



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

Minutes July 17, 2017

Attendance:

Members present: John Grego, Charles Weber, Virginia Sanders, Lee Rambo, Sam Holland, and Becky Bailey

Absent: Carol Kososki, Glenice Pearson, Jennifer Carter, Margaret DuBard, Jim Thomas

Others present:

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

Vice Chair, John Grego called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm without a quorum.

Treasurer's Report

Quinton Epps reported he met with the county's new Budget Director, James Hayes, to request changes to the FY18 budget. Funds for Pinewood Lake and Mill Creek/Cabin Branch which were requested in separate budgets were comingled with the Commission's budget. The budget director verified these funds were to be taken from the General Fund and would be placed in separate categories. New budget codes will be established for Pinewood Lake and Mill Creek/Cabin Branch to allow for easy tracking.

A quorum was reached with the arrival of Sam Holland and Becky Bailey.

Approval of Agenda and the Minutes from June 19, 2017

Charles Weber made a motion to approve both the agenda and minutes. Virginia Sanders seconded the motion. Motion carried

John questioned the status of the Code Rewrite known as Shape Richland and We Plan Together. Quinton explained the consultants are still doing research and analyzing comments; this will be a long-term process and there will be room for more involvement down the road.

Conservation Manager's Report

Pinewood Lake

Quinton has had several productive meetings with Ms. Hart from Pinewood Lake Foundation (PLF) to discuss the roles and duties of RCCC and PLF. It was determined part-time employees at the park cannot be paid with hospitality funds unless it is security for a specific event. The county's IT Department is working on emergency call boxes and improving the existing security system while the Facilities and Grounds Department is working on repairs. Ken Driggers assisted staff with preparation of an agreement outlining RCCC and Pinewood Lake Foundation's responsibilities; this agreement will require Administration's approval. Quinton is continuing to work with Administration and H-tax staff to allow the \$75,000 in H-tax funds to be directly managed by and through H-tax staff based on Council's motions. There has been no progress in the dam ownership transfer or the modification of Phase 2 to repair the dam. Virginia said that PLF is waiting for an agreement with RCCC. Staff is still working on a job description to hire a Property Manager. Quinton conveyed he is pleased with the progress to date; it takes time to build trust that RCCC is not trying to take over.

Strategic Plan

Legal has yet to approve the contract so it can be reviewed and signed by Gerald Seals, County Administrator.

Columbia Rowing Club

Quinton reported that the ROA to put the Columbia Rowing Club and Historic Columbia under the management of RCCC had been changed to cover only the Rowing Club. The Rowing Club wants a second dock built for public use. John commented that stormwater improvements are needed on the property and the approach road needs work. Council's motion included direction to staff to review other county-owned properties that have historical, cultural, and environmental components and may be similarly situated as the Rowing Club and Pinewood Lake to see which ones may need county oversight.

Conservation Committee Report

Conservation Easements

John referred everyone to their easement handouts and reviewed the strengths of each. The Conservation Committee made a motion to accept a reduced size easement on Gunrod Gut that was approved in 2016. Motion carried unanimously. The Committee moved to begin negotiations with the owner of a 140-acre tract on the Broad River. Motion carried unanimously. A third motion from the Committee was to begin negotiations with the landowners of a 240-acre tract near Congaree National Park. Motion carried unanimously.

Hopkins Magistrate Request

At the last meeting, it was decided to share the Lower Richland Tourism Plan with the Magistrate's Office. The county-owned property at Cabin Branch includes a 33-acre tract on Lower Richland Blvd. and Air Base Road where the Magistrate's Office wants to build an office. The construction will require 2-4 acres and should be located so as not to impact wetlands. Best Management Practices could help the construction site make a smaller environmental impact. John made a motion seconded by Virginia for Nancy to draft a letter requesting the construction use low impact development techniques (like Decker Center) and be compatible with the Lower Richland Tourism Plan.

Historic Committee Report

History Initiative

Dr. Donaldson submitted the final report for the Initiative on June 30 and the invoice for payment is being processed. The Richland County Library has agreed to maintain the document and be responsible for edits. Nancy has asked Glenice Pearson for ideas on what the next steps should be. This document should be introduced to County Council in September and publicized.

Green Book of South Carolina

This project was developed by the African American Heritage Commission and PRT. The Negro Travelers' Green Book was a guide created in 1936 to provide information on safe places to sleep, eat, and get gas for black motorists. The new Green Book of South Carolina is an online travel guide with a downloadable app with information on more than 300 African American cultural sites in the state. Nancy will submit two sites that have been omitted as well as photos of several buildings in the county.

Conservation Coordinator's Report

LR Tourism Plan

Some comments from members about glitches with the maps are due to issues with the county's in-house printing which will be taken care of for the final version. A video conference comprised of RCCC Members, the plan steering committee, Councilmembers Norman Jackson and Dalhi Myers is scheduled for Wednesday at 4:30 pm with Asakura Robinson. The purpose of the meeting is to receive feedback on the recommendations. Once the plan is finalized, it will likely go to Council for approval. The next steps are to determine what projects can be undertaken first, by whom, and where to obtain funding.

Grant Updates

Lee Rambo, Charles, Carol Kososki, and Margaret DuBard recently toured the restored corn crib and bee course at Camp Discovery followed by a quilt exhibit at the Langford Nord House. All of the FY17 grants were completed; however a total of \$8,230 was not spent, mostly due to problems with National Park Service administration. A fiscal meeting was held last week with the 20 grantees and signed grant agreements are being returned. The ribbon cutting for Owens Field trail and stormwater improvements was held this past Saturday with a good crowd in attendance including Lee, Charles, and John.

Since the meeting in August is the same day as the total solar eclipse and a record number of visitors to our area will most likely make travel difficult, it was agreed not to hold the meeting on the 21st and to evaluate whether the meeting should be rescheduled.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant