



2020 Hampton Street • Room 3063A  
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## Minutes September 22, 2014

### Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, Sam Holland, Ann Furr, Becky Bailey, Jim Thomas, Charles Weber, John Grego

Absent: Margaret Du Bard, Mildred Myers, Virginia Sanders, Glenice Pearson

### Others present:

Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department  
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department  
Quinton Epps, Conservation Department  
Ken Driggers, Contract Legal Counsel  
Sparty Hammett, Richland County Assistant Administrator  
Tracy Hegler, Richland County Planning and Development Services Director  
Holland Leger, Planning Department  
LaToya Grate, Planning Department  
Hope Hasty, Planning Department

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 3:35pm without a quorum present.

### Conservation Coordinator's Report

Nancy reported little progress has been made on the Owens Field Project. Erich Miarka and Emily Jones, both with Gills Creek Watershed Association, and Nancy met two weeks ago with the Richland One Board to explain the benefits of the project and the time sensitivity and to request expeditious signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between the city, county and district. This morning staff received a letter from the District indicating they are working on this matter. The 319 Implementation grant through DHEC has an eighteen month expiration date and ten months have already passed.

Bob Perry with DNR is on County Council's agenda for October 7 to discuss Haile Gold Mine. Fort Jackson has finally consented to allowing Chicora Foundation to document cemeteries on the installation. Nancy will be participating in the site visit on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. An open house will be held Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> to show the "before" at Thompson Cottage, a grant funded project.

**Report of the Asst. County Administrator:** Sparty Hammett announced Quinton Epps, formerly RC Stormwater Director, was selected as the new Conservation Department Director. Although starting in Conservation as of today, Quinton will take a while to transition from Stormwater and will maintain his position as project manager for mitigation banking.

*With the arrival of John Grego a quorum was reached.*

**Agenda:** Charles Weber moved and Ann Furr seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion was approved.

**Minutes:** Charles moved to accept the minutes of August 25, 2014 as presented and was seconded by Ann. Motion was approved.

### **Comprehensive Plan Land Use Update**

Planning and Development Services Director, Tracy Hegler explained County Council directed the Planning Department to focus their effort on updating the Land Use and Priority Investment Area elements of the comprehensive plan. The current categories of urban, suburban, and rural are not adequate for land use planning for Richland County in 2014. Three sets of meetings at fifteen different locations were held around the county to gather public input. In April the focus was on what should be protected and how the county should grow – redevelopment, greenfield, and/or infill. In July the meetings were interactive, with participants using electronic polling devices to weigh-in on guiding principles with the results displayed in real-time. They reviewed maps and made suggestions for changes in land use. The third set of meetings held in September allowed residents to hear the results of the plan and vote on priorities.

The plan details nine guiding principles that articulate the planning policy “mission” for Richland County. Goals and implementation strategies for the land use and priority investment elements are listed and future land use categories are explained and mapped. The plan now goes to the Planning Commission for its approval before being sent to Council for adoption later this year. Carol requested everyone review the handouts and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting what type of support RCCC can lend to this updated comprehensive plan.

### **Report of the Chair**

Carol explained at the last County Council meeting, Kelvin Washington made a motion to explore and develop a preservation land management plan. The language of the motion explains:

This program will help protect rural family land against urban sprawl and development, preserve the unique cultural heritage of Lower Richland communities, sustain Lower Richland diverse ecosystem, increase land value and income through sustainable forestry and agro-forestry management, and engage under-represented groups in land use dialogue and in the value of land stewardship.

The motion was referred to Development and Services Committee. Tracy stated she was working on a Request of Action. Nancy said it may be directed at sustainable forestry and heir’s

property issues – land handed down through the family without a will such that multiple people own the property and there is not clear title. She offered Tracy RCCC assistance since the Commission shares the goals in the motion.

**Conservation Committee Report**

John Grego reported there is a new Memorandum of Understanding with Friends of Congaree Swamp and Congaree National Park to complete the McCords Ferry trail. Plans are being made for the Conservation Committee to meet the week of October 6 to discuss plans/strategies to create a Cabin Creek conservation corridor.

**Historic Committee Report**

The unveiling of the Harriett Cornwell Historical Marker on September 4 went well with a good-sized crowd and interesting speakers. Jim will provide reflections on the Slave Dwelling Conference he and Nancy just attended in Savannah at the October meeting.

**Other Business**

Quinton reported a Clemson University graduate student, working under Carolina Clear, will conduct a research project on the economic benefits of greenways in and around SC. A meeting will be held soon to establish the goals and discuss available data and case studies.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm. The next meeting is October 27 at 3:30.

Submitted by Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant