



2020 Hampton St. • Room 3063A
P.O. Box 192 • Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 576-2082

Minutes

March 28, 2011

4:00 P.M.

Attendance:

Members present:

Gary Atkinson, Becky Bailey, John Grego, Margaret DuBard, Sam Holland, Carol Kososki, Jim Lawracy, Mildred Myers, Virginia Sanders

Members absent: Glenice Pearson, Frank Houston

Others Present:

James B. Atkins (Buddy), Environmental Planning Division

Nancy Stone-Collum, Environmental Planning Division

Ken Driggers, Legal

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM with a quorum present. She welcomed back Becky Bailey who has been seriously ill.

Minutes: The minutes of February 28, 2011 were approved.

Agenda: The agenda was approved with the following changes: an Executive Session was added to the agenda and the report on Cook's Mountain was moved to the Division Manager's Report.

Committee Reports:

Conservation Committee: John Grego, Chair

John Grego reported on the Development Round Table proceedings. The next scheduled meeting is April 15. Over 20 principles must be voted on but were deferred at the last meeting so that members can review the staff changes. The goal is to finalize the language before the August recess for Council. John will bring up the need to include Buddy Atkins in the committee meetings. Nancy Stone-Collum reviewed the status of 2011 Community Conservation grants, four of which have been completed, two will need extensions, and the remaining five should wrap up soon. Nancy also handed out a land protection summary showing 896 acres have been preserved in easements and 450 acres through acquisitions. Both documents are on file with the minutes. Nancy reported that the Commission has been approached by the City of Columbia for a sewer and a water easement and SCE&G has requested an easement for a 230kV transmission

line through a section of the 236-acre Mungo-Longtown Brickyard property owned by the Commission near Killian. Buddy and Nancy will visit the property soon and make recommendations, including contacting the Richland County Legal Department.

Historic Committee: Frank Houston, Chair

Nancy reported that two of the six 2011 Historic Preservation grants are complete and the remaining four will be finalized by May 2011. She raised a concern about two carry over projects that have lingered – Goodwyn Cemetery and the Farmers and Merchants Bank. Jim Lawracy moved and Gary Atkinson seconded a motion that funds for 2009 grants not expended by October 1, 2011, would relapse to the Capital Acquisition Fund. The motion was approved. Buddy reported that during budget discussions, County Administrator Milton Pope had questioned the special fund designation for the Curtiss-Wright Hangar. Mr. Pope and Sparty Hammett, Ass't. Co. Administrator, were concerned about the lack of future County funds to restore the hangar and that funding a study would only raise expectations. The Commission received the information and took no action.

Publicity Committee: Sam Holland, Chair

No report

Finance Committee: Virginia Sanders, Chair

A budget summary by expenditure categories was presented with the promise from staff to provide a more useful budget document by the next meeting.

Program Manager's Report: Buddy Atkins

Buddy discussed the Jackson Creek/Decker Mitigation Bank Project. A draft prospectus has been completed by our consultant, Tidewater Environmental, and a meeting is scheduled to review the draft prospectus with the Army Corps of Engineers Interagency Review Team (IRT) on April 7, 2011, in Charleston. The project involves an approximately 30 acre bank along Jackson Creek just upstream of Decker Boulevard. The purpose will be to restore/enhance the existing stream system to develop mitigation credits which are estimated to be valued at \$1M-\$2M. Staff will report back to the Commission regarding the outcome of the meeting.

Buddy reviewed the status of the Gills Creek Watershed signage. The Richland County Stormwater Div. is leading this effort. All DOT encroachment permits have been obtained and the signs are to be installed in a couple of months.

The status of the Green Development Grant was presented by Buddy. He stated the deadline was passed to solicit grants for FY12 and suggested a special Green Development Project be conducted during FY12. One possible alternative will be to work with the Neighborhood Improvement Division to implement a green development project at the Decker Mall, which was recently purchased by Richland County.

The deadline for applications for the Education Coordinator position is March 31, 2011. The goal is to have interviews scheduled mid-April and have a person in the job by mid-May.

Executive Session

At 5:20 the Commission went into Executive Session to hear legal advice on contractual matters regarding various properties. The only vote taken was to extend the meeting by 30 minutes. At 6:05 PM, Jim moved and John seconded the motion to come out of executive session, which was approved.

Meeting Extension

Margaret DuBard moved and Jim seconded a motion to extend the meeting by an additional five minutes, which was approved.

Other Business:

Staff requested approval to extend and amend the Gills Creek Watershed Association FY 2011 grant to December 30, 2011. Work on the grant has not been completed and additional time is required. Additionally, the scope of work will be amended to include (1) exclude consideration of all City of Columbia owned properties in the Gills Creek watershed and (2) to work cooperatively with the City of Columbia consultant to develop a single-joint prospectus document for the IRT. Jim moved and Carol seconded a motion to instruct Buddy to negotiate the amendment, which was approved.

Public Input:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Next Meeting

April 25, 2011 at 4:00 pm at the Richland County Administration Building

Submitted by
Nancy Stone-Collum
Conservation Coordinator