



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

Minutes September 24, 2012

Attendance:

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

Absent: Becky Bailey and Virginia Sanders

Others present:

James B. Atkins (Buddy), Conservation Department
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department
Chanda Cooper, Conservation Department
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department

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

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

Minutes: A motion was made by Ann Furr and seconded by Gary Atkinson to approve the minutes of August 27, 2012 as written. Motion carried.

Penny Sales Tax presentation

Roxanne Ancheta, Assistant to the County Administrator, gave a brief overview on the Special Sales and Use Tax - the Transportation Penny - which will appear on the November ballot. If approved, the Transportation Penny will generate more than one billion dollars over the next 22 years to be used for roadways, bike, pedestrian, and greenway projects as well as the bus system. Of the \$80 million for bike, pedestrian and greenway projects, \$21 million is allocated for 31 miles of greenways. Prioritization of all the projects will be job one if the penny is approved. A citizen's oversight committee will be appointed and RCCC should try to be represented on it. Gary moved to request County Council and Administration include the Conservation Department staff in the internal team working with the Transportation Director regarding Bike/Pedestrian/Greenway planning and implementation if the Transportation Penny is approved. Jim moved to amend the motion to include Conservation Department staff in County Bike/Pedestrian/Greenway discussions regardless of whether the penny sales tax passes. The motion carried.

Report of the Chair

Carol explained the letter drafted to send to the Richland County Legislative Delegation concerning efforts to acquire Cook's Mountain was not sent. The Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD), co-author of the letter and the qualified entity applying for Conservation Bank funds, decided not to pursue the matter. They were concerned the letter could damage relations between other Soil & Water Districts and the Bank. Jim moved to rescind last month's vote to send the letter which was seconded by Ann. The motion was unanimously approved.

Conservation Department Director's Report

Jackson Creek/Decker Blvd. Mitigation Bank

Buddy reported he met with Hugh Palmer who is now interested in increasing the acreage he would sell for the project. Buddy is in the process of redrawing the maps and negotiating a price.

Development Roundtable/Green Code

A work session will be held Tuesday, September 25 from 4-5pm in Council Chambers on the Development Roundtable ordinance changes and on the Green Code. Commission members are encouraged to attend.

Curtiss-Wright Hangar

Nancy reported the Richland County Airport Commission (RCAC) sent out a Request for Qualifications for the restoration and redevelopment of the hangar. The RCAC voted to recommend Richland County authorize negotiations to proceed with the sale to CW Hangar Partners who submitted the only proposal to restore the hangar and renovate it into a functioning destination. Project costs are estimated to be \$3.4 million not including land and acquisition costs.

Sam Holland made a motion to inform County Council of the Conservation Commission's support for the Airport Commission's recommendation to sell the Curtiss-Wright Hangar to Curtiss-Wright Partners, LLC contingent upon a Historic Preservation Easement being placed on the property to be held by Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation. Further, the Commission requests Administration appoint a representative from the Conservation Department staff to serve on the staff team negotiating sale of the hangar. Jim seconded the motion which carried with Glenice abstaining.

Conservation Coordinator's Report

Rules of Procedure Amendments

Nancy reviewed the proposed changes to the Rules of Procedures that had been sent to Commissioners the week before. Glenice suggested changing Finance Chair to Treasurer based on the language of the ordinance creating the RCCC. Jim moved to conform any conflicts in the Rules text to the ordinance. Sam seconded the motion which was approved. Ann said if someone states they are recusing themselves from voting it implies a conflict of interest, therefore it is not

necessary to announce a conflict. Glenice questioned the propriety of allowing committees to engage consultants. The consensus was this is not appropriate but someone stated it was in the ordinance. Jim moved to adopt the amended Rules of Procedures. Ann seconded the motion which carried.

Staff Note: Upon further study of the ordinance, there is nothing that speaks to committees engaging consultants so that language has been removed.

Time Extension

Jim made a motion to extend the meeting an additional 10 minutes. Glenice seconded the motion which carried.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Buddy explained a problem had occurred with the roll over of some grant and project funds which will need to be resolved before a final budget for FY-13 can be adopted.

Historic Committee

A proposal for revisions to the Saluda Canal video for reshooting, editing, and creating a new map will cost \$1100 with work to be completed by the end of October. The Historic Committee will discuss the proposal via a conference call and their recommendation will be sent to RCCC members electronically for a vote.

The 8th Annual Neighborhood Planning Conference will take place on October 13 at the Columbia Convention Center. Anyone interested in attending will need to advise staff in order for registrations to be made.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:45pm. Next meeting is October 22 at Belser Arboretum. Tour begins at 3 pm.

Submitted by Charlie Fisher
Administrative Assistant