



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

Minutes

March 23, 2009
4:00 P.M.

Attendance:

Members present:

Gary Atkinson, John Grego, Sam Holland, Carol Kososki, Jim Lawracy, Mildred Myers, Glenice Pearson, Virginia Sanders

Members absent: Becky Bailey, Frank Houston, Marcia Lucius

Others Present:

Jim Wilson, Richland County Environmental Program Manager
Ken Driggers, Nancy Stone-Collum, Palmetto Conservation Foundation
Hugh Caldwell, Richland SWCD.

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM without a quorum. A quorum was attained at 4:09 PM.

Minutes: The minutes of February 23, 2009 were approved.

Agenda: The agenda was approved.

Executive Committee Report: Items discussed during the teleconference are on agenda. Chair Carol Kososki introduced John Grego as our newest Commission Member appointed by Council Member Greg Pearce representing Council District 6. Mr. Grego briefly introduced himself. He teaches Statistics at USC and has run the Stat Lab at USC for 15 years, he has been involved with Friends of Congaree Swamp since 1998 and President the last 4 to 5 years, and he has been involved in various big environmental issues over the last few years.

Committee Reports:

Conservation Committee: Gary Atkinson, Chair:

\$124,383 requested for eight (8) community grants, all eight (8) were recommended for a total of \$60,000. Committee recommendation was approved. (A copy of grant applicants request and committee recommendation is attached to official minutes file). Those awarded were: Congaree Land Trust- Cowasee Outreach, Gills Creek Watershed Association/USC-Gills Creek Restoration Research, SC Midlands Master Gardner Association-Environmental Education-Carolina Children's Garden at Sandhills, Gunter's Chapel-Trail, Wateree Retreat Center-Trail,

Council of Village Elders-Nature Trail, Richland Conservation District- Conservation Station Education, and Eau Claire Community Council-Environmental Education. Several suggestions were discussed as to improving the criteria for selection which may include location with connectivity of other grants.

Historical Committee: Nancy Stone-Collum for Frank Houston, Chair:

The Committee received an evaluation application for Landmark Designation on Goodwyn Cemetery. Pictures of the Cemetery were passed around. The Landmark Designation was approved. Ten (10) applications were received for grants. Two (2) were not recommended for funding. Eight are recommended to be funded totaling \$108,500. The committee recommendation was approved. (See copy of grant recommendations attached to official file minutes). Those awarded were Farmers & Merchants Bank, Goodwyn Cemetery, Lindler House, Pine Grove Rosenwald School, Former Bethel AME Church, SC PTA House, Barber House Tours & Museum, and Lower Richland Digital Storytelling.

The Historic Preservation Conference is March 26th. Glenice, Nancy, Becky, Frank, and Jim Wilson plan to attend.

May 27th is the next regular meeting date. We will meet at 2:30 PM and take a tour of some of the commission's projects. Jim Wilson will work out details. Jim Lawracy suggested contacting the City of Columbia Dept. of Parks and Recreation (545-3100) to check on renting a bus with driver for the tour. Jim Lawracy volunteered to contact Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager, if needed. County Council members will be extended an invitation to attend.

Of the \$175,000 budgeted for grants, \$25,000 is set aside to finish the 701 Whaley commitment and \$108,500 approved for grants. We reserve the right that the remainder not used might be given or added to these projects as needed depending upon future information and circumstances.

Grants will be forwarded to County Administrator as part of budget process and once approved, information will be made public.

A question was asked if we need to ask Coroner Gary Watts or someone else, to come and talk with us about abandon cemeteries in the county. It was suggested that the Historic Committee research this topic and come back with a recommendation.

Publicity Committee: Sam Holland, Chair:

No report

Finance Committee: Virginia Sanders, Chair.

Financial report was distributed and briefly explained, which included the Budget Expenditure Report on the County System, a list of open purchase orders, and the monthly financial reports of the Conservation Committee and Historic Committee. (A copy is attached to the official file minutes)

A suggestion was made to have a presentation on activities of the Gills Creek Watershed Association. Carlo Kososki stated that a presentation is in the works for our May or June meeting.

Program Manager's Report: Jim Wilson reporting:

The Richland County Roundtable has been established, led by a team from the Center of Watershed Protection which has been contracted by Richland County to review and recommend revisions to the Land Development Codes. This will take several months of meetings to complete the process and prepare a recommendation to Richland County.

The Public Hearing on Stormwater revisions was held on Feb 24th. It received a second reading and was sent to Planning Commission to use Lexington County guidance including 85 Ft

Buffers. The Planning Commission recommendation would go to the Roundtable for a recommendation with the new Land Development Codes.

Neighbor Planning Conference was this past weekend. Carol was in attendance with other Neighborhood leaders. Jim Wilson manned the RCCC display at the conference.

A Crane Creek Watershed meeting was held two week ago. Becky and Jim Wilson attended. They plan to develop a watershed management plan to prevent the Crane Creek watershed from deteriorating as it begins to develop.

Ken Driggers is working on a greenway plan for presentation to this committee later this spring.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to extend meeting time by 15 minutes until 5:45 PM.

Executive Session:

A motion was made, seconded and passed to enter in executive session at 5:25 PM.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to come out of executive session at 5:42 PM.

Gary Atkinson made a motion to move ahead on the easement donations on Tract #1 and tract #2, negotiate fair compensation on tract #3 and on tract #4, making it clear that the RCCC cannot support purchasing at fair market value. The motion was seconded and passed. (A copy of the tracts discussed in executive session is attached to the official file minutes)

Jim Lawracy moved that the RCCC set August 1st as a deadline for an application to be accepted by staff for implementation during that calendar year. Applications received after August 1st would be for the following calendar year. The motion was seconded and passed.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Public Input:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 PM

Next Meeting

April 27, 2009 – 2:30 PM – Tour of RCCC Projects

Submitted by:
Hugh Caldwell
Staff Support