



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

## Minutes

August 23, 2010  
4:00 P.M.

### **Attendance:**

Members present:

Carol Kososki, Virginia Sanders, Jim Lawracy, Glenice Pearson, Sam Holland,  
Gary Atkinson (Phone)

Members absent, Frank Houston, Mildred Myers, John Grego, Margaret DuBard, Becky Bailey

Others Present:

Jim Wilson, Richland County Environmental Program Manager  
Nancy Stone-Collum, Palmetto Conservation Foundation  
Ken Driggers, Legal

Chairman Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Carol introduced and welcomed Anna Almeida as the new County Planning Director. Also attending were Ericka Hink and Tommy Delage from Neighborhood Planning.

**Minutes:** The minutes of July 26, 2010 were approved.

**Agenda:** The agenda was adopted as presented.

Anna Almeida spoke to the Commission about county planning, staff support, partnerships, and common goals for the planning department with Conservation Commission. She was very complimentary of the work of the commission and invited members to be an active part of conservation efforts in the coming years. Several areas suggested were: Land Development code revisions, tree preservation, conservation easements, green space and connectivity, green development and recreation, water quality projects, wetland and stream mitigation, and public education.

Ericka Hink discussed active projects with Neighborhood Planning such as developing neighborhood master plans, promoting rain gardens, landscaping, and green development.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Conservation Committee:** Gary Atkinson, Chair

Jim Wilson reported for Gary Atkinson who phoned in later for some participation and voting on action items.

1. The bids on Fort Jackson parcels are still under consideration with the client.
2. The Pebble Creek Watershed meeting was rescheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup>.
3. Two conservation easement applications were submitted for Jeff Brown ( 56 acres ) and Joye Mullis ( 118 acres ) for review and acceptance by RCCC. Both applications met our conservation criteria for land preservation and were recommended by staff and the conservation committee. RCCC voted to accept both applications and staff will develop an easement packet with an appraisal for RCCC consideration at our next meeting before going to County Council.

### **Historic Committee:** Frank Houston, Chair

Nancy reported for Frank Houston on historic grants. She passed around an invitation for the unveiling of 5 historical markers in Lower Richland. Sam purchased a camera for the Commission which is being used by Elizabeth Oswald who is updating the historic inventory. She has added photos to 51 sites.

### **Publicity Committee:** Sam Holland, Chair

Sam Holland updated the commission on an Air Quality Video as a public service announcement. Jim Lawracy suggested including the local city cable channel for expanded use. Sam Holland will coordinate this activity and make the video available at our next meeting along with a video the Gills Creek Watershed Assoc. (GCWA) developed with one of our grants in FY2010.

### **Finance Committee:** Virginia Sanders, Chair.

Virginia Sanders asked Jim Wilson to update the Commission on our budget for FY11. Jim reported that no additional expenses have been made at this time other than staff salary and professional service contracts. We are still waiting on administration and county finance to rollover last year's obligated funds on grants and special projects.

### **Program Manager's Report:** Jim Wilson

1. Jim and Virginia updated the commission on the Garner's Ferry Park Project which is still in negotiation with the landowner and County Administrator.
2. The Trails Brochure is scheduled to be presented to County Council on September 7<sup>th</sup>.
3. Jim and Carol explained the joint effort of RCCC and GCWA to sponsor an intern with the USC to assist with watershed activities during the absence of the watershed coordinator this fall. We will match GCWA with \$1320 which is in our current budget.
4. The Decker/Jackson Creek Mitigation and Restoration Project has received 9 bids from firms to develop a restoration plan and mitigation bank. The county will review bids and recommend a vendor for this project in September.
5. The concept of a Tree Preservation Program is being staffed in planning for a recommendation to County Council in September.
6. The Smith Branch Greenway Project will be discussed at our next meeting by Becky.
7. The annual Neighborhood Conference will be held on Saturday, October 2, 2010.

Jim asked for commission members to attend and staff a booth for RCCC.

8. The CPAC Conference will be held on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>. Carol, Glenice, and Jim will attend.
9. The draft Plan of Work and Budget for FY11 was approved.

**Other Business:**

None

**Public Input:**

None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM

**Next Meeting Date:** September 27, 2010

Submitted by:

Jim Wilson

Program Manager