

Spalding County Parks & Leisure Services Advisory Commission
843 Memorial Drive
Griffin, GA 30223

Board of Commissioners
Spalding County
119 E. Solomon Street
Griffin, GA 30223

October 30, 2018

Dear County Commissioners,

During our October 25 meeting, your Parks and Leisure Services Advisory Commission was presented the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority's proposed plan for a recreation facility located at The Lakes at Green Valley Industrial Park. Understanding you have an upcoming workshop to discuss the location for the SPLOST-funded aquatic center, we felt it prudent to convey our thoughts on the matter.

We heard this presentation as an information item, so no formal action was taken. However, through our questions and discussion we did reach a strong consensus that this site would be ideal for the aquatic center's location.

This site is well located for a regional facility. Situated on a major highway and near interstate access, it would be easy to reach for out-of-county visitors. The facilities constructed on this site would be prominently visible to highway traffic, making this a prime location to build the next "Gateway to Griffin." This site's size and highway location provides the infrastructure to support the large volumes of vehicular traffic expected from regional events, and the space needed to park those large volumes of traffic. Given that the topography is already fairly suitable for construction, and that the site already has water, sewer, and electric service available, potential pre-construction and engineering costs would be less than other potential sites.

Beyond the aquatic center, this site also offers incredible potential for additional facilities. This site lends itself well to incorporate passive recreation facilities: walking and bicycle trails, playgrounds, greenspace and dog parks. But it is also well suited to contain ball fields or courts. Particularly notable, however, is the very real possibility to also construct a disc golf course at this site. The addition of one more disc golf course to the County's facilities would allow Spalding County to host national disc golf tournaments.

This site can easily become a robust recreational facility. Its development, coupled with the Development Authority's plan for nearby shopping and dining development, would be greatly beneficial to the many employees of the nearby industrial businesses. We believe it would encourage other businesses to locate themselves nearby.

Essentially, we believe this location embodies the “Everything is in Spalding” slogan and is in the location and condition to create a quintessential “live, play, work” area in Spalding County. It is our consensus that the Board of Commissioners should move forward in selecting this site as the location for the aquatic center and, later, additional facilities. We thank you for your consideration, and look forward to providing the Board with additional information and recommendations in its pursuit on this matter.

Sincerely,

Spalding County Parks & Leisure Services Advisory Commission

CC: William Wilson
T.J. Imberger
Kelly Carmichael