



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

Minutes June 24, 2013

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, Virginia Sanders, Sam Holland, Mildred Myers, John Grego, Glenice Pearson, Gary Atkinson, Jim Lawracy, Margaret DuBard

Absent: Ann Furr, Becky Bailey

Others present:

James B. Atkins (Buddy), Conservation Department
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department
Ken Driggers, Contract Legal Counsel
Kim Murphy, Appearance Commission Chair

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:07pm with a quorum present.

Agenda: Jim Lawracy made a motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by John Grego. Motion carried.

Minutes: A motion was made by Jim and seconded by Glenice Pearson to approve the minutes of May 20, 2013 as written. Motion carried.

Report of the Chair

Carol reported she and Virginia Sanders attended the monthly meeting of the Transportation Penny Advisory Committee (TPAC). The position of Transportation Director should be offered within the next week. The TPAC committee discussed concerns about overlap of projects from those approved by the electorate and those in neighborhood master plans. A work session will be held July 9 at 2pm to hear from the Neighborhood Improvement Program in the Planning and Developmental Services Department about sidewalk, bike and pedestrian, and greenway projects contained in master plans and how they relate to the Penny.

Treasurer's Report

Buddy referred everyone to their copy of the current budget report and explained \$50,000 for the Owens Field project and \$8,000 for the USC Opinion Survey will be funded from the \$73,000 currently in Professional Service and the balance will roll into the capital fund. Nancy

reported a rollover of \$60,000 for the Hopkins easement and \$95,000 for the Laurelwood easement will be requested. At the May meeting, RCCC voted to reallocate \$20,000 in grant funds for the Farmers and Merchants Bank restoration project which was previously declined by Eastover-Lower Richland Business Association. Chairman Washington requested funding of an additional \$30,000 during the Council's budget motions; therefore the reallocation is on hold until a final resolution is finalized. RCCC will fund a portion of Buddy and Charlie's salaries in the FY 14 budget and will also fund the Conservation Department's vehicle cost which had been previously paid from the Soil and Water budget (General Fund revenues).

Committee Reports

Conservation Committee

John reported a Memorandum of Understanding between USC and RCCC has been signed to conduct an opinion survey on conservation in Richland County. The questions are still being revised but will be ready for the survey to be conducted by mid-August. Nancy presented a request for a conservation easement donation by Edwin Cooper for a ten-acre tract at the entrance to Woodcreek subdivision on Spears Creek Road in Richland NE. The property contains a two-acre pond and typical Sandhills ecosystem with longleaf and loblolly pines and an oak-hickory forest. Jim made a motion to accept the donation of a conservation easement on the parcel and Gary seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Historic Committee

Nancy reported the Lower Richland History Initiative meeting will be held this Wednesday at the Eastover Library. Dr. Bobby Donaldson and Glenice will facilitate the meeting. People invited to this initial meeting have all been involved in historical research of Lower Richland. The goal is to establish where the gaps are for future research projects and also to locate other sources of historical research materials.

Outreach Committee

A copy of the new logo developed for RCCC was passed around for input.

Conservation Director's Report

Jackson Creek Mitigation Bank

Buddy directed everyone to their map designating the parcel Richland School District 2 has an option to purchase. The school's consultants discovered the property has approximately two acres of isolated wetlands which were unexpected. This could have a negative impact on the County's effort to create a mitigation bank. Originally the Interagency Review Team did not want any construction on the property. Per Council's directive, the County will make an offer to Mr. Palmer to purchase the lowland parcel for conservation purposes.

Owens Field Trail

Two consultants gave oral presentations for the Owens Field trail and stormwater improvement project in late May. The preferred firm has been asked to submit a cost proposal. Once a contract is signed, design work can proceed.

Jim questioned the status of the Decker Mall property. Buddy explained the building will be renovated for County offices and Stormwater will pay for LID practices on the reconfigured parking lot such as green parking places along the edge and storm under drains.

Appearance Commission

Buddy introduced Kim Murphy, Chair of the Appearance Commission, to RCCC members. Last week Council gave third reading to the ordinance to dissolve the Appearance Commission and shift their duties to RCCC. County Council previously approved an Appearance Commission grant to Columbia Green for a project at Hilton Field (Ft. Jackson). This grant will roll over into FY-14. Trees will be planted this fall to line the entrance to Hilton Field where the graduation ceremonies take place.

Conservation Coordinator's Report

Nancy reported all of the FY13 Historic grants have been completed. The FY13 Community Conservations grants are completed with the exception of Friends of the Congaree and the Gills Creek Watershed both of which will be carried forward to FY14. The Blythewood High School trail grant has not been satisfactorily completed. Final payment may be withheld if the work does not meet trail standards and is not completed within the next week. Nancy will meet with FY14 grantees on July 17 to review forms and the grant process. Information regarding the Bailey Bill is now posted on the County's webpage. An application form is being developed for property owners to apply for the special property tax abatement for restoring historic buildings.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm. The next meeting is July 22, 2013.

Submitted by Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant