



2020 Hampton Street • Room 3063A
P.O. Box 192 • Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 576-2083

Minutes
February 25, 2019

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, John Grego, Charles Weber, Andrea Williams, Sam Holland, Tim McSwain, Robert Squirewell, and Jim Thomas and Glenice Pearson by phone

Absent: Virginia Sanders

Vacant: District 5

Others present:

Quinton Epps, Conservation Division

Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Division

Charlie Fisher, Conservation Division

Ken Driggers, Legal Counsel

Meghan Sullivan, Community Planning & Development (CP&D) Department

Ashley Powell, Interim Director Community Planning and Development Department

Synithia Williams, Stormwater Division

Kathleen Hatchell, New Development Division

Report of the Chair

Chair Carol Kososki welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:30pm without a quorum. Carol passed around several newspaper clippings including one from the Columbia Star recognizing Margaret DuBard and the work she has done on behalf of RCCC. Sam Holland arrived creating a quorum.

Approval of Agenda

John Grego made a motion to approve the agenda and minutes of January 25 and was seconded by Charles Weber. Motion carried.

Report of Chair *continued*

Margaret served 17 years on RCCC and expended a lot of time working with Historical Committee exhibiting a love of land and a passion for history. Nancy pointed out a copy of the proclamation honoring Margaret. Carol also discussed the article on the revamped Renaissance Plan which trimmed some projects and refocused development. The plan was unanimously approved by County Council and includes a historic trail in Lower Richland.

Treasurer's Report

Nancy referred everyone to their financial reports and said very little has changed since the last meeting. The latest encumbrance is \$300 for Belter and Associates for survey work done on the Rice Creek Land donation. Quinton explained he submitted a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget

request at the encouragement of the capital projects manager under a very tight timeframe. All of the items for the six year request were taken from the Lower Richland Tourism Plan. During the budget approval process if a CIP is included, it makes it easier for projects to move forward when approved by Council. The plan calls for a small business incubator but that name has been changed to a local business initiative due to issues with a different incubator program. John asked how likely Council is to approve the CIP plan. The budget is a starting point that may be revised based on the master plan. It was reviewed and approved the Executive Committee.

Election of Officers

As Vice Chair, John moved to nominate Carol Kososki; Charles seconded the motion. No nominations were received from the floor and the motion passed unanimously. In three separate motions Charles moved and Tim seconded to nominate John Grego as Vice Chair for the Conservation Committee, Sam Holland as Vice Chair for the Historic Committee, and Virginia Sanders as Treasurer. No other nominations were received from the floor and each was approved unanimously.

Community Planning & Development Director's Report

Ashley Powell, Interim Director of Planning, Zoning and Conservation reported effective today, she and Dr. John Thompson, Director of Transportation, have been appointed Assistant County Administrators (ACA). Ashley will handle "soft assets" such as Planning, Economic Development, and Capital Projects while Dr. Thompson will cover "hard" assets such as Utilities, Public Works, and Solid Waste. The position of Community Planning and Development Director should be filled very shortly. Mr. Gomeau continues to serve as Interim County Administrator. Two rounds of interviews are scheduled for the County Administrator position and the process is expected to take a couple of months. At the last Council meeting, Mr. Gomeau proposed a restructuring ordinance that would establish a Deputy County Administrator who would act in the absence of the County Administrator. If this is approved, those duties would fall to Dr. Yudice and the Administrative departments would report to her.

Land Development Manual

Synithia Williams gave a presentation on what is being done to update Richland County's Stormwater Management Standards, last written in the early 2000s. SC DHEC is requiring the update as part of the County's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). There are challenges in writing the manual that come from Stormwater Division being a part of Public Works and Construction Plan Review and Inspections are part of New Development which is in Planning.

The Stormwater Management Plan has ten elements, with areas of new development and redevelopment and construction site runoff being the most contentious for the public. Downstream analysis is required for all new and re-development projects. A developer cannot contribute to or cause existing downstream flooding, drainage, or erosion problems. If the analysis shows that would happen, the developer must provide on-site and off-site water quantity control and improvements to the downstream stormwater conveyance.

There are two water quality design standards: water quality storm event design standard and total suspended solids (TSS) removal design standard. The goal is to force engineers to be more innovative with best management practices to meet the standards. A hardship criteria exists but will be very difficult to prove. For construction projects that disturb 25 acres or more, both a written quantitative and qualitative assessment is required; this has not been enforced in Richland County. The goal is to

promote low impact development through better site design and by encouraging rainwater infiltration such that cleaner water is leaving the site.

Kathy Hatchell, a hydrologist in the New Construction Division, explained the manual contains the details and standards to implement the land development ordinance, making the ordinance clearer to follow and the manual easier to update. The Building Industry Association is requesting smaller water quality buffers than the 50' in the code. John stated the manual could not rewrite the code. The Development Roundtable worked for years to develop standards that were adopted by Council. Kathy said she wants to eliminate the 25' buffer during construction but increase the buffer for projects in impaired waters. She would be agreeable to restarting the roundtable. More citations are being written and road standards are being beefed up. The manual is still being revised but RCCC will have a chance to comment. The goal is to have the manual adopted in 2019.

Historic Committee

Historic Trail

Nancy explained Council set aside \$783,000 in Hospitality Tax for a Historic Trail, which needs to be encumbered by June 30. Since the strategic plan for the Historic Committee is well aligned with the concept of the Historic Trail, RCCC should assume responsibility for managing this project. A request for proposals will be issued to develop a community history program, website, branding and marketing components. It is anticipated this will be a virtual trail rather than a physical one. Sam moved to allow RCCC to manage the Historic Trail aspect of the Richland Renaissance Plan. John seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Sam mentioned the committee is evaluating a grant revision concerning the oral histories of Waverly doctors.

John made a motion to approve the 2019 Strategic Plan implementation for the Historic, Conservation, and Ad hoc Committee for the Lower Richland Tourism Plan. Andrea Williams seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Conservation Manager's Report

Pinewood Lake Park

Chris Hansen announced the Tour de Cure, a bicycle ride fundraiser for the American Diabetes Association, will end at Pinewood Lake Park on April 13. A pollinator garden will be installed in the location of the former under-utilized community garden. During a seven-day observation period in cold, wet January, Chris logged visitors to the park. Most visitors came between 1-3pm with 80% of visitors staying in their vehicles. The daily average is 22 people and at night 30. Additional data collection will occur during the summer. Former Pinewood Lake Park Foundation member Scott Gandy has been taking photos in the park, some which have helped to inspire the signage currently being created.

Conservation Coordinator's Report

Nancy will send out an email explaining how to access and review the new grant applications. Seventeen Historic Preservation Grants were submitted totaling \$512,421. Eight Community Conservation Grants totaling \$108,011 were received. Grant presentations will be heard on March 8 for Historic and March 13 for Conservation. The Forest Stewardship Plan received three proposals that will be evaluated by Nancy, Chris, and Kenny Mullis. The deed for 125 acres of conservation and recreation land in the northeast donated by Carl and Sandra Kaiser was finalized February 21. June 29 & 30 will be the first Ag and Art Tour in Richland County. Farms and artists are being recruited for the tour.

Nancy, Andrea, and Quinton met with K. Lynn Berry, the new superintendent of the Congaree National Park. She had lot of good questions and was interested in the LR Tourism Plan. She pointed out the impact local creeks have on the Park and the need for careful and sustainable development near those creeks.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant