



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

## Minutes April 28, 2014

### Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, John Grego, Glenice Pearson, Sam Holland, Ann Furr, Margaret DuBard, Jim Thomas, and Mildred Myers

Absent: Gary Atkinson, Becky Bailey, Virginia Sanders

### Others present:

James B. Atkins (Buddy), Conservation Department  
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department  
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department  
Ken Driggers, Contract Legal Counsel  
Sherry and Jake Jaco, Olympia Mill Museum organizers

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:05pm without a quorum present.

### Olympia Mill Village Presentation

Sherry Jaco, project organizer, explained the vision for an Olympia Mill Village Museum began to coalesce in February when the house at 1170 Olympia Avenue became available for sale. As the original school house for the Olympia and Granby mill villages, it housed students from 1901 – 1909. Organizers are exploring options that would utilize the second floor as a restored classroom and the first floor for community space such as an arts and crafts gallery, meeting space, or a sheriff's substation. The first step is to acquire the building which will be owned by Olympia Community Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization. A total of \$31,000 has been raised in pledges toward the \$90,000 purchase price. Dr. Jaco is requesting \$50,000 from the Commission to assist with the purchase of the historic building.

A quorum was achieved with the arrival of Mildred Myers and Sam Holland.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by John Grego and seconded by Margaret DuBard to approve the minutes of March 24, 2014 as written. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Agenda:** Margaret moved to approve the agenda and was seconded by Jim Thomas. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Report of the Chair**

Carol Kososki reported that the Planning and Development Services Department has hired Clarion Associates to develop the five-year update to the county's comprehensive plan. Several stakeholder and community meetings were held in April to explore issues and concerns about future growth. Carol said attention needs to be paid to Carolina Bays, not allowing development in flood plains, and better buffers along streams. In July another set of five meetings will be held with a third set of meetings explaining the plan in the fall. Nancy will provide future meeting dates and places.

**Treasurer's Report**

Buddy referred everyone to the budget report reflecting current balances.

**Conservation Director's Report**

Buddy reported Fuss & O' Neill has finished their preliminary design work of stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) and walking trail revisions at Owens Field Park. Approval from Richland School District I is needed to allow installation of the BMPs on their property adjacent to the park; a vote is expected at their May meeting. A neighborhood meeting will be held by the end of May to solicit input on the plans; final trail and BMP design will be completed in response to the communities' input.

A draft copy of the amended drainage ordinance was explained by Buddy who helped write the language. It is scheduled for first reading by County Council on May 6<sup>th</sup>. A request for qualifications has been issued by the Stormwater Division for the Comprehensive Watershed Improvement Plan.

At their March 4 meeting, County Council unanimously passed a Request for Action concerning the prohibition of sewage effluent and sludge applications. Buddy was asked to draft an ordinance; however, preliminary legal analysis indicates local government cannot supersede state law which may impede the ordinance as envisioned. A restrictive zoning ordinance may be investigated as a means for the County to control sewage effluent and sludge applications.

**Conservation Committee Report**

John attended the recent public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Haile Gold Mine in Kershaw County along with Buddy and Nancy. He commented he was disappointed not to hear environmental groups speak out. Public support for the mine from businesses in Kershaw is strong. On May 6, County Council will address whether to submit comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement to the Army Corp of Engineers, which are due by May 9. Buddy has been directed to draft comments for their consideration. Glenice Pearson and Mildred Myers indicated they are very disturbed about the failure to address environmental justice issues relating to the gold mine.

**Historic Committee Report**

Glenice announced the Historic Committee will meet with USC Professor Dr. Bobby Donaldson on May 5 to explore the mission of the RCCC in historic preservation and how the vision can be expanded beyond the grants program. This history of this county is being overlooked and consideration needs to be given as to how to rectify this problem. Jim indicated the Historic Preservation Conference last week was his first exposure to how much South Carolina has to offer and he found the conference to be most informative. Glenice was particularly impressed with the sessions on researching the African American communities of Drayton Hall.

**Conservation Director's Report**

Nancy reported text has been approved by SC Dept. of Archives and History and historic markers ordered for Cornwell Tourist Home and the Matilda A. Evans home. Two more African American historic sites, The Good Samaritan - Waverly Hospital and Alston House, have text approved through a Historic Columbia Foundation project. The Commission budgeted \$12,000 to pay for five markers in FY14; these four markers will cost \$8,204. A context study and historical marker were required as part of the mitigation for the Norfolk & Southern RR trestle at US Hwy. 601. Norfolk and Southern Railway has already paid for the historical marker and requested RCCC be listed as the sponsor. John and Nancy are trying to determine an appropriate location for the marker to be placed.

Nancy will ask several grantees to give a short presentation on their grant projects over the coming months. A ribbon cutting ceremony for the rehabilitation of the historic trail at Sandhills will be held May 22 at 3pm. Buddy has provided much needed technical assistance at the Belser Arboretum. SERCO (South East Rural Community Outreach) is sponsoring a three-day event July 19-21 promoting the Lower Richland Corridor. Tours, a farm-to-table feast, music and workshops on history, conservation, and agriculture will be offered.

Since the date for the May meeting falls on Memorial Day, members agreed to meet on May 19 at 4pm. A decision was made to postpone a decision on the Olympia Mill project due to time constraints.

Meeting adjourned 5:20pm

Submitted by Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant