



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

Minutes

May 18, 2009

4:00 P.M.

Attendance:

Members present:

Gary Atkinson, Becky Bailey, John Grego, Sam Holland, Frank Houston, Carol Kososki, Marcia Lucius, Glenice Pearson, Virginia Sanders

Members absent: Jim Lawracy, Mildred Myers

Others Present:

Jim Manning, Richland County Council
Jessica Artz, Gill Creek Watershed Association
Jim Wilson, Richland County Environmental Program Manager
Nancy Stone-Collum, Palmetto Conservation Foundation
Hugh Caldwell, Richland SWCD.

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:00PM with a quorum present.

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

Agenda: The agenda was approved with moving the Committee Reports as the first item.

Conservation Committee: Gary Atkinson, Chair:
\$5,000 grant was returned and obligated for mitigation.

Historic Committee: Frank Houston, Chair
USC students involved in a project of the Hopkins area researching land, cemeteries, properties, etc., to reestablish old connections that happened back in the 19th century, large lands still in the same family since the 1800's.

We had our tour last month of several properties that we have funded to help us see what our funds are accomplishing. Jim Wilson thanked Frank Houston for having us in his home and providing refreshments after the tour.

Historic Columbia, Robin Waites, meeting with City Council this week regarding Historic Markers they have funded. Some of these are in the Waverly and Allen University areas. A Ceremony recognizing the National Register of Historic Places Designation of the Pine Grove Rosenwald School will be next Tuesday, May 26th, 2009. Marcia Lucius will represent the RCCC. (Copy of invitation attached to file minutes)

A grant was given to do a condition assessment of what can be and should be done to restore the one remaining, of the forty original, slave cabins on the Kensington Plantation property owned by International Paper. The assessment was completed with the next step being to remove the vegetation growing around and in the cabin. International Paper did not want the vegetation removed. A scale model of the cabin will be constructed for use in talking about the history of the area.

A list of 450 cemeteries, developed by former Commission member Vernon Kirkpatrick, has been located and will be beneficial to the commission in the future, Gary Watts will be at our June meeting to discuss cemeteries and how the RCCC may be involved.

Gills Creek Watershed: Jessica Artz, Program Coordinator, Gills Creek Water Association, gave an overview of Gills Creek Watershed conditions and a status report of the progress being made in the Gills Creek Watershed restoration project.

Councilman Jim Manning, District 8, was welcomed to the meeting by Chair, Carol Kososki. Councilman Manning indicated his interest in what is being done in the Gills Creek Watershed and the Land Development code revisions.

Historic Inventory: Nancy Stone-Collum discussed and gave a status report on the Cultural Heritage Resources project. We have entered into a contract to develop an inventory and dynamic website of the historic buildings in Richland County, beginning with 145 National Register properties with related information in Richland County. It will be linked to our website upon completion.

Publicity Committee: Sam Holland, Chair:

We have contracted with Zero Gravity to update video's etc of our projects for use on our website.

We were mentioned on Awareness on Sunday. They did a report on Pine Grove School and mentioned the RCCC as a grantor.

Sam attended the Richland Conservation District's Recognition Banquet last Tuesday night where a lot of students were recognized for their essays, art, posters, etc on what they are learning in school about conservation.

Finance Committee: Virginia Sanders, Chair.

Copies of the Fy-09 budget summary, the Conservation and Historic Committee's budgets were reviewed. We have used approximately 90% of FY-09 funds. About \$275,000 of obligated funds to projects that will not be completed by June 30th will be rolled over to FY-10. We expect the RCCC FY-10 appropriation to be about the same as FY-09. (Copies are attached to file minutes)

Program Manager's Report: Jim Wilson:

A motion was made, seconded and passed to extend meeting time by 10 minutes until 5:40 PM.

The Land Development Roundtable group toured best management practices in the Charleston Area. The Roundtable will continue meetings on Richland County land development codes and will make a recommendation to County Council in October.

Gills Creek Watershed Association is looking into FEMA funds to help purchase/relocate structures that are in the floodplain. There is a 25% match required for the funds.

A status report on the Greenway Plan will be given at our June meeting.

Plan of Work draft for July1 will be emailed to you to review prior to approving in June meeting. Outside groups contracts will be reviewed by Finance Committee.

Executive Session:

A motion was made, seconded and passed to enter in executive session at 5:31 PM.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to come out of executive session at 5:47 PM.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to extend meeting time until 5:55 PM

A motion was made, seconded and passed to forward the five easements and funding recommendations discussed to County Council for approval in June. (Copy of the five easement recommendations are attached to file minutes)

Old Business:

A suggestion was made that we should discuss with International Paper future efforts to restore the slave on their property. The Historic committee will pursue this issue.

New Business:

None

Public Input:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 PM

Next Meeting

June 22, 2009 – 4:00 PM –

Submitted by:

Hugh Caldwell

Staff Support