



Meeting Notes
Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)
On-Boarding Meeting 1
June 5, 2020
3:00pm – 5:00pm
Virtual Meeting - WebEx

Attendees:

- Mayor Kelly Girtz – ACCGov
- Cary Ritzler – ACCGov / 100% Athens
- Andrew Saunders – ACCGov
- Maggie Songster – ACCGov
- Mike Wharton – ACCGov
- Lisa Bianchi-Fossati – Southface
- Austin Robinson – Southface
- Bailey Shea – Southface
- Taiza Troutman – Southface
- Matt Cox – Greenlink Analytics
- Yeou-Rong Jih – Greenlink Analytics
- Dan Everett – 100% Athens
- Carol Meyers – 100% Athens
- Mary Songster – 100% Athens
- Michael Songster – 100% Athens
- Lisa Gautreaux – Action, Inc.
- Stephanie Johnson – Athens Homebuilders Association
- Charlie Gluodenis – Athens Housing Authority
- Rick Parker – Athens Housing Authority
- Tawana Mattox – Athens Land Trust
- Jeremy Field – Athens USGBC
- Fred Smith – East Athens Development Corporation
- Shane Blackwell – Northeast Georgia Business Alliance
- Amy Kissane – Williams and Associates

Facilitated by: Mike Wharton

Introductions:

- Organizations/Individuals
 - 100% Athens – Michael and Mary Songster, Carol Myers,
 - Carol Myers running for office on the city's eastside
 - NE GA Business Alliance -- Shane



- Black business alliance
- Athens Housing Authority -- Charlie Dennis
 - Rep. from buildings and facilities
- Athens USGBC
 - Focused on Habitat tiny house project requiring LEED cert.
 - LITHC focuses in Athens
- Action, Inc.
 - Community action agency serving multiple counties
 - Work w/ low-income families and individuals via economic empowerment, weatherization support
- Athens Area Home Builders -- Stephanie Johnson
 - Long-standing community group
 - Non-profit trade association supporting residential and commercial construction
 - Trade industry
- Athens Land Trust -- Tawana Mattox
 - PM for rehab project for West Broad project (emphasis on energy efficiency)
 - Grassroots org
 - Rehab project solar focused (pilot project, look for opportunity to expand to other communities)
- Williams and Associates -- Amy Kisane
 - Corp. citizenship program focused on adaptive reuse that emphasizes solar and EE
 - One of the first two corporate commitments to 100% Athens
- East Athens Development Corp.
 - Nonprofit community development

PowerPoint notes:

- Mayor wants to shift the culture of the current SPLOST process to ensure that the CAB members are more heavily involved in the SPLOST decision making activities

Questions:

- "What are we thinking as far as the first meeting and what do we need as far as participation?"
 - Sometime in the next two weeks, come with how you want to engage in mind
 - Mike Wharton / Cary Ritzler to send date / time slots soon
- Comment (Carol Myers):
 - How do we address gaps in representation (immigrant orgs, business orgs and anybody else left off due to lack of diversity on the CAB)?
 - Response: No options for adding additional participants to the CAB, but there's opportunities to add folks via how we organize small focus groups
 - Concerned about how the plan affects different groups in different ways



- When we are developing + doing community outreach and then hear from community members, is there a time to go back and tweak the existing data with the responses heard from the community? (Mary Songster)
 - Answer (Austin): Engagement process not 100% done, need CAB input but there will be opportunities to make the additions/edits as the plan development is ongoing
 - Answer (Andrew): Emphasis is on meaningful community engagement; Yes, things will be changed, but we don't know what that looks like yet as to not preempt the CAB's work
- Has anybody reached out to Athens Well-being project to get access to their survey data? (Amy Kisane)
 - Answer (Andrew): Definitely something to look into as we develop outreach strategy
- Will we share the PowerPoint and relevant links?
 - Answer (Mike): Yes

Next Steps:

- Appointments from each organization need to be made in the next two weeks
- In-person meetings delayed; early meetings will most likely be online
- Community Webinar with 100% Athens on June 28th