



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

Minutes January 22, 2018

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, Charles Weber, John Grego, Virginia Sanders, Jim Thomas, Lee Rambo, and Sam Holland

Absent: Jennifer Carter, Margaret DuBard, Glenice Pearson

Vacant: District 7

Others present:

Quinton Epps, Conservation Division

Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Division

Charlie Fisher, Conservation Division

Ken Driggers, Legal Counsel

Tracy Hegler, Community Planning & Development (CP&D) Department

Meghan Sullivan, Community Planning & Development Department

Stuart White, Congaree Land Trust

Chair Carol Kososki welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm in the Office of

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

John Grego made a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes which was seconded by Jim Thomas. Motion approved.

Report of the Chair

Carol thanked members for their participation in the extremely productive strategic plan retreat held Sunday, January 21. She is looking forward to the written report and implementation plans.

Treasurer's Report

Virginia referred everyone to the financial reports in their packets. Carol requested that future reports include a funding source for the different categories.

Election of Officers

Glenice Pearson has notified staff she is unable to continue to chair the Historic Committee. Carol recused herself and turned the election over to Nancy Stone-Collum who explained she had spoken with Carol, John Grego, and Virginia Sanders who are willing to continue to serve another one-year term in their positions as Chair, Vice-Chair for Conservation, and Treasurer respectively. Jim Thomas nominated Sam Holland for Vice-Chair and Chair of the Historic Committee. Virginia nominated Jim but he declined

the nomination. Charles moved the nominations be accepted by acclamation. Jim seconded the motion which carried.

Congaree Land Trust

Stuart White explained Congaree Land Trust (CLT) has served central South Carolina for 25 years and has conserved 72,000 acres representing 150 properties of priority conservation land in 13 counties. CLT is interested in establishing a collaborative partnership with RCCC to develop a Landscape Scale Conservation Plan beginning in the COWASEE Basin. Dr. Baldwin, an associate professor of conservation biology and geographic information systems at Clemson, will map protected and unprotected lands, identify each protected parcel's natural resources, and study ways to incentivize landowners to conserve. As a partner, RCCC would be asked to provide GIS parcel data and information related to Green Infrastructure and future land use. In return, RCCC would have full access to the results of the natural resource survey data as it relates to Richland County.

Tracy Hegler offered that the green infrastructure and future land use data could be released. Concerns about targeting parcels and animosity from Town and Country days were raised. Stuart assured the group individual parcel data would not be released publicly; only generalized maps would be made available. Quinton recommended proceeding with the collaboration saying we should not be in a position of saying no to information. It was decided CLT will draft a Memorandum of Understanding that spells out the data needs and partnership expectations.

Community Planning & Development

Pinewood Lake Park

Tracy reported the H-tax allocation of \$75,000 to Pinewood Lake Park Foundation (PLPF) through RCCC has never been done before, creating delays. An agreement was sent to PLPF with two basic tenants: 1) how H-tax funds will be utilized and RCCC approval of events and 2) PLPF will cease day-to-day activities. Discussion ensued about the process for RCCC to approve promotional activities. Virginia attended the December PLPF board meeting and reported they had not seen the agreement. She requested a copy of the agreement be provided to RCCC. Tracy said PLPF invoices are being reviewed for compliance with county policies. Virginia asked for there to be a meeting with the PLPF director and Tracy and Quinton to discuss the agreement and to understand what must take place in order for invoices to be paid.

Richland Renaissance

John asked if there were any plans proposed for the Hopkins tract. The sensitive nature of the land will require special attention due to the wetlands. Tracy explained the county is interested in acquiring more parcels in this area to carry out the Lower Richland Center and accommodate some of the ideas from the Lower Richland Tourism Plan. She also noted that the county intends to sensitively design the Lower Richland Center in concert with the land. The relocation of administration and satellite offices to Columbia Mall is the first priority for the Renaissance plan. A push is being made for LEED certified work on the buildings. Tracy clarified Councilwoman Myers did not halt the LR Tourism Plan; her intent was to make sure it complemented and did not conflict with Richland Renaissance. Moving forward RCCC should make a revision to the LR Tourism Plan showing how it complements Richland Renaissance. Tracy requested the consultants identify 3-4 catalytic projects necessary to make the plan a success. Nancy will schedule a video conference with the consultants, RCCC, steering committee members, and Councilmembers Myers and Jackson in February.

Code Rewrite

The Land Development Code Update has entered its second phase which is an assessment of

recommended approaches to achieve project goals and an outline for the new Zoning Ordinance and Land Development Code. Two public meetings will be held Feb 5 and 7 with live streaming and satellite viewing at select libraries. The Planning Department is in the process of producing a Land Development Manual to deal with many of the technical items in the code such as stormwater and road design. RCCC feedback will be requested.

Charles made a motion and was seconded by John to extend the meeting until 5:30pm in order to complete business. Motion carried.

Conservation Committee

A draft property and facilities management plan will be reviewed by the committee. A plan is necessary since RCCC has management responsibility for ten properties. Once a plan is finalized, the focus for the first year will be to put procedures in place regarding managing documents, security, and cataloging resources on the properties. A Conservation Committee will be scheduled for February.

Historic Committee

New chairman elected – no report given.

Conservation Manager's Report

A Request for Proposals will be issued for the Walden Pond project since use of the on-call engineering team was not approved. Twenty applications have been received for the Land Program Planner position; four of the applicants look promising. An evaluation committee will interview the applicants.

Conservation Coordinator's Report

The Strategic Plan retreat was held at the Sims-Stackhouse Mansion with eight members in attendance: Carol, John, Glenice, Virginia, Sam, Jim, Lee, and Jennifer. Time was spent determining five critical issues: Communication, Land and Facilities Management, Historic and Cultural Issues, Eco-Tourism, and Capacity. Groups were formed to create one goal per topic and three to four strategies with the exception of Capacity. The consultant's report will be sent to staff, the planning committee, and then to the entire RCCC membership for adoption at the February meeting. Implementation plans for each of the five years will be developed shortly thereafter.

Grant Updates

Nancy supplied the grantee quarterly reports for each committee and commented that the Kinsler Creek Greenway has been completed, and although it is short, it is longer than originally planned.

Nancy brought attention to a flyer in the packet about the Gills Creek Watershed Association Lecture Series featuring Drew Lanham, Ph.D., on February 15 and encouraged everyone to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant