



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

Minutes May 19, 2014

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, John Grego, Sam Holland, Ann Furr, Virginia Sanders, Jim Thomas

Absent: Gary Atkinson, Becky Bailey, Glenice Pearson, Mildred Myers, Margaret DuBard

Others present:

James B. Atkins (Buddy), Conservation Department
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department
Sherry and Jake Jaco, Olympia Mill Community Residents
Robin Waites, Historic Columbia Foundation Executive Director

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:05pm.

Minutes: A motion was made by John Grego and seconded by Virginia Sanders to approve the minutes of April 28, 2014 as written. Motion was unanimously approved.

Agenda:

John moved to approve the agenda and was seconded by Jim Thomas. Motion was unanimously approved.

Due to laptop and projector problems, it was decided to proceed with the financial report, while IT corrected the difficulties.

Treasurer's Report

Buddy referred everyone to their copy of the budget report. The FY15 budget for RCCC proposed by Administration reflects a \$25,000 decrease for a total budget of \$725,000. The decrease is due to a drop in the assessed value of property, hence the value of a mil is decreased. Important dates to remember regarding the FY15 budget are: May 22, public hearing; May 29, second reading for grants; June 5, second reading of the budget with the exception of grants; June 12, third reading of entire FY15 budget. All sessions begin at 6pm. Carol encouraged any who could attend to be present to demonstrate commitment to RCCC.

Main St. Mini-Historic District Presentation

Robin Waites made a presentation on the work Historic Columbia Foundation has done under contract to City Center Partnership to develop a National Register Historic District nomination for a commercial district involving the 1500, 1600, and 1700 blocks of Main Street. This RCCC grant-funded project resulted in the listing of 36 properties (out of 52) and one object as eligible for the National Register, which in turn opens up opportunities for tax credits and abatements for historic restoration. The SC Archives and History review committee will vote on the nomination on July 25; once approved it will go to the Secretary of the Interior for final approval and listing.

Historic Committee Report

Olympia Mill Village Museum

Sherry Jaco, project organizer for Olympia Mill Village Museum, explained they have a time extension from the property's owner until July to purchase the original Olympia School building at 1170 Olympia Avenue. So far, \$37,000 has been raised in pledges toward the \$90,000 purchase price. Mrs. Jaco is requesting \$50,000 from the Commission for acquisition. Buddy explained if RCCC votes to fund the project, the funds will come out of the FY15 budget either from Professional Services or the reserve fund. Sam made a motion to allocate \$30,000 to the Olympia Community Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, to assist with the purchase of the historic property contingent on an agreement to repay RCCC funds should the museum be sold or used for a non-public purpose. Legal language to that effect will be sent to the Richland County Legal Department, Administration, and County Council. Virginia seconded the motion and all approved.

Conservation Director's Report

Owens Field Update

Approval from Richland School District One is still needed for the design of the bio-infiltration system. The Stormwater Best Management Practices will be funded through a 319 Water Quality Grant from DHEC. A community meeting will be held May 28, 6:30pm in Council Chambers to receive input on the plans. Once the final design is selected, a request for bids will be issued for construction of the project.

Conservation Committee Report

Wilson Easement

John explained the potential easement is a 42-acre wooded tract located within the Beasley Watershed that drains into Crane Creek. The property has slopes, a pond and walking trails. A portion of the property is planted with longleaf pine. A committee meeting will be scheduled to discuss consideration of the property so a recommendation can be made at the next meeting.

Conservation Director's Report

Nancy reported there are no changes in the grant expenditures from the April report. May 30, 2014 is the deadline for projects to be completed, with the month of June for finalizing paperwork. County Council members asked questions at their FY15 grants work session about two grants that were funded above the requested amount.

Several examples of cemeteries being threatened by logging or development have been brought to staff's attention through the work of Dr. Mike Trinkley on the cemetery survey. Discussions with the Planning Department and Administration are occurring to determine what actions are needed to protect cemeteries and provide access.

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the grant-funded rehabilitation of the Historic Pond Trail at Clemson Sandhill REC is Thursday, May 22 at 3:30. The Alston House historical marker has been ordered; the marker for Good Samaritan-Waverly Hospital is awaiting approval from Allen University.

Buddy announced he was resigning as Director of the Conservation Department as of June 13. A farewell party will be organized.

Meeting adjourned 5:20pm
Next meeting is June 23 at **3:30**

Submitted by Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant