



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

## Minutes November 26, 2012

### Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, Ann Furr, Margaret DuBard, Virginia Sanders, Sam Holland, Gary Atkinson, Jim Lawracy, John Grego, Becky Bailey

Absent: Glenice Pearson, Mildred Myers

### Others present:

James B. Atkins (Buddy), Conservation Department  
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department  
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:02.

**Agenda:** Jim Lawracy made a motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Virginia Sanders. Motion carried.

**Minutes:** John Grego moved, seconded by Ann Furr to approve the minutes of October 22, 2012 as written. Motion carried.

### Report of the Chair

#### Penny Sales Tax

With the passage of the penny sales tax, Carol referred everyone to a draft letter to Administration asking the Conservation Department staff be included in the planning and implementation of any Penny funded greenway projects. A draft letter was prepared by staff for review. After discussion, Jim made a motion to send the letter with only a minor change to the last sentence in the first paragraph. John Grego seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. Nancy will email RCCC members details concerning the application process for the Transportation Advisory Committee.

#### Development Round Table/Green Code

John Grego reported the Development RoundTable is meeting every two weeks to draft a new Open Space ordinance including open space design and management principles from the Roundtable Principles document (Oct 2009). The ordinance will replace the Green Code which is scheduled for repeal in spring 2013. Discussion is ongoing as to whether use of the new

ordinance will be mandatory or voluntary. Also under discussion is what constitutes open space – should unusable land in the floodway or steep slopes be counted as open space and to what extent should these primary conservation areas be protected? Planning Director Tracy Hegler has stated she would like to undertake an overhaul of the County's Comprehensive Plan and address protection of open space more generally.

### **Conservation Department Director's Report**

#### Jackson Creek/Decker Blvd. Mitigation Bank

Buddy Atkins is hopeful Mr. Palmer will soon submit a demand letter for the easements or parcels so negotiations can move forward. Public Works has not received final award notification of the FEMA grant to purchase and demolish the old Zorba's property.

#### Owens Field

The RFP (Request for Proposal) went to Procurement last week to relocate and rehabilitate the trail.

#### Caughman Pond/Pinewood Lake Park Report

Buddy reminded everyone RCCC allocated \$100,000 last year to purchase Caughman Pond. A feasibility and concept plan has been developed by consultants but has not been provided to County Council. John Grego commented on the anhinga, wood ducks, and female canvasback he has seen at the lake.

### **Conservation Coordinator's Report**

#### Grant Updates

Nancy Stone-Collum referred everyone to their copy of the reports detailing recent grant expense activity. The bridge at Sesqui has been finished and the trail opening will be held on December 8 at 10:30am at Sesqui. Carol and Councilman Jim Manning will speak at the opening. The deadline for submission of 2014 grants will be February 22, 2013. A few changes are being made to the applications which will be available to the public in early December. Hard copies will be sent to each Commission member.

Everyone received a copy of the Arbor Day and Holiday Reception invitations in their packets. Master planning for Lower Richland and Spring Hill has begun and evening community meetings are scheduled for December 11 and 12 respectively which Nancy and Buddy will attend. Carol requested specific visuals and materials for the Arbor Day tree planting at the Administration Building.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Conservation Committee

Nancy and Buddy visited a beautiful piece of property northwest of Cook's Mountain with an unusually hilly terrain for the area. This property adjoins wetlands which are under an NRCS easement.

The deadline for applying to the SC Conservation Bank is January 31<sup>st</sup> and the Soil and Water Conservation District has charged Buddy to locate property options to consider for bank application.

John filed a Freedom of Information request for the Northeast Landfill annual monitoring report. About the same amount of waste was received as the previous year. Four of the monitoring stations still show concentrations of volatile organic compounds exceeding State Drinking Water Standards as well as concentrations of methane.

#### Historic Committee

Sam reported he, Glenice Pearson, Ann, Nancy, Charlie Fisher, and Chanda Cooper were given a tour of the Saluda Canal behind the elephant area at Riverbanks Zoo. Pictures of the trip are on the RCCC Facebook page.

#### Outreach Committee

Currently help is needed in publicizing upcoming RCCC grant cycles. Becky is asking each RCCC member to attend at least one neighborhood meeting during the year for outreach purposes. RCCC's outreach program needs to focus on what RCCC is doing in general, more of a broad overview, and not get too technical. Becky will put together an outreach proposal and email members for feedback.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Jim and seconded by Virginia to adjourn the meeting at 5:30pm.

Next meeting date is January 28, 2013

Submitted by Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant