



2020 Hampton Street · Room 3063A Columbia, SC 29204
(803) 576-2083
Minutes
January 23, 2023
4th Floor Conference Room

Attendance

Commissioner	District	Present
Charles Weber	1	Yes
Tim McSwain	2	No
Wayman Stover	3	No
Glenice Pearson	4	Yes
Kip Dillihay	5	Yes
John Grego	6	Yes
Robert Squirewell	7	Yes
Deborah DePaoli	8	Yes
Khali Gallman	9	Yes
Darrell Jackson Jr.	10	No
Gail Rodriguez	11	Yes

Staff & Visitors	Affiliation
Quinton Epps	Conservation Division
John McKenzie	Conservation Division
Val Morris	Conservation Division
Catherine Fleming Bruce	Guest

Call to Order

Grego welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order with a quorum at 3:35pm. Members, staff, and guests met in-person or by Zoom.

Approval of Agenda

- ⇒ **Rodriquez moved to approve the agenda which was seconded by Gallman. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes

The Commissioners discussed the motion and the voting process that was made regarding the purchase of the Benjamin Mack house during the November 2022 meeting. Several commissioners wanted to change the verbiage of the motion which led to several amendments of the original motion. Upon review of the meeting recording, staff sought legal counsel from County attorneys regarding the process of the vote and how it should be reflected in the minutes. The attorneys instructed staff the vote was done incorrectly, was not valid, and suggested strict adherence with Robert’s Rule regarding future voting.

- ⇒ **Weber moved to approve the minutes which was seconded by Squirewell. Motion passed by a vote of 7-1. Pearson voted against the motion.**

Report of the Chair

- **Lower Richland Tourism Plan (LRTP) – update:** Grego reported LRTP still waiting for approval by County Council. He is hoping the LRTP will be on the County’s agenda in February 2023.
- **Land Development Code (LDC) – Letter for Council - action item:** Grego reported he forwarded the letter to County Council and hasn’t had a response from them. He also made mention of the Ridge Road development citing some of the residents are upset the area will be developed at a higher density than they would wish. Some of the amendments from the Planning Commission that could help with lower density is all rural tracts 35 acres or larger could be zoned agriculture and 3 acres to 35 acres will be zoned homestead.
- **Officers elections** – Pearson nominated Gallman as the Chair of the Historic Preservation Committee.
 - ⇒ **Weber moved to approve the nomination for Gallman which was seconded by Dillihay. Motion passed unanimously.**
 - ⇒ **Weber moved for Grego to continue as Chair of the Richland County Conservation Commission which was seconded by Rodriquez. Motioned passed 7-1. Pearson abstained the vote.**
 - ⇒ **Dillihay moved to nominate Weber as the Chair of Natural Resources Committee which was seconded by Squirewell. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Advocacy – discussion:** Grego shared the Holiday Drop-In was a well-attended meeting. He was pleased by the number of County Council members who attended. In addition, Grego mentioned he and McKenzie attended the Historical Marker Unveiling that UofSC hosted in honor of USC during Reconstruction. Lastly, several of the Commissioners stated they contacted their individual council members throughout the pass months.

Report from Community Planning and Development

- **Land Development Code-Remapping Restart – update:** No update.

Treasurer’s Report

- **FY22 General Budget status – update** Squirewell reported in the General Treasure report there wasn’t significant spending compared to last month’s report. In the Conservation Commission budget, 20% of the year-to-date spending 51-52% is salary. Pinewood Lake has 3% year-to-date spending and Millcreek has 10% spending. Epps added the budget for fiscal year FY23-24 is in the process for submittal.

Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) Report

- **Heritage Tourism Marketing Plan – update:** Grego reported there was a meeting with Robin Waites with Historic Columbia. They discussed several things such as the timeline of events, including they are on track and the scope of work such as outreach to the media, travel writers and different sites which have been identified as historical landmarks.
- **Randolph Cemetery – staff report:** McKenzie presented a PowerPoint on the Randolph Cemetery. He informed the committee the owners of the Randolph Cemetery are The Committee for the Beautification and Restoration of Randolph Cemetery (CBRRC). The report outlined methods of support other than grants to assist with repairs and upkeep for the cemetery to address started in the HPC about buying property.

⇒ **Dillihay moved for the HPC to use the staff report provided in this meeting to make decisions regarding how to move forward with the Randolph Cemetery, which was seconded by Weber. Motion passed unanimously.**

⇒ **Squirewell moved to extend the meeting by 15 minutes which was seconded by Weber. Motioned passed unanimously.**

Natural Resource Committee (NRC) Report

- **Mill Creek Bridge – update:** Epps stated the Mill Creek Bridge project may be on County Council’s agenda for the next meeting in February for approval.
- **Columbia Rowing Club –** No action needed
- **Bates Old River –** No action needed
- **Mitigation Bank Credits – update:** Weber reported nearly 3 million dollars in mitigations stream credits were sold within the last 60 days. Grego gave Epps kudos on his work with orchestrating one of the largest mitigation banks in the state.

Conservation Program Analyst’s Report

- **FY 22-23 RCCC Grants – update:** McKenzie reported two organization have completed their projects within the second quarter and he is still waiting to receive quarterly reports from a few other organizations. Overall most of the organizations are on target with their grants.
- **FY 23-24 RCCC Grants – update:** McKenzie reported February 1, 2023 will be the deadline for all grant applications. After the deadline, McKenzie will begin the process of reviewing each application and sending out invitations for presentations from the organizations to each committee.
- **Fabel Conservation Easement – update:** McKenzie reported that he will make one last follow up visit at the Fabel property to confirm the property lines and then move forward with the

approval process. He also stated the use of the drone, for easement monitoring has helped tremendously, giving him excellent views and aerials of properties.

- **Events – update:** Green Book Signing, February 19, 2023, 4pm at the Boyd Horticultural Center at the Hampton Preston Site.

Conservation Manager’s Report

- **Staff vacancies – update:** Epps reported the Land Program Planner position has not yet been filled. He is using various web-site’s as an advertisement tool to find a qualified Land Program Planner.
- **Mitigation Bank Credits Purchase Council Executive Session – update:** Epps confirmed that there was a Council Executive Session for the mitigation bank credits purchase.

New Business

⇒ **Weber moved for the HPC to develop operational procedures to address issues concerning African-American sites in Richland County, which was seconded by Dillihay. Motion passed unanimously.**

McKenzie reminded the Commissioners to review and sign their responsibility form and he distributed the 2023 County Connection Calendars.

Public Input: Catherine Fleming Bruce asked Richland County Conservation Committee (RCCC) if they would connect/converse with the City of Columbia Design/Development Review Commission (D/DRC) to influence the City to have a more diverse Historic Committee by adding more African Americans who have a passion, skill set and knowledge of African-American sites.

⇒ **At 5:28 pm, DePaoli moved to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Rodriquez. Motion passed unanimously.**