



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

Minutes October 15, 2018

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, John Grego, Charles Weber, Lee Rambo, Virginia Sanders, Sam Holland, Margaret DuBard and Jim Thomas and Glenice Pearson via telephone

Absent: Jennifer Carter

Vacant: District 7

Others present:

Quinton Epps, Conservation Division

Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Division

Charlie Fisher, Conservation Division

Chris Hansen, Conservation Division

Ken Driggers, Legal Counsel

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

Chair Carol Kososki welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:37 pm with a quorum.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Charles Weber made a motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Margaret DuBard. Motion carried. Charles moved and was seconded by Virginia Sanders to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Report of the Chair

Carol passed around newspaper articles reporting on the dedication of the Benjamin Mack Historical Marker and the restoration of Randolph Cemetery, both RCCC grant projects. County Council has hired Edward Gomeau as the new Interim Administrator. Mr. Gomeau has a background in finance and local government administration. Lee Rambo will be leaving her RCCC position to serve on the Library Board of Trustees.

Treasurer's Report

Virginia referred everyone to their financial reports. No one had questions.

Historic Committee Report

Pinewood Lake Park buildings assessment

Sam presented three Historic Committee recommendations for action. Pinewood Lake Park has several old buildings on the property that RCCC is responsible for as the land manager. Since these buildings may be historically significant, the committee presented a motion for RCCC to hire a cultural resources management company to do a conditions assessment of the barn and two cabins at Pinewood Lake

Conserving Richland County's Natural and Historic Legacy

Park. The report will include historical background, an eligibility assessment for the National Register of Historic Places, and recommendations for future usage. Virginia raised the concern that the community has not had an opportunity to weigh in on the use of the buildings. Nancy explained the fact based nature of the report and that the recommendations for use were just that – ideas. Any final recommendations to Council would include community participation. Motion carried with Virginia abstaining from the vote.

Oral History Program

In the past, RCCC has funded several oral history projects through the grant process. The committee proposes to create an oral history program by hiring a company or organization to conduct several oral histories per year of people designated by the committee. This proactive approach allows for targeting different communities throughout the county to capture memories of bygone days. The motion carried unanimously.

Lower Richland Architectural Survey

The third motion from the committee is to apply for a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to conduct an updated architectural inventory (all-digital survey) of Lower Richland. The survey could cost \$50,000 and would SHPO would likely fund \$25,000, the remainder to be matched by RCCC. By the time a cultural resource management firm is hired for the survey, FY20 funds would be encumbered rather than FY19 funds. An architectural survey of Lower Richland was done 25 years ago. The focus will be on properties that were old enough to be surveyed in the previous survey but weren't included, properties that have become 50 years old since the previous survey, and properties that will become 50 years old within the next ten years. Motion carried with Charles opposing.

Community Planning & Development Director's Report

Tracy Hegler said her department is still working through the comments for the Land Development Manual. A public hearing will be held for further input in November. The new Interim Administrator, Edwin Gomeau will start October 29. A national search is on-going for a permanent Administrator.

Communication Committee Report

Lee Rambo reported the Committee is working on building a more robust social media presence for RCCC. Everyone is encouraged to follow RCCC on Facebook and Instagram and to use the #richlandlegacy hashtag.

Conservation Committee Report

Congaree Biosphere MOU

John presented the Committee's recommendation that RCCC be a named entity of the Congaree Biosphere Advisory Council. Richland County is listed and the Committee recommends someone from Planning be the designee for the County. The purpose is for organizations, communities, and individuals to partner and collaborate for the long-term economic, cultural and resource sustainability of the region. The goals of the Biosphere complement the Lower Richland Tourism Plan and the mission of RCCC. The consensus was to seek permission from the County Administrator to sign an MOU for RCCC and the Planning Department as members of the Advisory Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Forest Stewardship Plan

John reported the Committee asked Nancy to move forward with issuing a Request for Proposals for a forest stewardship plan for the Mill Creek and Cabin Branch properties. RCCC approved the action in May but delayed implementation. Concerns were expressed that it would become a timber management plan but John emphasized it would provide information on how to best manage the forest resources not about maximizing revenues from cutting. Carol envisions having a tree canopy inventory

for all of Richland County and views the upper Mill Creek Track and Cabin Branch Forest Stewardship Plan as a starting point. Ken said the plan should be a model for how to do environmental management correctly.

Rezoning of Golf Club at Crickentree

Crickentree property owners are upset the failed golf club is proposed to be re-zoned for 470 high, medium, and low density houses and requested RCCC support zoning to maintain open space. Golf is a declining sports activity and golf courses are in financial difficulty across the country. There is not a current zoning designation acceptable to staff or Crickentree homeowners. Some considerations for the conversion of golf courses includes compatible uses, design standards, and larger buffers. Charles argued RCCC should take a stand for open space. Council is aware of the precedent rezoning will set and is willing to listen to potential solutions. As more golf courses fail, the issue will affect more council districts. Carol suggested John draft a letter for review at the next meeting. Tracy will verify if an application for re-zoning has been received yet.

Conservation Coordinator's Report

FY20 Zoom Grants

Nancy suggested it may be time to convert the grants program paper application to an online application. The county uses Zoom Grants for Hospitality, Accommodations, and Discretionary grants; Community Development will also begin using this format. The cost to the Commission is \$2,000 yearly. If RCCC wants to pursue this, a decision needs to be made now to implement in time for next year's grant cycle. Zoom Grants provides technical support to county staff and the grant applicants. The reviewing, scoring, and rating of proposals can be handled online. John made a motion to approve making the conversion for this year.

Margaret made a motion seconded by Charles to extend the meeting an additional 10 minutes.

After discussion regarding the pros and cons of going paperless, the motion passed with Carol and Margaret voting against.

Updates

The Urban History Conference starts October 18 -21 in Columbia. Nancy will discuss the LR Tourism Plan during the Lower Richland tour. The dedication of the Benjamin Mack Historical Marker was well attended and covered on WLTX. A local historian is attempting to raise funds to create a monument depicting the 371st Infantry Regiment in World War I to memorialize the service and sacrifice of a SC African American soldiers' regiment. Sam will speak on behalf of RCCC at the upcoming 150th Anniversary of Senator Benjamin Randolph at Randolph Cemetery.

Conservation Manager's Report

Quinton explained staff is working with the PIO office to finalize the design for signage at Pinewood Lake Park. The Richland County Conservation Division Volunteer Manual is being reviewed by the County's Legal and Risk Management Departments. Funding for a part-time Park Ranger is being explored and a gate closure plan is being formulated. Pinewood Lake Park Foundation scheduled an event at the park without filling out the reservation form; no one attended. The next scheduled event is October 30.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant