



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

Minutes March 26, 2012

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, John Grego, Glenice Pearson, Jim Lawracy, Becky Bailey, Gary Atkinson, Margaret DuBard, Sam Holland, Mildred Myers

Absent: Virginia Sanders

Others present:

James B. Atkins (Buddy), Environmental Planning Division
Nancy Stone-Collum, Environmental Planning Division
Chanda Cooper, Environmental Planning Division
Charlie Fisher, Environmental Planning Division
Ken Driggers, Legal

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm with a quorum present.

Minutes: A motion was made by John Grego and seconded by Jim Lawracy to approve the minutes of February 27, 2012 as written. Motion carried.

Agenda: Jim Lawracy made a motion to approve the agenda which was seconded by Margaret DuBard. Motion carried.

Election of Vice Chair

Carol Kososki explained an election was necessary due to the resignation of Frank Houston. As chair of the Historic Committee, he served as a Vice Chair of the Commission. Jim Lawracy volunteered to chair the Historic Committee. A motion was made by Margaret DuBard and seconded by Glenice Pearson to elect Jim Lawracy as Historic Committee chair, thus making him a Vice Chair of RCCC. The motion carried.

Nancy Stone-Collum suggested a review of the Commission's Rules of Procedure to ensure compliance with regard to vice chairs. If necessary, Nancy will draft an amendment for consideration at the next meeting.

Report of the Chair

Carol Kososki reported she attended the recent Conservation and Historic Committee meetings to hear grant requests. Carol stated the Congaree River Blue Trail event on March 24 was well attended by some 45+ kayakers and elected officials including Councilman Jim Manning, and Columbia City Councilwoman Belinda Gergel. An upcoming event of interest is the Historic Preservation Award ceremony to be held at the State House on March 30. Nancy has asked Frank Houston to accept the award for the Commission. A reception follows at the Governor's Mansion.

Milton Pope, Richland County Council Administrator has resigned his position effective June 30, the last day of his contract with the county. No interim Administrator has been named yet. Glenice remains concerned how the investment of time and resources from RCCC is perceived and often dismissed. Carol reported on the March 6 meeting with Milton Pope and Sparty Hammett attended by Glenice, herself, and Ken Mullis and Mark Huguley with the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District. The group discussed budgets, increased staffing, and a reorganization to create a new Office of Conservation and Sustainability with a direct line to Administration and Council. After the meeting, Mr. Pope promised to get back with a response to the request. Carol and Jim Lawracy urged everyone present to contact their Council representative to discuss the proposed reorganization request. John Grego asked Nancy to recirculate to Commission members the letter to Administration detailing the request for reorganization. The new Planning Director, Tracy Hegler, began work today; staff will invite her to RCCC's April meeting.

Seth Rose has submitted a motion for a resolution to honor Frank for his service. Glenice suggested some type of portfolio of projects that everyone could sign. Jim Lawracy suggested a dinner at a restaurant after the County Council presentation. Nancy and Chanda will put together some type of book to include letters of recognition from other organizations such as Historic Columbia.

Committee Reports

Conservation Committee

John Grego referred everyone to their copy of grant requests and brief descriptions of what the projects entail. Jim Lawracy moved to approve the Committee's recommendations as presented. Margaret DuBard seconded the motion. Discussions ensued.

Rosewood Community Council's request for trail development at Owens Field Park was not funded. Although a good project, there are complications with ownership and management that must be resolved before any trail planning can take place. A Memorandum of Agreement between the County, Richland School District 1, and the City of Columbia needs to be the first step. Sustainable Midland's Rocky Branch Basin Project was not funded. Since most of the project area is in the City, the Commissioners questioned why the County should fund this study. Jim called for the question on the motion to approve the grant awards as recommended

by the Conservation Committee. The motion to approve grant recommendations carried unanimously.

Two of the conservation grants not funded were for an educator at the Children's Garden and Conservation Station at Sandhill Research and Education Center. A more stable arrangement is needed, preferably a contract employee hired by Clemson. John moved to pursue talks with Clemson and Richland Soil and Water Conservation District to find funding for a contract educator. Jim Lawracy seconded the motion which was approved.

Meeting Extension: Jim moved and Glenice seconded the motion to extend the meeting for 30 more minutes. Motion carried.

Historic Committee

Jim Lawracy, newly elected committee chair, explained the Committee went through the same selection process as last year. Four of the 15 applications were not funded because they were unsustainable, premature, or alternative funding sources were available.

Nancy reported the Chicora Foundation grant request had some issues to resolve before funding could be awarded. The question was raised of a nonprofit doing business as a business; Nancy was requested to look into their records and check their IRS 990 form. Chicora is a nonprofit but is not registered as a charitable organization. Chicora is willing to register but is not willing to add a third director to their board as required by law. Glenice made a motion to fund the Committee's recommendations as listed subject to Chicora fulfilling the SC legal requirements for nonprofits. Gary seconded the motion which was approved. Becky Bailey moved that if Chicora does not complete their legal requirements within the next week, the money should be distributed proportionately between Historic and Conservation grants. Gary seconded the motion which was approved.

Landmark Designation

Nancy reported Shiloh Cemetery in Eastover has requested Landmark designation from RCCC. A green cemetery is planned for the future on another section of property and they intend to apply for a grant next year. Gary moved and Margaret seconded the motion to grant the designation. Motion carried.

Events

The Irish Memorial Interpretive Panel at Riverbanks Park will be unveiled Saturday, March 31 at 2:30 pm. Jim said he enjoyed the March 19 visit to see the newly installed second story windows in the Farmers and Merchants Bank in Eastover. Nancy attended the Modjeska Simkins' Dependency ribbon cutting on March 25; pictures from both events are posted on Face Book.

Finance Committee

No report

Outreach Committee

Sam reported work is still underway on the website revision. Chanda succeeded in getting all RCCC videos on Face Book and Vimeo.

Environmental Division Manager's Report

Buddy advised the Commission he has been unable to reach Craig Wall of the Wall Group regarding the FY 2011 Green Development Grant off Two Notch Road. The company was reimbursed approximately \$10,000 for design work but no implementation has taken place. Buddy will send a certified letter cancelling the project.

No New Business or Public Input

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 5:55.

Next Meeting: April 23, 2012 at 4:00pm at the Richland County Administration Building

Submitted by
Charlie Fisher
Administrative