



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

## Minutes March 23, 2015

### Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, Glenice Pearson, Jim Thomas, Charles Weber, John Grego, Sam Holland, and Margaret DuBard

Absent: Mildred Myers, Virginia Sanders, Ann Furr, and Becky Bailey

### Others present:

Quinton Epps, Conservation Department  
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department  
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department  
Ken Driggers, Legal Counsel  
Synithia Williams, Richland County Stormwater Director

Chair, Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 3:30pm without a quorum present. Synithia Williams was introduced as the new Stormwater Director, having held that position at Lexington County. *With the arrival of Sam Holland, a quorum was reached.*

**Agenda:** Margaret DuBard moved and Jim Thomas seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion was approved.

**Minutes:** Glenice Pearson moved to accept the minutes of February 23, 2015 with two corrections. Jim seconded the motion which was unanimous.

### Report of the Chair

Carol asked Nancy to update Commission members on the health issues of Ann Furr, Becky Bailey, and Mildred Myers. It was decided to take up a collection for a flower fund that Virginia Sanders would hold. The Greenway Advisory Committee met on March 18 with Sonny Timmerman and Anthony Lawrence. The Project Development Team (PDT) is working with the City of Columbia to establish maintenance agreements for the Lincoln Tunnel and Three Rivers Greenway. Maintenance agreements must be in place before construction on greenways can begin. Bids will go out soon for the Lincoln Tunnel greenway and should be completed by Sept. 30. The PDT will meet soon with Gills Creek Watershed Assoc. to begin plans for the middle watershed greenway.

### **Treasurer's Report**

In the absence of Treasurer Virginia Sanders, Nancy referred everyone to their copy of the financial report and pointed out \$48,000 has been encumbered for Phase 1 of the Historic Committee's research proposal. The amount of funding can be increased with the proper approvals and availability of funding. The bid for proposal will be advertised this week.

### **Conservation Committee Report**

John Grego reviewed the FY16 Community Conservation grant applicants and the amounts the committee recommended. A total of \$100,895 was requested and \$80,000 was allocated among the eight applicants. John made a motion for RCCC to fund the committee's recommendations which Jim seconded and was passed unanimously.

### **Historic Committee Report**

Glenice reported there were 17 applicants but one was determined ineligible because the organization was less than a year old, for a total of \$497,510. The committee recommended against funding six applicants, all of whom had received grants previously. Glenice moved to approve the recommended funding of ten grants for \$170,000. Sam seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Glenice and Nancy will work on developing specific language to limit multiple requests for funding the same project.

### **Conservation Director's Report**

#### Owens Field

Quinton reported the County should receive \$100,000 from the City of Columbia this week for stormwater improvements. Fuss & O'Neill is waiting on the transfer of funds to the county to complete their design plan. Nancy explained Richland School District I is planning to implement a \$50 million dollar facilities improvement project which includes improvements at Memorial Stadium. Tennis courts are proposed for the grassy area next to the trail which would impact the plans for handling stormwater. A meeting has been scheduled with the school district head of facilities, city and county. A workday to remove invasive species at Owens field will be held Saturday, April 18 from 9:30 – 12:30.

#### Mill Creek upper tract

Council has given permission to begin negotiations for the purchase of this property.

#### Mitigation Projects

Work on the Mill Creek Mitigation Bank is going well. Easement issues are being worked out with the US Army Corps of Engineers. Spring Valley mitigation for Owens Field expansion is still under negotiation. The Spring Valley Homeowners Association wants a guarantee from the county that work will be done on the up ditch and dredging at Entrance Lake at the same time as the stream restoration.

### Viable Rural Lands

Quinton and Nancy are working with Planning to develop the incentive-based program that will make rural lands more sustainable. Glenice suggested the word 'Vibrant' rather than 'Viable.'

### NE Landfill

John said the letter regarding the landfill had been sent to all of Council and no response has been received. Carol requested a follow up to the letter be made. The Ombudsman's office of Richland County was contacted regarding citizen complaints and John is waiting for their response.

### **Conservation Coordinator's Report**

#### Kensington Mansion

Nancy reported that International Paper (IP), owner of the historic Kensington Mansion in Eastover, has dissolved their contract with the Scarborough Hamer Foundation. The Foundation owns the collections inside the house, some 3000 items, and will have to move them preparatory to them being sold. Kensington has been closed since January 2014 due to deferred maintenance and storm damage. A public meeting will be held in conjunction with the Foundation's board meeting on Tuesday, March 31 at 5:30pm at Richland County Library on Assembly Street. IP has not said what they intend to do with the house, kitchen, and slave dwelling adjacent their paper plant. Strong public support will be necessary to ensure a positive outcome.

"Votesville", a documentary film about the Greenview Community and funded by RCCC, will be shown on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at Greenview First Baptist Church.

Nancy inquired what locations members would like to tour. Heathwood Hall, Camp Discovery, Sydney Park CME Church, and Shenandoah Restorations were mentioned. The Historic Preservation Conference is April 23 and Margaret, Jim, and Nancy are registered.

### **New Business**

#### Friends of RCCC

Glenice suggested former RCCC members be contacted to form "Friends of RCCC" where they could continue to lend their expertise and support and attend social gatherings of interest. Staff will contact former members, update their contact information and determine if they are interested in participating.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.

Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant