



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

Minutes June 19, 2017

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, Charles Weber, Virginia Sanders, Lee Rambo, John Grego, Margaret DuBard, Jennifer Carter, Sam Holland, and Becky Bailey via telephone

Absent: Jim Thomas, Glenice Pearson

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 at 3:35 pm.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

John Grego made a motion to approve both the agenda and the May 15th minutes. Sam Holland seconded the motion. Motion carried

Report of the Chair

Carol thanked RCCC members and staff who participated in the budget process by attending work sessions and the 2nd and 3rd readings of the FY18 budget. Administration approved \$143,988 for one position and operation and maintenance at Pinewood Lake Park and other conservation properties but funded it with the Commission's 1/2 mil. This creates a shortfall for acquisition and professional services, restricting RCCC programs in FY18. Councilman Chip Jackson made a motion on May 30th during 2nd reading to use \$143,988 from the General Fund for Pinewood Lake Park which passed.

Under second reading for grants on May 25th, Councilman Norman Jackson moved to allocate \$150,000 from Hospitality tax to Pinewood Lake Foundation (PLF). Councilman Seth Rose made a substitute motion to give RCCC \$75,000 from H-tax which passed. Mr. N. Jackson was not pleased and said he felt he had been misled by RCCC. As a result of his concerns, Councilwoman Myers moved that the \$75,000 in H-tax funds going to RCCC should be passed through to PLF for promotional activities, which was approved.

In between second and third reading Mr. N. Jackson requested a total budget for the park; County Administrator Gerald Seals said it should come from RCCC members, not staff. A conference call was held on June 5 and a revised budget for Pinewood Lake Park was approved with an increase of \$88,334 for more personnel and operating expenses. Mr. Seals forwarded it to Council but nothing was mentioned at third reading about the revised budget. Mr. N. Jackson allocated an unknown amount of his discretionary H-tax funds to Pinewood Lake Foundation. A request has been made to the Clerk of Council to review the meeting's minutes to determine how much PLF will receive in H-tax funds. Carol expressed her belief that RCCC should not sign any agreement/contract with the Foundation, rather that should be left to the H-tax grant manager.

Charles Weber made a motion seconded by John to move into Executive Session to discuss the contract.

Charles made a motion seconded by Margaret DuBard to come out of Executive Session. Members received legal advice; no actions were taken in Executive Session.

John made a motion to send a letter from Carol requesting the County Administrator charge the Hospitality Tax Grant Manager with administering the \$75,000 RCCC funds. Charles seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Virginia Sanders referred everyone to their copies of the financial report. Nancy reported Ted Hopkins asked if his final easement payment (\$41,833 due October 2017) for the Pincushion property could be made early. An invoice has been processed to Accounts Payable to accommodate his request.

Conservation Manager's Report

Pinewood Lake Park

Quinton stated he and Virginia plan to meet with Ms. Hart soon to clarify RCCC's role and efforts to enhance the park. Sam asked about the dam ownership but Pinewood Lake Foundation has not requested the county to accept a transfer of ownership.

Strategic Plan

The RFP evaluation team selected CC. Bozard to create the long range strategic plan for RCCC. The contract is being reviewed by the Legal Department. Richland Soil and Water Conservation District has also approved the Bozard proposal so both entities will benefit from having the same consultant.

Conservation Committee Report

John referred members to the draft Conservation Easement Strategic Plan which received input from committee members and staff. The intent of the plan is to identify priority watersheds in the county using criteria established by the Green Infrastructure plan. Six priority areas were selected; parcels will be identified and interested landowners will be contacted in each area

over time. John moved, seconded by Charles to approve the plan which was approved unanimously. John made a second motion to approve Sandy Branch as the first priority watershed. Charles seconded the motion which also carried unanimously.

The Hopkins Magistrate is interested in building new offices and a court on a county-owned tract that is part of the Cabin Branch property. Although the Conservation Committee was concerned this would set a poor precedent for conservation property management, it was recognized that this is a logical place and should only take up a few acres of the tract. Zoning would need to be changed. John advised sharing the Lower Richland Tourism Plan with the interested parties to make them aware of the opportunities in this location. Quinton will talk with the Judge at tomorrow's council meeting to further gauge their interest.

Conservation Coordinator's Report

Lower Richland Tourism Plan

The Asakura Robinson's Lower Richland Tourism Plan draft final report has been received. Nancy referred members to their copy of the report to take home and study. Recommendations are broken down into three major capital projects. The plan illustrates how to connect hubs, gateways, corridors, and points of interest. A meeting will be scheduled with councilmembers Norman Jackson and Dalhi Myers to discuss the recommendations, followed by a video conference for Commission and steering committee members to discuss and give feedback. Once the document is finalized there will be a public release of the report.

Grant Updates

Final reports have been submitted with the exception of the Blythewood Historical Society who have their final grant related event this week. RCCC members are invited to tour the Blythewood grant projects on Thursday, June 22 to view the restored corn crib and the new bee course at Camp Discovery and see the quilt exhibit at the Blythewood Historical Society. The grand opening of Owens Field is scheduled for Saturday, July 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant