



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

Minutes

July 26, 2010
4:00 P.M.

Attendance:

Members present:

Gary Atkinson, Frank Houston; Carol Kososki, Virginia Sanders, Mildred Myers, John Grego, Margaret DuBard, Jim Lawracy, Becky Bailey

Members absent: Glenice Pearson, Sam Holland

Others Present:

Jim Wilson, Richland County Environmental Program Manager
Nancy Stone-Collum, Palmetto Conservation Foundation
Mary Jane Henderson, Richland SWCD
Elizabeth Oswald, PCF Intern

Chairman Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM.

Carol introduced and welcomed Margaret DuBard as the new Commission member for District 2. Carol also welcomed Elizabeth Oswald. Nancy Stone-Collum introduced her as an intern working with PCF on the historical web site.

Minutes: The minutes of June 28, 2010 were approved.

Agenda: The agenda was adopted as presented.

Committee Reports:

Conservation Committee: Gary Atkinson, Chair

1. Chairman Gary Atkinson updated the Commission on new signs placed in the Pebble Creek Watershed for promoting conservation easements. The approved plan by County Council will be an example for the Spring Hill Neighborhood Master Plan.
2. Jim Wilson reported that the Clark Easement was approved by County Council in District #1. Ken will provide legal documents for recording.

3. Jim Wilson updated the Commission on the recent bid for land acquisition near Fort Jackson submitted July 14th on 14 acres in Gills Creek Watershed. No word on the results. Jim Lawracy suggested contacting the Congressional Delegation for support. John Grego will attend with Jim Lawracy next week.
4. Jim Wilson provided a list of potential easements for FY11 that staff will develop if landowners meet the terms of our program. (List attached)
5. Jim Wilson presented the Laurelwood easement request on 110 acres next to the Laurelwood Plantation Home as part two of a historic and conservation effort. The Commission voted to honor \$80,000 of easement allocation for this agreement. Ken will develop final documents for signatures and recording. Council D&S will not meet until September on this request.
6. Jim Wilson presented a new application by Ted Hopkins on 335 acres in Lower Richland for a conservation easement. RCCC accepted the application and staff will prepare background information for the landowner. A request will be made to the Commission for financial support before an agreement is signed. (maps attached)
7. Jim Wilson provided a summary report of FY11 grants approved by County Council for RCCC to implement this year. All grants were approved as recommended by RCCC with one exception to the Decker Corridor Business Association adding \$7000 by Council member Jim Manning. The total grant amount for RCCC is \$250,780. (attached)

Historic Committee: Frank Houston, Chair

1. Frank reported that all new grantees have returned their signed grant agreements.
2. Nancy has been working with A P Williams to develop their RFP and deal with asbestos issues.
3. Bishop's Memorial will choose their contractor this week.
4. As a result of new EPA regulations regarding lead paint that went into effect in April, Pine Grove has had to have an EPA certified risk assessor examine the interior walls. The walls do not have to be covered with beadboard, but will be scraped and repainted.
5. Eastover Farmers & Merchants Bank Building – shingles have been replaced and the flat roof repair is underway.
6. Visit to Laurelwood – Basic stabilization of porch, new tin roof, removing rotten wood from major water damage, covering windows with plywood to protect from vandals, clearing jungle that has grown up to the house.
7. Elizabeth Oswald, website intern, gave a brief synopsis of what she is doing for the historic web site.

Publicity Committee: Sam Holland, Chair

Jim Wilson reported for Sam Holland that the 30 second video was still getting a lot of play. It will continue until the end of July.

Finance Committee: Virginia Sanders, Chair.

Virginia Sanders asked Jim Wilson to update the Commission on our budget for FY10 and FY11.

1. Jim Wilson presented a budget summary to commission members reflecting a total budget of \$1,236,299 with a 98% execution of the FY10 budget as of June 30, 2010. A remaining balance of \$24,792 will also pay some expenses in July from FY10.
2. The proposed FY11 budget of \$ 677,500 was presented as approved by County Council beginning July 1, 2011. A staff recommendation was made to allocate by committee and special projects as RCCC did in FY10. The Commission accepted the budget as guidance for FY11 with the opportunity to modify by category at the next meeting if needed. The total amount \$677,500 budget for FY11 by category was correct as presented by the Program Manager.

Program Manager's Report: Jim Wilson

1. Jim Wilson acknowledged the death of Hugh Caldwell's mother last week and passed around a sympathy card for commission members to sign.
2. The Trails Brochure from RCCC will be published and presented to County Council on September 7th at a regular Council meeting.
3. The RCCC Plan of Work was emailed as a draft to members for comments to be approved at the August meeting.
4. A Grants Summary Report for FY10 was presented as a quarterly report for RCCC and County Council. Project highlights were featured with a summary of grant recipients and allocated funds. The total allocation was \$60,000.
5. A new Travel Policy and Procedures was provided to Commission Members for meetings and conferences in FY11. Applications must be submitted 30 days in advance for approval. RCCC members will be paid for registration, conference events, lodging, travel, and meals on per diem. The Commission voted to accept the travel policy as signed by Carol Kososki, Chair.
6. The Commission voted to accept professional services contracts for Palmetto Conservation Foundation, Richland Conservation District, and Ken Driggers for legal services. All contracts were accepted at the same rate as FY10.

Other Business:

A motion was passed to extend the meeting by ten minutes.

Tree Ordinance:

Carol Kososki reported on a project submitted by Councilman Bill Malinowski to County Council to survey and develop a county tree ordinance for urban and rural areas. He suggested looking at other county models that would achieve tree preservation and the protection of natural corridors. Carol asked the Commission to support a letter to the Planning Director for this project effort as a partner. RCCC voted to send a letter as presented. (attached)

Carol asked for an update from Human Resources at the next meeting on where the new environmental division with the Planning Department stands right now. Jim reported that it is in Sparty's hands for administration's review and that we should have a report by August.

Carol also requested Anna Almeida, the new County Planning Director; be invited to attend our next meeting.

Public Input:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM

Next Meeting Date: August 23, 2010

Submitted by:
Mary Jane Henderson