



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

Minutes July 27, 2015

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, John Grego, Jim Thomas, Charles Weber, Becky Bailey, Ann Furr, Margaret DuBard, Glenice Pearson, Virginia Sanders, Jennifer Myers, and Sam Holland

Others present:

Quinton Epps, Conservation Department
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department

Chair, Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 3:35pm.

Approval of May 18 Minutes: John Grego moved and Glenice Pearson seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the May 18 minutes. Motion carried.

Approval of Notes from June 22: Becky Bailey moved to approve the notes from the June meeting which did not have a quorum. Jim Thomas seconded the motion which carried.

Report of the Chair

Carol was delighted to welcome back Ann Furr and Becky Bailey who were sorely missed while undergoing treatment for cancer. She congratulated and thanked the RCCC members who spoke with their County Council representatives regarding the funding of two Facilities and Grounds positions from RCCC's FY16 budget. The motion to maintain the status quo was successful. Glenice presented a small canoe paddle to "Captain" Charles Weber for his paddling prowess on the Rocky Shoals Spider Lily trip in May.

Treasurer's Report

Virginia referred everyone to their copy of the new FY16 budget. Nancy explained the requested rollovers funds should be available in late September, adding \$222,000 back into the budget. Charles Weber requested a copy of the year end budget for FY15. Carol stated it will be necessary for RCCC to identify how it intends to spend its land acquisition funding and keep Council informed to avoid the risk of losing unencumbered funds. RCCC also needs to do a better job of showcasing the value of conservation efforts and greenway projects which have the potential to become economic drivers. A news release prepared by staff and picked up by several media sources was included in the packet. Charles encouraged everyone to speak with their state legislators asking them to fully fund the Local Government formula.

Conservation Committee Report

Conservation Priorities & Easements

John made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss contractual matters concerning conservation acquisitions and easements. Ann seconded the motion which passed.

John made a motion to come out of Executive Session and was seconded by Margaret DuBard. Motion passed.

John moved to approve the three easements discussed in Executive Session and was seconded by Sam Holland. Motion passed unanimously.

John made a motion to move back into Executive Session to continue discussing potential property acquisitions. Margaret seconded the motion which passed

John moved to come out of Executive Session. Margaret seconded the motion which was passed. No action was taken on items discussed. Carol directed staff to get more input from Commissioners on the proposals and include Councilmembers Washington and Jackson in a meeting on Lower Richland properties.

Dominion Natural Gas pipeline

Comments John prepared for the Friends of Congaree were distributed. Dominion Carolina Gas proposes to build a 28-mile natural gas pipeline from Columbia to International Paper in Eastover. John said that Dominion had done a good job in protecting streams by their plans to drill under streams and the Congaree River rather than crossing the creeks. He was concerned about fragmentation of the river, floodplains, and prime agricultural lands by utility easements and questioned why the pipeline didn't follow more of the easements already in place. John suggested mitigation for impacts to archaeological sites could be partially achieved through restoration at Kensington, especially the slave cabin. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has issued a notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment for the project. Comments and concerns about the project are due August 17. Nancy will solicit input from RCCC members and submit comments to FERC.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05.

Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant