



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

Notes February 24, 2014

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, John Grego, Glenice Pearson, Sam Holland, and Becky Bailey

Absent: Virginia Sanders, Gary Atkinson, Margaret DuBard, Ann Furr, Mildred Myers

Vacant: District 9

Others present:

James B. Atkins (Buddy), Conservation Department

Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department

Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department

Ken Driggers, Contract Legal Counsel

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:15pm without a quorum present.

Transportation Penny Update

Carol announced the TPAC Committee will meet this evening at 6:00pm. Richland County Council rescinded its decision to hire ICA as the Project Development Team to manage Transportation Penny projects. Council will decide what process to use to select a firm to manage the program.

Ken reported the County recently purchased 1,769 acres in Lower Richland near Congaree National Park for \$5 million with an additional \$11 million to be spent for mitigation credits. Funding comes from the Transportation Penny. Following issuance of a 404 Permit by the Army Corps of Engineers for the Mill Creek Mitigation Bank, the credits will be used to mitigate wetlands and stream loss due to Transportation Penny projects.

Treasurer's Report

Buddy directed everyone to the budget report and explained a new vehicle will be purchased within the next few months.

Conservation Opinion Survey

Commission members were referred to a draft press release concerning the results of the recent conservation survey funded by RCCC. The public opinion survey found a high level of support for land and water conservation and historic preservation programs. A brief

presentation will be made to Council on March 18, 2014. The survey demonstrates broad public support for conservation and historic preservation and the willingness of Richland County residents for increased conservation funding..

Conservation Director's Report

Master Plans

A zoning public hearing for the Spring Hill and Lower Richland Master Plans will be held Tuesday, February 25 at 7pm in Council Chambers. A draft letter to Chairman Norman Jackson from Carol strongly supports the adoption of both Master Plans by County Council. John Grego agreed to read the letter at the public hearing.

Owens Field Trail

Buddy will make a presentation to the City of Columbia Environment and Infrastructure Committee on the Owens Field Park trail and stormwater improvements project tomorrow. Test pit results from January look promising for use of low-impact development and bio-retention. A neighborhood meeting will be held in early April to gather public input. In the FY15 budget, \$50,000 for building the trail has been set aside.

Conservation Coordinator's Report

Nancy directed everyone to their copy of the monthly grant report. The Wesley United Methodist Church and Curtis Wright Hanger grants have been completed. Thirteen historic grants and three conservation grants were received for the FY15 grant cycle. Grant presentation dates were tentatively set for Historic Committee to meet on Monday, March 10 and Conservation Committee to meet on Thursday, March 13.

Nancy, Buddy, and Chanda met with leaders from SERCO who have a hospitality grant and whose original event did not occur. A new event is being planned for June 19-21 with workshops and tours and a farm-to-table feast in Lower Richland.

Due to the absence of a quorum, the election of officers for 2014 was deferred until the March meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

Submitted by Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant