



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

Minutes June 18, 2018

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, John Grego, Lee Rambo, Jim Thomas, Charles Weber, Virginia Sanders, Sam Holland

Absent: Jennifer Carter, Margaret DuBard, Glenice Pearson

Vacant: District 7

Others present:

Quinton Epps, Conservation Division
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Division
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Division
Chris Hansen, Conservation Division
Ken Driggers, Legal Counsel
Tracy Hegler, Community Planning & Development (CP&D) Department

Chair Carol Kososki welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm with a quorum.

Approval of Agenda

Charles Weber made a motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Jim Thomas. Motion carried

Approval of May 21, 2018 Minutes

Charles moved and was seconded by Jim to approve the May 21 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Report of the Chair

Carol passed out two newspaper articles regarding the Olympia Schoolhouse and Historic Columbia's historic survey. Carol and Jim had an excellent meeting with Councilman Chip Jackson. Much of their discussion revolved around the project at Walden Pond. The price for the first choice of consultants to do the feasibility study could not be negotiated to an amount agreeable to both parties so Procurement is working to sign a contract with the next consulting group. The Delks, owners of the property upstream from Walden Pond, plan to repair their dam and are looking for assistance from the county. In return, they would donate some 30-60 acres for a public park. This would be in addition to the Walden Pond HOA donation and the adjacent county-owned tract. Mr. Jackson suggested two home owner associations that would be interested in a presentation on RCCC programs. There was also some additional discussion about funding to assist Richland SWCD (Chanda Cooper) with Arbor Day activities. Carol asked Mr. Jackson if he would be the Commission's liaison to Council, to which he agreed.

Treasurer’s Report

Virginia Sanders referred everyone to their financial report. Nancy mentioned that \$40,000 under Professional Services was encumbered for WK Dickson for the Walden Pond Feasibility Study.

Community Planning & Development Director’s Report

Tracy Hegler reported the Land Development Manual was not taken to Council in June as reported last month. The manual is being made more readable and user friendly. She will send us a copy to review.

Carol reported several RCCC members attended a recent budget meeting where County Council allocated \$150,000 in Hospitality Tax (H-tax) funding to Pinewood Lake Park Foundation for promotion of activities. H-tax funding is managed by Steven Gaither, Richland County Grants Department, and will not involve RCCC.

Charles made a motion to move down to Agenda item number 9. Sam seconded the motion which carried.

Conservation Manager’s Report

Pinewood Lake Park Management Plan

Charles made a motion seconded by John Grego to adopt the First Annual Management & Operation Plan dated May 2018. Carol said she had asked for more specificity last month. Chris Hansen explained he made the document less prescriptive and more generic. An on-line presence and calendar/schedule of activities will be necessary. Pinewood Lake Park Foundation (PLPF) is required to present a schedule of events in order to receive the FY19 H-tax funds. Ken asked how it would be determined that an activity is inappropriate or should not be approved. Tracy explained the county’s existing use agreement standards would be a good starting point to determine what is prohibited.

PLPF is still reserving shelters. An email from the PLPF Executive Director that arrived just before the meeting and was distributed lists special events for 2018-19. The need for an integrated schedule was emphasized. Tracy stated as manager of the park, RCCC must have control over the use of the park, which includes responsibility for a master schedule. RCCC should be intimately involved with the plan submitted by PLPF for the H-tax grant to ensure it meets the Commission’s objectives and makes sense for the park.

The motion to approve the plan was approved unanimously. Charles made a motion to add a monthly administrative report on the park to the agenda. The motion died for lack of a second. Ken argued for a meeting with PLPF to discuss the plan and scheduling. Charles moved to direct staff to work with the parties involved to implement the management plan and to report back as necessary. John seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Conservation Committee Report

Code Rewrite

John had previously written comments for the Land Development Code Assessment. Nancy added recommendations relative to development from the Lower Richland Tourism Plan and the cemetery survey. Quinton sent a version to Richland Soil & Water Conservation District for their review and approval. Charles made a motion seconded by Lee Rambo to send the letter. Motion carried unanimously.

History Committee Report

Sam reported the Committee had a good meeting at the Richland Public Library working on the concept of creating an all-encompassing interactive historical website, bringing in partners like Historic Columbia to assist with development. This web site will be a repository for Richland County historic information appealing to students, scholars, and tourists visiting the county. Funding will be needed to hire a web designer and to maintain the site. A partnership with the library is being explored to help obtain a part-time person to maintain the website.

Communications Committee Report

Lee said the Committee has been discussing social media per the Strategic Plan and how to use it to increase RCCC's outreach. The major constraint is that Richland County only has one Facebook page, Twitter feed, etc. With so much diverse information, RCCC projects and messages tend to get lost. The Committee and staff met with the County's PIO office and argued the case RCCC should have our own Facebook page again. This two year old policy is an Administrative directive to control liability and most likely will not be changing. PIO staff suggested focusing on Instagram and developing a hash tag that serves as an index for photos of projects. They offered their help to develop new brochures, create a video, put on an Engage Richland event, and a news release as part of How Your County Works series.

Conservation Coordinator's Report

Lower Richland Tourism Plan

Nancy referred everyone to what should be the final version of the Lower Richland Tourism Plan. Members need to review the plan so it can be adopted at the July meeting. A few corrections have been made since the last version. The issue of Kensington Mansion, owned by International Paper (IP) came up. Charles related he'd heard what a beautiful job IP had done with the restoration. Nancy said the tours offered to the public by Historic Columbia sold out in short order and IP is allowing tours only twice a year at this point. Public access and use as a tourism destination need to be encouraged by Richland County. Preservation South Carolina listed the slave cabin on the property as one of eleven most endangered buildings in SC, thus capturing IP's attention which has generated some discussion regarding the cabin.

Historic Updates

Nancy made a presentation at the Pine Grove Rosenwald School last week for the SC African American Summer Institute Course for teachers. She talked about the curriculum at the Carroll School in York County and the dramatization from last year. Dr. Tom Crosby, who received an FY19 grant to record oral histories of former Pine Grove students, spoke about his oral history collection.

The McCord House historic marker unveiling will be Saturday, July 7 at 9am. Jackie Whitman made a presentation at a Commission meeting two years ago requesting funding for the McCord House marker; he submitted his application to Archives and History this year. There are two markers underway – Benjamin Mack and Blythewood School and three others that Nancy is aware of. If all five markers move through the process, that would meet the limit of five RCCC agrees to fund in a year.

The county's PIO office is planning a calendar for 2019 and contacted Nancy to serve on a committee to help with choosing projects that received county funding.

A staff committee of seven to eight people, including Nancy, has met twice to discuss the Historic Trail, a viable portion of the deferred Richland Renaissance Plan. Last week Mike Niermeier and Nancy met with Historic Columbia and Dr. Donaldson to get their ideas about what the project should be. Tracy

mentioned there is funding in the biennial budget for the historic piece and gateway marking. This project aligns well with RCCC's Strategic Plan; in fact there is language taken from the plan in the mission and vision statements of the Historic Trail. The Historic Committee will need to become involved in website discussions and other aspects to move the initiative forward.

Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan will be reviewed quarterly starting in July. Each Committee will need to review the implementation plan to report progress. The next review for 2018 will be in October followed by development of new implementation plans for the January 2019 meeting.

Grants Update

A large number of grantees are finishing their projects in the eleventh hour. Several ribbon cutting ceremonies will take place over the summer. A tour is being arranged at the Hampton Preston House to see the new African American interpretation.

Charles made a motion seconded by Sam to extend the meeting ten additional minutes. Motion carried.

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD) update

The RSWCD Annual Banquet took place in May and provided highlights of the year's activities. Carol, Charles, and Tracy attended the banquet. Conservation Teacher of the Year, Amy Umberger, has been funded twice by RCCC for Environmental Field Studies. Staff presented A Soil Science program to over 100 students at the Richland Recycles Day and co-hosted a "How to Fund Your Great Green School Idea" workshop for teachers and environmental educators. "Making it Grow" recently filmed a segment at the Green Steps School Catawba Trail Elementary which may show raised bed gardening and salad buckets that were funded through an RCCC FY18 conservation grant.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant