

Canton, Georgia

*110 Academy Street
Canton, Georgia 30114*



Minutes - Final - Draft

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

4:00 PM

North Canton School Site Committee Meeting

110 Academy Street

City Council

1. Call to Order

Council/Staff Present:

*Councilmember Shawn Tolan
Councilmember Sandy McGrew
Councilmember Farris Yawn
Mr. Nathan Ingram, Assistant City Manager
Mr. Kevin Turner, Community Development Director
Ms. Lauren Johnson, Communications Manager
Ms. Kristin Norton Green, Theatre Events and Facilities Director
Mr. Ken Patton, Housing Initiatives Director
Mr. Marty Ferrell, Police Chief
Mr. Eric Fortner, Director of Building & Safety Services
Mr. Adam Dodson, Parks and Recreation Manager
Ms. Annie Fortner, City Clerk*

Others Present:

*Mr. Zach Blend, Goshen Valley
Mr. Zip Cain, SERV International
Ms. De Gale, Cherokee County Senior Services
Mr. Darrell Rice, Canton Housing Authority
Mr. Hal Stringer, Habitat for Humanity
Mr. Kendall Jones, MUST Ministries
Mr. Don Petit, North Canton Baptist Church*

Councilmember Tolan called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of the Minutes

- A. North Canton Site Committee Draft Minutes - August 21, 2024

Attachments: [Minutes - North Canton Site Committee - August 21, 2024](#)

- B. North Canton Site Committee Draft Minutes - September 4, 2024

Attachments: [Minutes - North Canton Site Committee - September 4, 2024](#)

Councilmember Yawn made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilmember McGrew seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

3. Update (for the public) on the Progress - to date

Councilmember Tolan provided a history of the site and how it came to be property of the City. Councilmember Tolan further discussed a recent site visit and the condition of the gymnasium.

4. Introductions

All members introduced themselves and discussed what they hoped to get out of the meeting.

5. Public Input

Staff provided photos of the site. It was noted that Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) Funds are available for the renovation of the gymnasium. If any demolition is to be completed, the Canton Housing Authority has funds that could be used specifically for that. The group went around the table discussing possible uses for the gymnasium. Some of the activities/programs discussed were:

- De Gale – A place for the Silver Roamers to hold meetings or activities; Senior caregiver support groups; Classrooms for seniors to learn about technology*
- Zip Cain – Non-perishable food to be provided to community residents; After-school programs for kids*
- Darrell Rice – Wraparound services to support the community; Financial classes; Childcare*
- Hal Stringer/Adam Dodson – Basketball court to be used by a league; Recreational programs to promote a clean mind/clean body*
- Zach Blend – Place of purpose to immediately reach those in the community; Therapy, parental aid, life skills, and language classes*
- Chief Ferrell – Need to increase safety and security on site*
- Kendall Jones – Resources for finding jobs and keeping jobs; Computer training classes; Resource for food, clothing, and hygiene items*

The group discussed what they would like to see outside of the gymnasium. Mr. Dodson spoke about the City's proposed Park and Recreation Master Plan. Mr. Patton talked about how the site could potentially be a mixed-use development. Mr. Patton further discussed the site's topography and the nearby creek. The group agreed that affordable housing is something they would like to see happen at this location. Some concerns that were discussed were lighting with established residents close by and parking. Concerns from current and former North Canton Baptist Church members are traffic and parking as well as the City imposing eminent domain on the church property.

6. Discussion of Neighborhood Leaders Meeting Scheduled for 9/18/24

The Committee stated the meeting may be deferred if there are not enough neighborhood leaders to participate.

7. Discussion of Distribution of the Neighborhood Survey

The Committee informed the group that the City is planning on holding a Dumpster Day in the community to further distribute the survey.

8. Confirmation of Next Meeting Date

9. Adjourn

Councilmember McGrew made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Yawn seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.