



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

Minutes

April 25, 2011

4:00 P.M.

Attendance

Members present: Glenice Pearson, John Grego, Margaret DuBard, Carol Kososki

Late arrivals: Jim Lawracy, Mildred Myers

Members absent: Virginia Sanders, Frank Houston, Becky Bailey, Gary Atkinson, Sam Holland

Others Present:

James B. Atkins (Buddy), Environmental Planning Division

Nancy Stone-Collum, Environmental Planning Division

Ken Driggers, Legal

Quinton Epps, Floodplain Management

Chair Carol Kososki began the meeting at 4:02. Lacking a quorum, the Committee reports and Division Manager's report were received for information.

Mitigation Banking Presentation: Buddy Atkins gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the basics of mitigation banking and how it can be used as a conservation tool. He reviewed the two current projects (Jackson Creek/Decker Blvd and Hopkins) for which mitigation banks are being considered. Quinton Epps and Ken Driggers also participated. It was suggested that the presentation should be provided to Council members during a work session.

Committee Reports

Conservation Committee: John Grego, Chair

Carol reported that the Cook's Mountain tour on April 11 was successful and well attended, with three Council members (Seth Rose, Jim Manning, and Val Hutchinson), six RCCC members, and twelve others present. Richland County has expressed interest in acquiring the 1,250-acre property. To date, Ken Driggers has contacted the [listing] real estate agent and staff is investigating the potential mitigation value of the property.

John Grego reported that the last meeting of the Development Round Table will be May 27, 2011. Progress has been made on many of the principles including protection of hardwood trees, but protecting pines may not be included in a future ordinance. The Round Table also discussed ordinance language reducing the width of rural roads which should give rural communities more flexibility in designing roadways. The Green Code may be phased out and incorporated into the Land Use Development Code. Amendments to the code will be presented to the Planning Commission in June, and a Council workshop will be held shortly thereafter. The new code should be adopted by fall 2011.

Historic Committee: Frank Houston, Chair

Nancy Stone-Collum reported for Frank Houston that she and Sam Holland met with Chris Eversmann, Owens Field Airport Director, to discuss the special project/grant request for the Curtiss-Wright Hangar. Chris has some capital funds that could be used for initial studies of the hangar. In light of the Airport Commission's fund availability and concern from County Administration about the ultimate expense of restoring the hangar, the Historic Committee recommended rescinding the \$50,000 project funding. **See Quorum below for action taken.** Glenice Pearson and Margaret DuBard commented on how useful and informative the recent Historic Preservation Conference held at SC Dept. of Archives and History was. Nancy passed around photos of the April 15, 2011, Seay and Campbell families' reunion held at Laurelwood with the new owners of the property. Nancy nominated Pine Grove Rosenwald School for a preservation award from Historic Columbia Foundation which will be presented on May 3.

Publicity Committee: Sam Holland, Chair

No report

Finance Committee: Virginia Sanders, Chair

In Virginia Sanders' absence, Nancy presented a year-to-date expenditure report. Funding levels for FY2012 and the grant recommendations will be submitted to Council on May 3 and a final decision should be available on June 2, 2011, when 3rd reading is given to the budget.

Program Manager's Report: Buddy Atkins

Buddy reported on the status of the Mitigation Bank Project on Jackson Creek/Decker Boulevard. On April 6, 2011, he, Quinton Epps and consultants from Tidewater Environmental met with the US COE Interagency Review Team (IRT) in Charleston to discuss the Draft Mitigation Bank Prospectus. Comments from the IRT were generally positive and a site visit is being scheduled for the IRT. The next step will be the completion of the Final Mitigation Bank Prospectus which should occur during late summer 2011.

As of today, three interviews have been conducted to replace Mary Jane Henderson as the Education Program Coordinator. Two more interviews are scheduled for April 26. A decision will be made by the end of next week with an estimated start date of mid-May 2011, for the new hire.

Buddy discussed a proposed project between the McCrady Army National Guard and the Conservation Fund to develop a new geographic information system (GIS) based-criteria to score and assess the conservation value of properties and features (streams, wetlands, buffers, etc.) throughout Lower Richland. This effort will assist the Commission in developing a conservation strategy in Lower Richland

and could provide a framework for conservation strategies in other parts of the County. **See Quorum below for action taken.**

Other Business

John requested that the Commission write a letter to the Director of the National Park Service to urge allocation of \$1.4 million of FY 2011 Land and Water Conservation funding to complete acquisition of the 1,840 Riverstone tract at Congaree National Park. **See Quorum below for action taken.**

Margaret invited Commission members to a dedication of the Langford-Nord House that Cindy Nord has donated to the Blythewood Historical Society. The dedication will be held on Friday, May 20, at 6 pm.

Quorum

At 5:25, Jim Lawracy and Mildred Myers arrived and a quorum was constituted. Margaret moved and John seconded a motion to extend the meeting by an additional fifteen minutes, which was approved. The following motions were voted on and approved:

- Glenice moved and Jim seconded a motion to approve the minutes from March 28, 2011 with one correction – the deletion of Frank Houston as being present.
- Jim moved and Glenice seconded a motion to rescind the \$50,000 special project designation for the Curtiss-Wright Hangar.
- John moved and Jim seconded a motion to allocate \$6,000 out of FY 2011 funds for a summer intern to work with the McCrady Army National Guard and the Conservation Fund on a GIS project to develop a conservation scoring criteria for Lower Richland properties.
- John moved and Margaret seconded a motion to send a letter to the National Park Service in support of allocating funds for the purchase of the final portion of the Riverstone Tract for Congaree National Park. (letter on file)

Public Input: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Next Meeting: May 23, 2011 at 4:00 pm at the Richland County Administration Building

Submitted by
Nancy Stone-Collum
Conservation Coordinator