



2020 Hampton Street · Room 3063A Columbia, SC 29204
(803) 576-2083
Minutes
September 18, 2023
4th Floor Conference Room

Attendance

Commissioner	District	Present	Staff & Visitors	Affiliation
Charles Weber	1	Yes	John McKenzie	Conservation Division
Tim McSwain	2	No	Val Morris	Conservation Division
Wayman Stover	3	No	Quinton Epps	Conservation Division
Glenice Pearson	4	No	Aric Jensen	Assistant County Administrator
Kip Dillihay	5	No	Sharon Weber	Visitor
John Grego	6	Yes		
Robert Squirewell	7	Yes		
Deborah DePaoli	8	Yes		
Khali Gallman	9	Yes		
Darrell Jackson Jr.	10	Yes		
Gail Rodriguez	11	Yes		

Call to Order

Grego welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order with a quorum at 3:32pm. Members, staff, and guests met in-person or by Zoom.

Approval of Agenda

⇒ **Rodriguez moved to approve the agenda which was seconded by DePaoli. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes

⇒ **Rodriguez moved to approve August minutes with minor modifications recommended by Grego which was seconded by Squirewell. Motion passed unanimously.**

Report of the Chair

- **Land Development Code (LDC) – update:** Grego reported the seconding reading for the zoning maps is scheduled to be held on September 19, 2023 and he believes that most the councilmembers agree with the zoning map adoptions. In addition, he spoke of the previous County Council meeting he attended where residents of the Lower Richland community proposed

developing the Cedar Creek Nature Reserve to inspire Richland County to purchase the Ridge Road property versus having it developed with houses.

- **Griffins Creek Mitigation Bank – update:** Grego mentioned he will be commenting about the mitigation bank owned by Weyerhaeuser.
- **Congaree Biosphere Region (CBR) – update:** Grego reported they didn't pursue the Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) grant for the Bates Old River boat ramp due to the approaching September 29th deadline. Nonetheless, they plan to explore other FLAP grants for the Lower Richland Tourism Plan (LRTP).
- **Columbia Rowing Club Operating Agreement – update:** Grego reported on a meeting held with Jensen, Epps and some of the staff at the Columbia Rowing Club. Jensen spoke about some of the barriers which Richland County has due to the county being the only county in the state of South Carolina who has an independent recreation district.
- **Advocacy – update:** Gallman reported she and Councilwoman Mackey had an informative lunch meeting about two weeks ago where Mackey expressed her interest in the Heritage Tourism Marketing Plan (HTMP).

Report from Community Planning & Development

- **Land Development Code-Remapping Restart – update:** Jensen reported the workshop for the Land Development Code has not been scheduled but the second reading for the zoning maps is scheduled for September 19, 2023 and the third reading is scheduled for October 3, 2023. During the October 3 meeting it is presumed they will have the first reading for the Text Amendments and announce the public council workshop.

Treasurer's Report

- **FY22–23 General Budget status – update:** Squirewell reported there has been no significant changes in the budget other than the purchase order which is in procurement for the Mill Creek Bridge replacement.

Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) Report

- **Heritage Tourism Marketing Plan (HTMP) – update:** Gallman reported Robin Waites with Historic Columbia presented a draft of the HTMP to the Historic Preservation Committee (HPC). Gallman was pleased with the report which was presented and is looking forward to another report within the coming months.
- **Historic Preservation Plan (HPP) – update:** McKenzie reported there are no new developments and the matter is still a work in progress.
- **St. Peters Baptist Church Cemetery (8909 Wilson Blvd) – update:** Gallman reported she is familiar with the realtor who is responsible for selling the property and offered to relay any

questions the group might have for the realtor. In addition, the group discussed how the property isn't listed as having a cemetery on the property and the property is in a flood zone.

- **Cemetery Protection Ordinance – update:** Rodriguez reported the South Carolina Code of Laws has stricter laws and fines on the protection of cemeteries than Charleston Ordinance. Gallman reported during their HPC meeting, they asked Richland County Conservation Commission (RCCC) staff to prepare a draft cemetery ordinance for Richland County.

Natural Resources Committee (NRC) Report

- **Ag + Art Tour – action item:**
 - ⇒ **Weber motioned the Natural Resources Committee (NRC) moves for the Richland County Conservation Commission (RCCC) to approve a sponsorship of \$5,000.00 to the Richland Soil & Water Conservation District (RSWCD) for the 2024 Ag + Art Tour, which was seconded by Squirewell. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Lake Elizabeth Conservation Easement – update:** McKenzie reported the NRC is moving forward with the easement and he is preparing a more detailed action plan which he will have during next month's meeting.
- **Scout Motor – update:** Weber and Squirewell discussed the meeting Scout Motors will host on September 19, 2023 at Doko Manor in Blythewood, from 4-7pm. Morris reported she saw on WLTX News where Blythewood residents meet with Scout Motors executives and were able to ask questions about the development on Sunday.
- **Potential Property Purchase – update:** No changes since the last meeting, work is still in progress.
- **Mill Creek Bridge – update:** Epps reported this is still in the Procurement process. Epps also announced he had applied for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). However, the grant was not awarded because other applications received higher ratings for providing more direct services and products such as housing to low and moderate income (LMI) residents.
- **Bates Old River – update:** Grego reported the grant for the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) is a work in progress. In the meantime, he and Epps will continue to gather information from other counties as to how they maintain their boat ramps and report their findings to county administration.
- **Mitigation Bank Credits – update:** Epps reported there has not been much change since the last meeting noting there is one additional pending sale for about \$20,000, for one wetland credit for the Blossom Street bridge replacement project.
- **Forestry Stewardship Plan – update:** No new updates, he is continuing to work with Procurement about the solicitation process.

Conservation Program Analyst's Report

- **Benedict College Grant – update:** McKenzie reported Benedict College has responded back to his messages and phone calls. Benedict reported the tiles for the roof are on backorder and they have promised to give monthly updates on the roof project. He also informed the group of Hyatt Park Kiosk reveal ceremony.
- **FY 23-24 RCCC Grants – update:** McKenzie reported all of the grants are on track and he has received photos and videos from the Coaching Project grant recipients.
- **Events – update:** Harbison State Forest has invited RCCC to celebrate the completion of their pole barn and saw mill on or around October 24, 2023 the time will be announced at a later date. Morris reported there was still time to register for the 2nd Annual Preserving Historic Cemetery Workshop which is being held at SC Achieves and History Center, September 21, 2023. She also reported RCCC Holiday Drop-In is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2023. Lastly, it was reported McKenzie will be at Soda City on Saturday, November 18, 2023, to promote the Historic and Natural Resources grants. He encouraged everyone who could attend to volunteer and spread the word about the grants.

Conservation Manager's Report

- **Staff vacancies – update:** Epps reported there was a candidate selected for the Land Planner position, however the candidate declined the offer.

New Business: None

Public Input: None

⇒ **At 4:32 pm, Weber moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Squirewell. Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Val Morris