



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

Minutes

November 22, 2010

4:00 P.M.

Attendance:

Members present:

Carol Kososki, Virginia Sanders, Sam Holland, Gary Atkinson, John Grego,
Mildred Myers, Frank Houston, Jim Lawracy, Margaret DuBard

Members absent: Glenice Pearson, Becky Bailey

Others Present:

Nancy Stone-Collum, Palmetto Conservation Foundation
Ken Driggers, Legal
Holland Ledger, Planning
Erica Hink, NIP
Mary Jane Henderson, Staff

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

Jim Wilson introduced Holland and Erica from Planning.

Minutes: The minutes of October 25th were approved.

Agenda: The agenda was adopted as presented.

Committee Reports:

Conservation Committee: Gary Atkinson, Chair

Gary gave a summary of the Pebble Creek Watershed Community meeting on conservation easements. Approximately 30 attended and several expressed interest in conservation options. Erica Hink made a presentation with Councilman Malinowski about the upcoming Spring Hill Master Plan. Citizens requested their community remain rural with limited development

Historic Committee: Frank Houston, Chair

Frank reported that he and Nancy had visited 1828 Gadsden Street, a Columbia Cottage owned by Zion Baptist Church. The church was considering razing the building but Historic Columbia will submit a grant to begin restoration. The Committee will meet with Dr. Donaldson of USC to discuss ways to research and incorporate more African-American history into our historic buildings inventory. A landmark application has been received for the Holloway House and Museum in Ridgewood.

Publicity Committee: Sam Holland, Chair

Interest in restoring the Curtiss-Wright Hangar at Owens Field has been renewed since Celebrate Freedom has indicated that it will relinquish its lease in January 2011. The building is owned by the county and is in poor condition. A public/private partnership is likely to be needed to restore and operate the facility as a museum and for special events. RCCC could facilitate by funding a feasibility study through its grants program or as a special project. Sam will check to see if there are any pre-existing studies. A meeting is set in December to explore sponsors.

Finance Committee: Virginia Sanders, Chair.

Virginia requested Jim to distribute financial summary for RCCC. The majority of annual funds have been obligated on easements, grants, and professional contracts. No additional information is available on Fort Jackson parcels. The Laurelwood easement funding may change based on the landowner's request.

Greenway Proposal:

Jim had asked Ken to discuss possible alternatives for Council and Administration to support Greenway funding in 2012. RCCC was postponed last year due to the penny sales tax proposal which failed in November. RCCC presented a Greenway Plan at Council retreat last January which received adequate support to revisit with Council. RCCC requested Jim and Ken meet with Mr. Pope to discuss feasible options for Council and possible presentation this January for County Council. The last recommendation was a bond for 5M to start a Greenway Program over the next 5 years. Jim will advise RCCC in December or January.

Program Manager's Report: Jim Wilson

1. Jackson Creek Restoration project on Decker was awarded to Tidewater Environmental.
2. Staff interviews have been completed for Environmental Program Manager which will be announced this week. The next position will be posted in December.
3. The Lower Richland Mitigation Project was approved by County Council in November based on a technical report from Central Midlands for economic return through restoration and the sale of credits. Landowner agreements must be developed to mark funding needs for County Council in 2012. If approved, a request would be made to Army COE for bank instrument.

4. Jim made a request to renew our Green Development Grant for 2012 which will be aligned with County Master Planning Areas for green design of development to support water quality and tree preservation. RCCC will commit 25K in partnership with NIP and Public Works for an additional 75K. RCCC approved the motion.
5. Jim will discuss 3 new easement requests in executive session.
6. Carol and Jim attended a Community Forest program meeting that involves partnering on protecting land for conservation and recreation. Jim recommended the Commission consider a presentation in 2011 and an internal structure to acquire lands when the opportunity presents itself.

Other Business:

Carol highlighted Arbor Day activities in Richland County. There will be a statewide observance at the Capitol on Monday, November 29, at 11AM, with a tree planting in partnership with Midlands Arbor Day Committee. Treasured Trees Award program will be held at 2:30pm at the State House. A featured school program sponsored by RCCC will be held at Satchel Ford Elementary on Friday, December 3, at 1:00PM. The link below list other activities.
www.midlandsarborday.org.

Carol applauded the Roseberry Easement Dedication Ceremony held Oct. 27th by RCCC with Council member Val Hutchinson. Carol and Jim Lawracy participated in the program honoring Dr. Royal Roseberry who donated 50 acres of his home place for conservation.

Carol and John indicated the Development Round Table continues to meet monthly to revise the development codes and allow more flexibility and green communities. The target date is to be finished in January 2011 and forward to Planning Commission and County Council.

A motion was made to have a joint meeting with Conservation District on December 20th to meet the New Program Manager. Frank Houston agreed to host the event.

At 5:15pm, a motion was made and approved to extend our meeting time 15 minutes.

Public Input:

None

Executive Session

RCCC approved motion to go into executive session.

Jim presented 3 new easement requests as conservation donations.

Jim discussed the staffing plan to hire a New Program Manager.

Jim discussed the expanded needs for legal support on easements and special projects.

RCCC voted to come out of executive session.

A motion was made and approved to accept 3 new easements for donation.

A motion was made and approved to revise our current legal contract for professional services with an increase of \$500 per month for two years.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM

Next Informal Meeting Date: December 20, 2010

Submitted by:

Mary Jane Henderson, Recorder

Conservation District