



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

Minutes

March 28, 2005

4:00 P.M.

Richland County Administration Building
4th Floor Administrative Conference Room

Attendance

Six members were present:

Becky Bailey, John Davis, Margaret DuBard, Preston Holston, Mildred Myers, and Virginia Sanders

Four members were absent:

Stuart Hope, Frank Houston, Maxey Love (out of town), and Ken Simmons (another commitment)

Others Present:

Nancy Stone-Collum, Palmetto Conservation Foundation; John Newman - Richland County Planning Dept., Evelyn Bush - Citizen, and Hugh Caldwell - Richland Conservation District.

Call to Order

Becky Bailey, Chair, called the meeting to order and declared a quorum available to conduct business at 4:08 P.M.

Minutes

Minutes from February 28, 2005, were approved as presented. Appreciation was expressed for the promptness of members receiving minutes.

Adoption of Agenda

Item 1 - Executive Session was deleted. The agenda was approved as amended.

Attendance Record

The commission member attendance record for commission meetings was distributed. Jeanette McBride, Council District #3, upon being elected to the school board, has resigned her appointment. Councilman Damon Jeter will appoint a replacement.

FY-05 Budget Update

Expenditures through March 28, 2005, were \$66,409.81 leaving a balance of \$138,190.19 for FY-05 appropriations. A copy of the expense report is attached to minutes. Three members, Bailey, DuBard and Holston registration fees, \$80.00, were paid to attend the Statewide Historic Preservation Conference on March 31st. The financial report was accepted as information.

Palmetto Conservation Foundation Report

Nancy Stone-Collum reported that the appraisal made on the property discussed at last Executive Session was discussed with one of the landowners. No decision has been made as he has to meet with the other owners. Nancy has been and will continue visiting community meetings and other functions presenting information on Preserving Richland's Legacy. She and Virginia Sanders visited several parcels in lower Richland County and Garners Ferry Rd area, which may have potential for our program.

Nancy has looked at most of the parcels, in both watersheds, that she and Jim Wilson discussed in their presentation at February's meeting. The next step would be contacting the landowners to determine their interest. This is where Nancy will involve Commission Members.

Becky Bailey discussed that we need to be aware of visibility of the properties but we should continue to be mindful of environmental losses, sensitive areas needing protection and the other factors on our matrix. We would hate to lose property because it is not highly visible.

Becky and Nancy have a date to visit Goodwill Plantation with the owner who has other property that could fit into the commission's program.

County Easement Endorsement Application:

Hugh distributed a draft copy of an application for anyone wanting to get the county to endorse an easement. The draft was developed by Hugh and Amelia Linder of Richland County Legal Department. The policy calls for a user fee. It has been recommended that the 2% of the appraisal value or \$500, whichever is greater, be payable to the Conservation Commission which will go into the Commission's account. Each member is asked to review the draft and send Hugh any comments.

Neighborhood Planning Conference:

We have been asked to be represented on a roundtable discussion panel from 1 PM to 2 PM on Saturday, April 16th, at the 1st Annual Neighborhood Planning Conference. Information was distributed to members with the agenda and registration form. All are invited to attend. Margaret DuBard will check her schedule to determine if she is able to be on the panel. Becky and Nancy can only attend the morning sessions. The conference is free but you must register. Stephany Snowden, Richland County Senior Public Information Officer, discussed the conference with us.

Richland County Greenway Committee:

We have been asked to serve on the County Greenway Committee. Becky Bailey attended the first meeting of the committee on March 23rd. The Committee is chaired by Susan Brill. The focus is greenway connectivity especially related to trails for bicycles, walkers, etc. for helping promote public health and physical activity. This can be another way in which our program can help promote connectivity of green space.

Correspondence:

We received a copy of a letter, for information only, from the Dept. of Archives and History to Mr. & Mrs. John Baker regarding their request for financial assistance in repairing an old home, known as the Eleazer Tavern, in which their 80 year old parents, Harl & Jewel Baker, continue to live. According to the letter, this is the oldest house in Richland County. This letter is for information only. Each member will receive a copy of the letter with the minutes.

Beck Bailey announced that John Davis has submitted his letter of resignation. Becky thanked him for his years of service and valuable contributions to the Conservation Commission and Richland County. Mr. Davis has recommended two others that may be willing to serve in his place. Becky Bailey will follow up on these recommendations. This is in Doris Corley's Council District # 1.

Hugh will send copies of the Commission's Rules of Procedures to all new members.

Public Input

Evelyn Bush expressed concern and questions regarding the audits of conservation easements.

Next Meeting

Monday April 25, 2005, at 4:00 PM. By common consent the commission members agreed to meet on April 25th, June 27th and August 22nd. We will not meet in May or July unless a called meeting is necessary.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Hugh Caldwell
Staff Support