the Minutes from the February 25, 2014 Meeting
Meeting Mar 11, 2014 - ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Category 1. Approval of Minutes
Access Public
Type Minutes

File Attachments
2-25-2014.pdf (11 KB)

2. Cherry Blossom Music Festival

Subject A. Resolution Regarding Open Containers at Cherry Blossom Music Festival
Meeting Mar 11, 2014 - ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Category 2. Cherry Blossom Music Festival
Access Public
Type Action

File Attachments
3-11-2014 - Resolution regarding Open Containers for Cherry Blossom Music Festival.pdf (13 KB)


Subject A. Resolution to Express Support of the Alternative "B" Ocmulgee National Monument Boundary Expansion
Meeting Mar 11, 2014 - ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Access Public
## 4. Update on Demolition of Houses

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File Attachments

3-11-2014 - 2014 Reichert Ocmulgee Expansion Resolution.pdf (79 KB)
The Economic and Community Development Committee was called to order at 10:20 a.m. by Commissioner Schlesinger, Chairman of the Committee.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**
- Commissioner Ed DeFore
- Commissioner Elaine Lucas
- Commissioner Larry Schlesinger
- Commissioner Virgil Watkins

**COMMISSIONER ABSENT:**
- Commissioner Al Tillman

**NEWS MEDIA:**
- Jim Gaines, The Telegraph
- Anita Oh, 13 WMAZ
- Perry Smith, Fox 24

**VISITORS/GUESTS:**
- Adah Roberts
- Erica Woodford, Superior Court Clerk
- Gene Dunwody, Sr., Dunwoody Beeland
- Theron Ussery, SPLOST Advisory Committee

**OTHERS PRESENT:**
- Mayor Robert A. B. Reichert
- Mayor Pro Tem Bert Bivins
- Commissioner Gary Bechtel
- Commissioner Mallory Jones
- Commissioner Scotty Shepherd
- Sheriff David Davis
- Charles Coney, Asst. County Manager
- Steve Layson, Asst. County Manager
- Chris Floore, Assistant to the County Manager
- Julie Moore, Assistant to the County Manager
- Judd Drake, County Attorney
- Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Commission
- Jean Howard, Asst. Clerk
- Janice Ross, Training and Events Coordinator
- Stuart Morell, Asst. County Attorney
- Warzina Jackson, ECD
- Crystal Jones, Asst. County Attorney

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1. Approval of Minutes from February 11, 2014.

**ACTION:**

*On motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner DeFore and carried unanimously with Commissioners Schlesinger, Tillman and Lucas voting in the affirmative, the minutes of February 11, 2014 were approved.*

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2. Resolution to Purchase Ten Lots and Establish Oak Haven Park using CDBG Funds

Julie Moore presented the information regarding the request by Steven J. Rickman to purchase ten lots to establish Oak Haven Park using CDBG funds. The purchase of these lots will preserve existing greenspace property located with the border of Oak Haven Avenue, English Avenue and Mailey Avenue. The property has been appraised at $177,000 and was sold for the appraised value. Ms. Moore stated that ECD will continue to look for other greenspace in all areas of the County to establish additional greenspaces.
**ACTION:**

On motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner DeFore and carried unanimously with Commissioners Schlesinger, and Lucas voting in the affirmative, the resolution approving an agreement with Steven J. Rickman to purchase ten contiguous lots within the border of Oak Haven Avenue, English Avenue and Mailey Avenue for $177,000 using CDBG Funds and approving the establishment of a public park on said property to be known as Oak Haven Park was approved.

3. A Resolution to Support Submission of a GDOT Gateway Grant for Pio Nono / Rocky Creek Intersection of I-75.

Julie Moore addressed the request to submit an application for a GDOT Gateway Grant for Pio Nono and Rocky Creek. She stated that the reason this location was chosen was because it was not a location that GDOT would be doing construction in the future so the work done on this location would not be destroyed by construction planned in the future. The grant amount is $50,000.

**ACTION:**

On motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner DeFore and carried unanimously with Commissioners Schlesinger and Lucas voting in the affirmative, the resolution authorizing the submission of a Gateway Grant to obtain funds for the mowing and maintenance of roadside areas and median strips located with the Georgia Department of Transportation right of way was approved.

Commissioner Wakins stated that he would like to have an update on housing demolitions that are planned for the County.

Commissioner Lucas thanked everyone who participated in the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials meeting held during the last weekend.

There being no further business and on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Shelia Thurmond, CCC
Clerk of the Commission
A RESOLUTION OF THE MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION AUTHORIZING THE MACON GEORGIA INTERNATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL, INC. TO HOLD THE CHERRY BLOSSOM MUSIC FESTIVAL IN DOWNTOWN MACON, GEORGIA, ON SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2014; TO PERMIT FESTIVAL-GOERS TO CARRY AND CONSUME ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN AND ABOUT THE DESIGNATED STREETS OF DOWNTOWN MACON; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Macon Georgia International Cherry Blossom Festival, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation, organized pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 501(c) (3); and

WHEREAS, the Cherry Blossom festival is a national attraction which draws visitors to Macon from other states and countries; and

WHEREAS, the Macon Georgia International Cherry Blossom Festival, Inc. is holding the Cherry Blossom Music Festival in downtown Macon, Georgia on Saturday, March 29; and

WHEREAS, alcoholic beverages will be available at the Cherry Blossom Music Festival from participating businesses in the downtown business area, and festival-goers, during the event, will traverse the premises, sidewalks, and streets of downtown Macon with alcoholic beverages; and

WHEREAS, the Macon-Bibb County Commission has determined that relaxing certain restrictions on the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages during the Cherry Blossom Music Festival is in the best interest of the citizens of Macon-Bibb County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Macon-Bibb County Commission and it is hereby so resolved by the authority of same, that pursuant to Section 4-303(c)(6) of the Macon-Bibb County Code of Ordinances, the prohibitions contained in City Code Section 4-303(b), against open containers of alcohol on any public streets, highways, alleys, sidewalks, parks, or picnic areas, shall not apply to the downtown business area, as defined under Section 4-303(c)(6), during the Cherry Blossom Music Festival between the hours of 5 p.m. to midnight on Saturday, March 29, 2014, pursuant to, and subject to, all requirements and conditions of Section 4-303(c)(6), and any other applicable laws.

SO RESOLVED this ___ day of ________________, 2014.

ROBERT A. B. REICHERT, MAYOR

ATTEST: ______________
Clerk of the Commission

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A RESOLUTION OF THE MACON-BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION TO EXPRESS SUPPORT OF THE ALTERNATIVE "B" OCMULGEE NATIONAL MONUMENT BOUNDARY EXPANSION, AND TO ENDORSE THE PARK AND PRESERVE CONCEPT TO PROTECT AND EVENTUALLY CONNECT AND CONSOLIDATE LANDS BETWEEN MACON AND HAWKINSVILLE.

Purpose: To protect culturally significant lands, promote cultural understanding, and enhance the local economy.

WHEREAS, the Ocmulgee National Monument Boundary Survey has been completed by the national park service; and

WHEREAS, the proposed boundary expansion includes up to 2,100 acres that would provide increased educational, recreational, and economic resources for our community; and

WHEREAS, the boundary expansion would allow better access to the Ocmulgee River and cultural properties that have been isolated and unprotected by not being included in the boundary today; and

WHEREAS, The Ocmulgee National Park and Preserve Initiative has a larger vision to eventually connect culturally and ecologically significant property between Macon and Hawkinsville into a Park and Preserve; and

WHEREAS, such a project would dramatically increase the economic impact of the Ocmulgee National Monument and National Wildlife Refuge areas, growing the tax base in Macon-Bibb County and the surrounding counties; and

WHEREAS, various groups stand at the ready to contribute property for the monument and provide necessary enhancements to the Monument;

WHEREAS, this resolution will benefit and promote the health, safety, morals and welfare of the citizens of Macon-Bibb County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Commission of Macon-
Bibb County that the Consolidated Government supports the preferred alternative of expanding
the boundary of the Ocmulgee National monument and encourages additional study by the
National Park Service to explore a Park and Preserve designation.

SO RESOLVED this ___ day of ________________, 2014.

ROBERT A. B. REICHERT, MAYOR

ATTEST: ____________________________
Clerk of the Commission
To: Superintendent Jim David  
Ocmulgee National Monument  
1207 Emery Highway  
Macon, GA 31217

Superintendent David,

I am writing to submit comments on the draft *Old Fields Boundary Study and Environmental Assessment* on the possible expansion of the Ocmulgee National Monument.

According to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Old Fields region surrounding the current National Monument is among the nation's richest archaeological areas. A roughly 14,000 acre area, documenting 17,000 years of human presence, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a "traditional cultural property" (TCP) of the Muscogee Creek people. The true area of cultural significance, however, extends even beyond the TCP.

In addition to containing many additional prehistoric sites, the Ocmulgee River corridor south from Macon was a crossroads of key events in our nation's early history. Records indicate that 2-3 Colonial era Creek town sites existed south of Lamar mound. And during Tecumseh's Rebellion, the War of 1812, and the Creek Civil War, a series of ten forts, known as General Blackshear's Line, were erected south of Fort Hawkins to mark the frontier and serve as staging areas for American troops battling Native American and British forces to the west. The exact locations of these towns and forts are still being determined.

The ecological significance of the river corridor is equally amazing. In 2004, the Georgia General Assembly passed resolutions (HR 1256 & SR 755) "urging the Congress of the United States to consider creating a national preserve or other similar federal property to protect land and other natural resources and promote hunting and fishing in a continuous corridor of the Ocmulgee and Altamaha Rivers in central and south Georgia."

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources describes the corridor as a high priority landscape feature in the state's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy and a priority area for land conservation efforts. The corridor contains over 85,000 acres of contiguous bottomland hardwood swamp, the largest block of such habitat remaining on the upper Coastal plain. It is a major flyway for migratory birds and home to important populations of rare plant and animal species, including the unique middle Georgia black bears.

Today the Monument is the most visited attraction in middle Georgia and the river corridor provides important outdoor recreation opportunities for hunters, anglers, hikers, bird watchers, and paddlers on the growing Ocmulgee Water Trail. In view of the area's uniqueness, the National Parks Conservation Association and local conservationists propose linking the Monument with other existing public lands to establish the first National Park & Preserve east of the Mississippi. Such a re-designation would ultimately protect many nationally significant resources and elevate Macon's status as a national and international tourist destination.

For all of these reasons,

- I support Alternative B (the preferred alternative) to expand the Ocmulgee National Monument boundary;
- I endorse the National Park & Preserve concept that would eventually connect and consolidate existing federal and state public lands between Macon and Hawkinsville; and
- I urge the National Park Service to recommend that Congress authorize further study of the national significance of the natural and cultural resources in this extended river corridor.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. I appreciate the hard work and dedication of the National Park Service in preserving the best examples of America's natural and cultural heritage for future generations.

Date: ___________

Signature: ____________________________

Name (printed): _______________________

Organization: _________________________

Address: _____________________________

City: ___________________ State: _____ Zip: ______

Email: _______________________________

(outline)

Public comments on the draft *Old Fields Boundary Study and Environmental Assessment* must be postmarked by Friday, March 21st, 2014.