



Atlanta Regional Commission



BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

May 27, 2020

ARC Board Approves Officers and Committee Leadership for 2020

The ARC Board Approved Chairman Armstrong's appointments of board officers and committee leadership for 2020. ARC officers for 2020 are:

- Vice Chair: Rochelle Robinson, Mayor of Douglasville
- Secretary: Charlotte Nash, Chairman of Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners
- Treasurer: Bob Reeves, Citizen District 3
- Parliamentarian: Julie K. Arnold, Citizen District 12

Armstrong also appointed the following board members to serve as chair or vice-chair of ARC's board committees:

Aging & Independence Services

Chair: Romona Jackson Jones, Chairman of Douglas County Board of Commissioners

Vice Chair: Bob Reeves, Citizen District 3

Atlanta Regional Workforce Development Board

Co-chair: Randy Hayes

Co-chair: Eric Dial, Mayor, City of Tyrone

Budget and Audit Review Committee

Chair: Bob Reeves, Citizen District 3

Community Resources Committee

Chair: Mark Mathews, Citizen District 14

Regional Transit Committee

Chair: Jeff Turner, Chairman of Clayton County Board of Commissioners

Strategic Relations Committee

Chair: Eric Dial, Mayor of Tyrone

Transportation & Air Quality Committee

Chair: Charlotte Nash, Chairman of Gwinnett County

Vice Chair: June Wood, Chairman of Henry County Board of Commissioners

Board Passes Resolution Authorizing ARC to Apply for Funding to Help Older Residents

The Board unanimously passed a resolution that will authorize ARC staff to apply for and accept funding from the Georgia Department of Human Services to serve older persons in our region in response to COVID-19 pandemic. Immediately, this will apply to two sources:

- Families First Act (federal): \$1.9 million will fund meals for older persons from county-based agencies and the Center for Pan-Asian Community Services.
- CARES Act (federal): \$6.4 million will fund nutrition services, supportive services, family caregiver services, and the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC).

Board Approves MRPA Resolution

Katherine Zitsch, manager of ARC's Natural Resources Group, presented on a Metropolitan River Protection Act (MRPA) review of a proposed addition to an existing house in the Chattahoochee River Corridor. The proposed project is in the City of Peachtree Corners and is within the Chattahoochee River Corridor's impervious setback because of pre-existing conditions. The applicant proposed mitigation measures that were certified by a professional engineer and that ARC staff found acceptable. Under the Corridor Plan, in this specific circumstance, the review needed to be approved by the ARC Board before staff could open the review and send it on to the local government for final approval. The Board unanimously approved the request.

Response to COVID-19 crisis

ARC staff members highlighted the agency's broad efforts to keep local governments and organizations informed about the COVID-19 crisis and to help serve those most affected.

- **[Data Analytics & Mapping](#)**: Staff in ARC's Center for Livable Communities have been working to help local governments and organizations better understand the economic and social impacts of the crisis, including a range of new tools on Neighborhood Nexus that focus on vulnerable communities. In addition, a weekly ARC Webinar series has launched to keep local officials informed of the fast-changing crisis.
- **[Enhanced Regional Teleworking](#)**: ARC's Mobility Services Group is working closely with local businesses to help with the transition to a telework environment, including offering virtual training sessions. The Group has also conducted a survey of local businesses, which found that there has been a huge increase in the percentage of employees teleworking as well as those who want to continue doing so post-crisis.
- **[Enhanced Services for Older Adults](#)**: The Aging & Independence Services Group (A&IS) is serving as a clearinghouse to connect nutrition, healthcare, and other resources to those who need them. And ARC has helped partner organizations to adapt their funding to shift to critically-needed services such as home-delivered meals. As a result, those on the region's highest-priority waitlist for meals are no longer waiting.
- **[Workforce Development](#)**: Career resource and youth services are now being provided virtually, including a suite of live and archived video tutorials that provide employment assistance. The new ATLworks website has been updated to provide new resources for job-seekers across the region. And ARC recently received a \$1.1 million federal grant to provide workforce services to people impacted by the pandemic.
- **[Communications in Crisis](#)**: The Center for Strategic Relations launched a range of efforts to keep staff connected and to communicate with local officials. This includes a new staff e-newsletter, What's Up ARC, developed a COVID-19 resources page on the ARC website, maintained a steady stream of content and messaging on ARC social platforms, and worked with media on COVID-related stories.
- **Status of COVID-19 Legislation**: At the federal level, roughly \$3 trillion in COVID relief spending has been already authorized by Congress across four separate bills. A fifth spending package is likely to come before the end of June. Regionally, the bills passed to date provided funding to help local governments address the COVID crisis, provide meals and services for older adults, and enhance dislocated worker training. At the state level, the currently-suspended General Assembly session is set to resume in mid-June (exact date pending). Budget-related issues are likely to dominate the remaining 11 legislative days of the 40-day session.

Announcements

- The 2020 LINK trip to Chicago has been canceled because of the COVID health crisis, with plans to reschedule sometime in 2021.
- The 2020 Regional Leadership Institute class has been canceled, and staff are working to reschedule that for next year.

Next Committee Day: Thursday, June 11, 2020 – Tentative

Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 – Tentative