



DeKalb Delegation Meeting Minutes –Approved Feb 20, 2019

Monday, February 11, 2019

In attendance: Rep Mike Wilensky, Rep Matthew Wilson, Rep Scott Holcomb, Rep Mary Margaret Oliver, Rep Becky Evans, Rep Renitta Shannon, Rep Karla Drenner, Rep Michele Henson, Rep Viola Davis, Rep Billy Mitchell, Rep Pam Stephenson, Rep Vernon Jones, Rep Doreen Carter

Absent: Rep Bee Nguyen, Rep Karen Bennett, and Rep Dar’Shun Kendrick

- I. Chair Karla Drenner called meeting to order at 12:15pm
- II. Chair Drenner asked for the draft minutes from Jan. 28 be approved. Rep Viola Davis asked that the minutes be changed to reflect that she wanted to withdraw her nomination prior to the election. Minutes were approved with that change.
- III. Chair Drenner reviewed the agenda and packet of information for the members. She appointed two special committees to address two local bills passed by the Senate Delegation:
  - a. Education – SB 53 Chair: Rep Doreen Carter. Members: Rep Oliver, Rep Evans, Rep Shannon, Rep Nguyen, Rep Stephenson, and Rep Wilson
  - b. Ethics – SB 7 Co-Chairs: Rep Stephenson and Rep Jones. Members: Rep Wilensky, Rep Oliver, Rep Davis, Rep Carter
- IV. Chair Drenner introduced Commissioner Jeff Rader to discuss County Legislative Package.
  - a. Commissioner Rader introduced Commissioner Kathie Gannon to present **ACCG Legislative Priorities. These priorities are:**
    - i. Support **implementation of 5G small cell services** while opposing legislation that would preempt the authority of local governments to manage and control their rights of way during installation of 5G small cell infrastructures by telecom companies in public right of way.
    - ii. Support state appropriations to **full fund the replacement of Georgia’s voting equipment** with equipment that provides a verifiable paper trail and is not susceptible to outside hacking or tampering; and to fully fund training of local elections officials for voting equipment.
    - iii. Support state appropriations to **expand and support mental health** services including:
      1. Increased funding to community service boards for core services
      2. Funding for additional Behavioral Health Crisis Centers; and
      3. Increase funding for evaluation and treatment of individuals in county jails while awaiting evaluations to determine competency to stand trial.
    - iv. Support legislation to:



1. Increase title and tag fees to an amount sufficient to cover the cost of providing this service to the public by the county tax commissioner; and
  2. Support legislation to revise procedures for valuing used motor vehicles the same as new vehicles for TAVT purposes in order to counter abuses by some used car dealers.
- v. Oppose legislation that would bar local governments from collecting fees for county services on property tax bills.
  - vi. Support capital and operating financial assistance to Georgia's urban and rural transit systems including support to address gaps in transit service coverage.
  - vii. Support additional funding for Georgia's airport systems sufficient to meet active capital improvement requests by local governments.
  - viii. Support one or more constitutional amendments creating constitution based trust funds to ensure dedication of fees to statutorily-designated purposes and preventing re-direction to other non-designated purposes.
  - ix. Support legislation to fully inform counties when sales tax refunds of local significance are authorized by State Revenue Department and establish procedures to allow counties to accommodate significant refunds including authorization to deduct funds from future sales tax distributions.
  - x. Support legislation to enact meaningful changes to annexation statutes and incorporation statutes to ensure consideration of the impacts of incorporation on counties and unincorporated citizens;
  - xi. Support legislation authorizing counties to collect franchise fees on utility services

Annette Davis Jackson asked "what is the rationale for county collecting franchise fees?" Com. Gannon: "Issue is parity. Would go into general fund. Way to get more revenue for county."

- b. Commissioner Rader spoke about
  - i. **Coal Ash** – would like to see tipping fee increase. We endorse efforts to regulate coal ash to better protect the state's and DeKalb's citizens, waterways and landscapes from dangers of Coal Ash.
  - ii. **Confederate Monuments** – DeKalb County has adopted resolution wanting to move monument from public property. Want the county to have authority to manage the monuments. Working with NAACP on creating a marker to describe racial terrorism of the era and refute the white supremacy narrative of original marker. Want authority to manage those assets on county property. Want State to repeal O.C.G.A 50-13-1. Acknowledged HB 175, authored by Rep Shannon, and SB 51, authored by Senator Parent.



- iii. Looking for same authority as cities have for **decriminalizing less than one ounce of marijuana**. They want to lower the penalty, and issue citations. Use language to decriminalize, but not to legalize.
- iv. There are means across the state available to enter into bonding authority in order to accomplish capital projects for public purpose. Repeal OCGA 36-75-11. **Want to be able to issue bonds without a referendum**. Restore ability for DeKalb that is available to all others across state. Rep. Doreen Carter wants more info.

Rep Viola Davis – “Are people using Grady from outside DeKalb and Fulton and not paying?” Rader –and Jocelyn from Grady: “89% of population from Fulton/Dekalb. Uncompensated care number is large, but patients are from fulton/dekalb”

- c. Commissioner Larry Johnson spoke about need for increasing Mental Health services– the guy who was shooting on Candler Road, he had mental health issue. Propose Stepping Up Initiative to reduce the number of people with mental health in jail. 30 to 40% of people in DeKalb jail suffer from mental health. Want to Increase funding for the number of beds for Mental health. Extend the age to 26. Start state-wide screening at middle school.

Rep Evans “We just passed HB 30, an amended funding bill for FY 2019, which includes \$8.4 million to the Dept of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to expand the Georgia APEX program by providing mental health counselors for mental health services in high schools.” Comm. Johnson – that’s good, but needs to happen in middle school.

Rep Carter – want to learn more about relationship between food and mental health

Comm. Rader – There may be 2 more requests for legislation: 1) reconstitution of the development authority. They want to emulate the City of Atlanta developmental authority, 2) amendment to the purchasing section of the org act had defects in it

Comm. Rader: Charter Commission – look comprehensively at form of govt. CEO has suggested he would do but hasn’t occurred yet.

Rep Carter “What happens with storm water fees?” Comm. Gannon: Storm water fees reserved in segregated accounts and used to fix collapsing pipes in the county, to repair the existing infrastructure. Improve water quality. Is the fee sufficient? It has been since 2006 since cost raised.

New Business: Rep Jones. Review of the county. It is about battles. Don’t get too involved. Take a deliberate and comprehensive approach.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05pm

Submitted by Rep Becky Evans on Thursday, Feb 14, 2019

