



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

Minutes April 17, 2017

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, Glenice Pearson, Charles Weber, Becky Bailey, Jennifer Carter, Jim Thomas, Lee Rambo, Margaret DuBard, John Grego, Virginia Sanders, and Sam Holland

Others present:

Quinton Epps, Conservation Department
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department
Ken Driggers, Contract Legal Counsel

Chair, Carol Kososki welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order with a quorum at 3:35 pm.

Approval of Agenda and the Minutes from March 20, 2017

Lee Rambo made a motion to approve both the agenda and minutes. Jim Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Report of the Chair

Carol reported she, Jim Thomas and Nancy Stone-Collum attended the code rewrite meeting for conservation stakeholders at the new Decker Center. John Grego and Charles Weber also attended meetings to offer comments on the rewrite. The public meetings are the initial stages of a two year process for rewriting the development ordinances and zoning regulations to implement the updated Comprehensive Plan. Carol announced the County's Chief Financial Officer, Daniel Driggers, resigned and Assistant County Administrator Kevin Bronson is now the Acting CFO.

Treasurer's Report

Virginia referred everyone to their copies of the financial report. Nancy explained very little has changed since last month. Carol requested RCCC members make an effort to attend the Council meetings dealing with the RCCC budget and grants. Nancy will email the meeting dates. The Second Reading is more important to attend than the First Reading since this is where discussion will occur. [Grants work session – May 11, 4-6pm; 2nd reading for Grants – May 25, 6pm; 2nd reading RCCC budget – May 30, 6pm]

Property Management

Quinton emailed documents about Pinewood Lake Park but six members were not able to open the files. Copies were included in members' packets. Glenice Pearson asked for clarification on the responsibility of RCCC for the park and with Pinewood Lake Foundation (PLF) versus the Conservation Department's responsibility. Quinton responded that RCCC needs to review and give feedback on the draft management plan. Virginia asked why a memorandum of understanding was necessary for the PLF but not for Historic Foundation and the Columbia Rowing Club. This led to a discussion about a motion Councilmembers Norman Jackson and Bill Malinowski made at the March 21 Council meeting: "Based on the mission of the Conservation Commission, I move that the Rowing Club and Historic Columbia be placed under management of the Conservation Commission."

In response to Virginia's question, Quinton replied that these organizations do have agreements with the County and in his opinion it is up to Council to determine how the various organizations will be treated. Glenice stipulated the need for accountability and a review of certain legally required documents that non-profits must submit, including long term fund raising plans. Quinton briefly reviewed the history with Pinewood Lake Park and the fact that Richland County Recreation Commission was to manage the park but wanted \$500,000/yr. so PLF was created to run the park and put on events. Council is trying to determine how facilities like Pinewood Lake will be managed and having assigned RCCC to handle the park, some Council members have suggested RCCC should oversee other organizations that manage county-owned property. This is an opportunity to influence a Council decision based on whether RCCC wants this new management responsibility.

Pinewood Lake Park Management Plan

A review of the management plan ensued. John questioned the 50,000 visitors but Mr. Jackson said there were over 40,000 visitors in 2016. John also said he thought it was wrong to spend \$4.5 million for phase 2 infrastructure when the dam was in need of immediate repair. Quinton explained during the October 2015 flood the dam failed the way it was supposed to – it didn't breach; the emergency spillway overtopped and erosion occurred. Estimates for dam repair vary; the county doesn't own the dam and we have not seen engineering reports on the work needed. John Grego will rewrite language for objective #3.

Glenice asked if PLF had a 501c3 letter from the IRS; Nancy said it was a requirement for Hospitality Tax funds and she would check on it. [We have a copy of the letter.] Glenice will write an objective relative to PLF being fully compliant with federal and state non-profit requirements.

Carol wanted dam repair put into the implementation schedule so a new item will be added: Initiate discussions with the PLF Board officers about dam repair. Virginia asked if resolution of the dam could be required before the contract is let for phase 2. Quinton said the contract could be amended by taking out some items that would free up money for dam repairs. Virginia offered to speak with Mr. Jackson about a reallocation.

Historic Columbia & Columbia Rowing Club

The motion by Council members Jackson and Malinowski was sent to the Administration & Finance Committee for consideration and Quinton has prepared a draft ROA for RCCC to review. He recommended moving the Columbia Rowing Club (CRC) property management under RCCC. John commented on how nice the property is as a linear park on the Broad River. Quinton said club members were enthusiastic about our involvement in managing the property and enhancing its nature-based amenities.

Charles asked about the relationship between Historic Columbia, CRC and the county. Glenice said she had concerns about Historic Columbia with regards to the two properties they manage for the county. Becky asked about the precedent of managing these properties and setting up a procedure so we don't do it piecemeal. She mentioned resources needed to handle management duties. Glenice said RCCC had a responsibility in the way history gets told and presented. She argued for a larger role with Historic Columbia. Margaret DuBard asked if Historic Columbia knew about this proposal and clarified the management role with Historic Columbia should be only over the Hampton-Preston House and the Woodrow Wilson House. Ken pointed out that the motion could be seen as retribution for the Council decision to put Pinewood Lake Park under RCCC.

John made a motion seconded by Charles to approve moving the Columbia Rowing Club property under RCCC management. Motion carried with Glenice opposed. Sam Holland made a motion seconded by Jim Thomas stating the relationship with Historic Columbia concerning management of county-owned historic properties will be under the guidance of RCCC. Motion was approved unanimously.

Nancy reminded everyone of the tree planting in memory of Ann Furr on the 18th at 1:00pm at A.C. Moore School.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant