



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

Minutes August 27, 2012

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, Ann Furr, Becky Bailey, Sam Holland, Virginia Sanders, Gary Atkinson, John Grego

Absent: Jim Lawracy, Glenice Pearson, Mildred Myers, Margaret DuBard

Others present:

James B. Atkins (Buddy), Conservation Department
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department
Chanda Cooper, Conservation Department
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department
Ken Driggers, Contract Legal Counsel
Mark Huguley, Richland Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioner
Ken Mullis, Richland Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioner

Chair, Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:10pm without a quorum and requested those present to review the minutes and agenda. With the arrival of Becky Bailey at 4:15 a quorum was achieved.

Agenda:

A motion was made by Becky Bailey and seconded by Ann Furr to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Minutes: A motion was made by Ann Furr and seconded by Virginia Sanders to approve the minutes of July 23 as written. Motion carried.

Report of the Chair

Carol explained Jim Lawracy is unable to continue as Historic Committee Chair. Sam Holland volunteered to serve as the Chair at the August 8 Historic Committee meeting. Ann moved, seconded by Becky, to elect Sam Holland as Commission Vice-chair. Motion carried.

Becky has agreed to serve as Chair of the Outreach Committee which was vacated by Sam. Ann moved to approve Becky as the new Outreach Committee Chair and the motion was seconded by Sam. Motion carried.

Cook's Mountain

Carol asked Buddy Atkins to draft a letter to the Richland County Legislative Delegation clarifying the efforts to acquire Cook's Mountain with SC Conservation Bank Funds. The letter also requests Conservation Bank ranking criteria give more weight to public access and legislation be introduced to repeal the prohibition of counties applying for grants from the Bank. The draft was reviewed and suggestions made to remove much of the Cook's Mountain language while adding strong support for the Conservation Bank. John Grego moved to send the letter with the discussed changes. Gary Atkinson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Conservation Department Director's Report

Jackson Creek/Decker Blvd. Mitigation Bank

A meeting with Hugh Palmer for Wednesday the 29th will be rescheduled due to Mr. Palmer's illness. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the location of the required buffers along Jackson Creek from Mr. Palmer

Development Roundtable/Green Code

Buddy reported the Development Roundtable and Green Code ordinances received first reading at County Council on July 31, 2012. A work session for Council will be planned for late September. Betsy Kaemmerlen will replace Tracy Swartout on the Development Roundtable as one of the four environmental members.

Conservation Coordinator's Report

Owens Field

Nancy mentioned the article in *The State* newspaper this morning about Owens Field. Staff has been meeting with the county's Procurement Department to determine how to proceed with a request for proposals from engineering firms. The proposal will include a conceptual plan, design/build for hiking trail, and stormwater improvement designs. The money currently available will not be enough to solve the run-off and erosion problems from the Richland School District 1 property. A phased construction plan will allow RCCC to work with RC Public Works and the City of Columbia to help fund the improvement project.

Grants Update

Nancy reported all of the signed FY-13 grant agreements have been received. A press conference was held earlier in the day at Randolph Cemetery to unveil a grant-funded cemetery survey project. Chicora Foundation, who is undertaking the survey research, is asking the public for help in locating old and forgotten cemeteries. Media coverage was provided by Channels 10, 19, 25, and *Free Times*.

Rules of Procedure Amendments

Nancy referred everyone to a marked-up copy of Rules of Procedures showing revisions and additions. Recommendations were made for changes in the conflict of interest section.

Everyone was asked to look over the document for further discussion and adoption at the September meeting.

Time Extension

Becky made a motion to extend the meeting until 5:45pm. Sam seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Buddy reviewed RCCC's proposed budget for FY-13. This year's allocation from County Council is \$706,673. RCCC should know by mid-September if all rollover requests have been approved. John Grego moved to approve RCCC's FY-13 contract with Richland Soil and Water Conservation District for \$12,000. Ann seconded the motion which carried.

On behalf of the Historic Committee, Sam requested a special project line item of \$10,000 be established to pay for historic markers which cost about \$2,000 each. Criteria for requesting funds for a marker will be developed and brought to the Commission for approval. The Historic Committee also approved repurposing the \$9,356 left from the Pine Grove School grant for roofing repairs at the Sims-Stackhouse Mansion, one of the current grantees.

Buddy explained \$15,343 in rollover funds from the cancelled Green Development grant will be allocated for the Owens Field special project as well as an additional \$50,000 in FY13 funds.

Gary Atkinson made a motion to approve the provisional (until roll over amounts are approved by Finance) RCCC FY-13 Budget. Ann seconded the motion which carried.

Conservation Committee

John said his committee had nothing to report.

Historic Committee

Sam reported the owner of the Scott-Shell-Breedlove house has requested Landmark designation. Built in 1893, this home is a good example of a Columbia Cottage and is a Columbia landmark. The owner's intent is to create a living history learning center. Ann moved and Becky seconded to approve the landmark designation. Motion carried.

Outreach Committee

Becky said she was impressed with the media coverage at today's press conference and will work hard to learn her new duties as Outreach Chair.

Nancy advised everyone the October RCCC meeting will be held at the Belser Arboretum.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:45pm. Next meeting date is September 24, 2012.

Submitted by Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant