

**SAVANNAH AREA GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (SAGIS)
BOARD MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES**

**MPC JERRY SURRENCY CONFERENCE ROOM
110 EAST STATE STREET**

February 24, 2009

9:00 AM

Voting Members

Dr. David Frost
Russ Abolt
Michael Brown
Cathy Hill
Paul Hinchey
Joseph Ross, Jr.

Representing

Georgia Tech
Chatham County
City of Savannah
Georgia Power
St. Joseph's/Candler
American Society of Civil Engineers

Present

X
X
Absent
Absent
X
X

Voting Member Alternates

Susan Cooler
Jerry Cornish
Cam Mathis
Chris Morrill
Julian Pafford

Representing

Chatham County
City of Savannah
City of Savannah
City of Savannah
Georgia Power

Present

Absent
Absent
X
Absent
X

Others Present

Noel Perkins
Melony West
Mary E. Mitchell

Representing

SAGIS
MPC
MPC

Present

X
X
X

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dr. David Frost called the February 24, 2009 SAGIS Board Meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. The November 18, 2008 meeting minutes were approved upon motion of Mr. Russ Abolt, seconded by Mr. Julian Pafford and carried.

III. REPORTS

A. **Budget Report** – Ms. Melony West gave the SAGIS budget report for the 12 months ending December 31, 2008. The 2008 year was completed as anticipated. A couple of adjustments will be made to recover the \$50,000 that was shown in the red last year. The year 2008 will end with a zero (0) balance. All the office space, equipment and supplies to set up staff were purchased last year. One of the two positions budgeted for 2008 was filled, the other was deferred and one position is budgeted for 2009. If the County provides a larger increase than last year which has been requested and the City maintains the same contribution as last year, Noel will be able to maintain his present staff.

Chairman Frost wanted to know what the extra position is and what the benefits are in adding this position. Mr. Perkins stated that the position is for a programmer. The benefits are that with all the new technology that we are moving to such as servers and so forth, a lot of this now gets into customization and spinning up quick and easy maps. Some of this can be done by the user, but the reason we will have a programmer is that there are a lot of things that get maintained in the background and custom things that can be added to anybody's webpage. Therefore, this will take us away from SAGIS.org as everybody sees it to something such as SORT that the Chatham County Sheriff presently uses. We will not be restricted to SAGIS.org. Chairman Frost stated that Mr. Michael Brown was absent, but knew that if he was present he would want to know how we are doing in generating revenues. Would the new position move SAGIS towards this opportunity? Mr. Perkins answered that every position SAGIS has moves us towards this opportunity. He explained that we were going in a good direction until September. We had Tybee, SEDA, the Airport, and the Board of Education close to committing. However, the Airport is still looking to commit and Tybee, SEDA and the Board of Education are all somewhat in a holding pattern and are not returning his calls. He is still talking with Garden City and Port Wentworth and is looking forward to bringing them aboard this year. The Board agreed upon the recommendation of Mr. Abolt that Chairman Frost send a letter to these municipalities inviting them to come to the next SAGIS Board meeting.

B. SAGIS Update

1. **Activities Update (November 2008 – February, 2009)** – Mr. Perkins reported that:
 - a. GIS Day – Over 260 students were in attendance. As the teachers were leaving, they tried to sign up for this year's GIS Day. The event is getting bigger every year; we may need to look at moving the GIS Day from the Civic Center. We are talking with the Board of Education and looking at different options. We broke even on the event. Tomorrow, Georgia Tech will have their science fair at the Armstrong Center. Details will be worked out with Ms. Jan Siplon to offer a scholarship next year on projects related to GIS.
 - b. LiDAR acquisition review process – RFP process completed, vendor selected, and contract signed. LiDAR is underway.
 - c. SAGIS will meet with the municipalities for the continued maintenance of the Master Address Database (MAD).
 - d. Maintenance of centerlines – over 1500 new road segments in the process of being inserted into the layer.
 - e. ArcGIS Server – Implementation on TEST environment.
 - f. SAGIS.org – Working to resolve issue of not being able to set up new imagery on site.
2. **Upcoming Activities (February – May)** – Mr. Perkins reported on the following activities that SAGIS will be doing and at the May 26, 2009 SAGIS Board meeting, he will provide an update on these activities:

- a. Working on road centerline cleanup.
- b. Working on SCMPD Database clean up and integration of databases.
- c. Working on Lidar data review and quality assurance/quality control.
- d. Moving towards ArcGIS Server (9.3) implementation and testing on the TEST environment.
- e. Working on the Strategic Plan.
- f. Strategic Partner Integration – Trying to get strategic partners on board with SAGIS. As suggested earlier, the municipalities will be invited to come to the May 26, 2009 Board meeting.
- g. Continuing to work with City bureaus and County departments to ensure all data is under maintenance and functions properly.

A discussion was held on hurricanes evacuation routes. Mr. Abolt suggested that a letter be sent by Chairman Frost to Congressman Jack Kingston informing him that if we have something blocking emergency information and people choose to evacuate, please send us some federal legislation on this aspect. The Board agreed with this suggestion.

Chairman Frost stated that now is a good time for us to begin thinking about getting a summer intern to work with SAGIS. This will be a great opportunity for the student and SAGIS.

SAGIS will continue its public outreach to all individuals and groups that request information or a presentation.

C. Building a National GIS (Informational)

Mr. Perkins included in the SAGIS Board members' packets a paper written by Jack Dangermond, ESRI and Anne Hale Miglarese, Booz Allen Hamilton entitled, **"A Proposal for National Economic Recovery Act An Investment in Geospatial Information Infrastructure Building a National GIS."**

Mr. Perkins explained that the above paper included a discussion about using stimulus money to build a national GIS. This is really great. Four or five layers were identified as the key to having a national GIS. SAGIS maintains all the layers that are a topic of discussion in the paper. He stated that the parcel layer, a layer used by all, is in need of spatial clean up to meet spatial data standards. This program could be the mechanism to get the funding to accomplish this expensive task.

D. Coastal Heritage Society – Thank You

Mr. Perkins reported on the "thank you" letter SAGIS received from Ms. Rita Elliott, Curator of Exhibits and Archaeology at the Coastal Heritage Society (CHS). Ms. Elliott made a request for assistance to obtain GIS data for their archaeology project. SAGIS extracted the GIS data needed for CHS to conduct their program to find the archaeology sites throughout Savannah. Without the data sharing agreements, the turn-around time to get the information to CHS would not have been met. Mr. Perkins stated that the cooperation of SAGIS and its partners is what makes requests like these easy

to facilitate and with minimal interruption to the daily work of City and County GIS staff.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be on May 26, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. There being no other business to come before the Board, Chairman Frost adjourned the February 24, 2009 SAGIS Board Meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Noel Perkins
SAGIS Director