



2020 Hampton Street • Room 3063A  
Columbia, SC 29204  
(803) 576-2083

**Minutes**  
**October 22, 2012**  
**Belser Arboretum**

**Attendance:**

Members present: Ann Furr, Margaret DuBard, Sam Holland, Gary Atkinson, Glenice Pearson, John Grego, Becky Bailey

Absent: Virginia Sanders, Jim Lawracy, Carol Kososki, Gary Atkinson, Mildred Myers

Others present:

James B. Atkins (Buddy), Conservation Department  
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department  
Chanda Cooper, Conservation Department  
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department  
Ken Driggers, Contract Legal Counsel

Acting Chair, John Grego called the meeting to order.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Ann Furr and seconded by Margaret DuBard to approve the minutes of September 24, 2012 as written. Motion carried unanimously.

**Report of the Chair**

Development Roundtable/Green Code

John reported a public hearing will be held to repeal the Green Code effective December 31, 2012. At this time there may be enough votes on County Council to repeal the Green Code; however, the development community wants to leave it in place until a new Open Space Code is completed. The Development Roundtable is scheduled to meet every two weeks beginning November 2<sup>nd</sup> to draft an Open Space ordinance.

**Conservation Department Director's Report**

Jackson Creek/Decker Blvd. Mitigation Bank

Buddy Atkins reported there has been another delay in negotiations with Mr. Palmer due to a family illness. Mr. Palmer has been given a deadline of the first week in November or the project will be cancelled. The mitigation bank project was approved for DHEC's State Revolving Loan Fund for \$3.75 million, one of twelve projects chosen in SC and one of only two green development projects.

## **Conservation Coordinator's Report**

### Grant Updates

Nancy referred everyone to their copy of the report of grant expense activity along with quarterly reports on the Historic and Conservation grants given to the respective committee members. The Historic Committee met October 17<sup>th</sup> to preview the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Historic Columbia Foundation video. Suggested changes have been made and will be shown tonight at their annual meeting. Nancy confirmed that an electronic poll of the Commission members approved spending \$824 for revisions to the Saluda Canal documentary. The committee will review the final version of the video before Coal Powered Filmworks is paid. Interest is high for the next grant cycle for historic preservation - Nancy has met with four different groups about potential applications.

### Rules of Procedure

Nancy asked for ratification of a change that was discussed at the September meeting but not approved due to a misunderstanding with the enabling ordinance. Under Article V, Section 3, Glenice asked why a committee should be empowered to engage a consultant. This conflicts with Article III, Section 2 that says "Committees will report their recommendations to the Commission for approval." Ann moved and Becky seconded the motion to strike "or a committee of Commission members and staff." Motion carried unanimously.

## **Committee Reports**

### Conservation Committee

Several years ago RCCC offered \$40,000 for a conservation easement on 110 acres adjacent to the Laurelwood House off Highway 378. At the time, the owner was not interested; now the property is listed for sale and the owner is much more open to the idea of an easement. Conservation values of the property include steep slopes, Sandhill seeps, headwaters of Colonel's Creek, and a mature hardwood forest. Becky made a motion to offer \$75,000 - \$100,000 in negotiations for an easement on the property with the cost being spread over multiple years. Ann seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### Historic Committee

Sam Holland reported the committee members discussed the RCCC historic landmark designation at their meeting. The question was whether to end the program since it is non-regulatory, can be confused with the city of Columbia's program, and is only used as a filter for grant applicants. The committee decided to look into ways to strengthen the designation as well as to put covenants on some of the project properties.

### Finance Committee

Buddy explained the problem with the FY-12 roll over funds has been resolved and the funds now appear in the FY-13 budget. Ann made a motion to adopt the proposed FY-13 budget. Margaret DuBard seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Outreach Committee

Becky Bailey indicated she would like to meet with the Conservation and Historic Committees to discuss a potential outreach agenda. Currently help is needed in publicizing RCCC grant cycles. Glenice Pearson is concerned about whether RCCC is reaching out and identifying communities with no previous connection to RCCC and its mission. The Neighborhood Council and church groups could provide a good starting place. Each RCCC member is challenged to speak to at least one neighborhood group each year. Becky will draft a Community Outreach Proposal to present at the next meeting.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm. Next meeting date is November 26.

Submitted by Charlie Fisher  
Administrative Assistant