



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

Minutes January 26, 2015

Attendance:

Members present: Glenice Pearson, Jim Thomas, Charles Weber, John Grego, Virginia Sanders, Sam Holland, Ann Furr

Absent: Mildred Myers, Margaret DuBard, Carol Kososki, Becky Bailey

Others present:

Quinton Epps, Richland County Conservation Dept. Director
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department
Ken Driggers, Contract Legal Counsel
Michelle McCollum, SC National Heritage Corridor

Acting Chair Glenice Pearson called the meeting to order at 3:35pm without a quorum present. Due to the lack of quorum, Glenice requested Quinton Epps proceed with his report.

Viable Rural Lands

Quinton reported County Council approved a request to explore the development of a Preservation Land Management Plan. Originally this endeavor was proposed for Lower Richland but has been expanded to include the entire county. The goal of this program is to promote, through an incentive based approach, the sustainable use of rural lands, including agricultural, cultural and historical resources, and all types of tourism. The program, tentatively called Viable Rural Lands, would include an inventory of resources, conservation easements and land acquisitions, partnerships with various agencies, and the ability to leverage funds for grant opportunities. Quinton and Tracy Hegler, Director of Planning, will make a presentation at the County Council retreat on January 29. If Council agrees to move forward, a request for additional staffing will be made. Glenice pointed out this effort has interests similar to RCCC's research proposal and should be brought to Council's attention.

With the arrival of more members, a quorum was reached.

Agenda: Charles Weber moved and Virginia Sanders seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

Minutes

Charles made a motion to accept the November 24, 2014 minutes with the addition of Jim Thomas's name as an attendee. Virginia seconded the motion and all approved.

Election of Officers

Nancy reported during the recent Executive Committee's conference call, each officer agreed to continue to serve in his/her position. Since there were no nominations from the floor Ann Furr made a motion to accept the slate by acclamation. Jim Thomas seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. Officers for 2015 are Chair: Carol Kososki, Vice-Chair for Conservation: John Grego, Vice-Chair for Historic Preservation: Glenice Pearson, and Treasurer: Virginia Sanders.

SC Great Outdoors Presentation

Michelle McCollum, Executive Director of SC National Heritage Corridor (SCNHC), explained SCNHC is a public/private arm of the National Park Service with federal funding for operation of programs in a 17-county area. They work on conservation, preservation and tourism efforts and have recently focused on promoting SC as an international outdoor destination. Ms. McCollum showed examples of working with Georgetown, Dorchester, Oconee counties and the Pee Dee region to identify, brand, and market eco-tourism opportunities. Examples can be seen at www.sclovesoutsiders.org. This type of marketing could be an important part of the Viable Rural Lands initiative. Ms. McCollum was encouraged to be sensitive to developing multiple pathways for everyone to experience history and the natural world.

John Grego made a motion to enter into Executive Session which was seconded by Sam Holland. Motion carried.

Ann made a motion to come out of Executive Session which was seconded by Sam. Motion carried.

Ann made a motion for staff to negotiate potential easements with landowners as discussed in the executive session. Staff will bring back specific recommendations for approval. Charles seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Historic Committee Report

Unable to make a report at the October or November meetings due to a lack of time, Jim relayed highlights of the Slave Dwelling Conference he and Nancy attended in Savannah in September. Joe McGill, founder of the Slave Dwelling Project and organizer of the conference, has received a \$25,000 grant from SC Dept. of History and Archives to conduct a slave dwelling survey in South Carolina. A one-to-one match is required. Since there are at least ten slave dwellings in Richland County that could be assessed and documented, Jim moved to contribute \$5,000 to assist with a survey. Ann seconded the motion to support the project which was

approved unanimously. Council approval will be required and could be considered by a committee on February 24.

Conservation Director's Report

Quinton explained the Wateree River Heritage Preserve's (Cook's & Goodwill) transfer of title was delayed by an appeal from the Sierra Club which has since been resolved. SCDNR has had staff changes but have now begun to work on the management plan and will let RCCC and others know when a draft is ready for comment. Virginia, Sam, and John expressed interest in serving on the committee to review the management plan, with Glenice available as a substitute.

Owens Field

After the long delay in getting the memorandum of agreements signed by city, county and school district, progress is finally being made. The design plan will be finalized soon and the City of Columbia is providing \$100,000 for stormwater improvements.

Conservation Coordinator's Report

Nancy referred everyone to their copy of the grant quarterly reports for review. The Barclay School received a \$21,000 conservation grant to construct a rammed earth building; however, the school has recently outgrown their current building and has received an offer of a larger property in Fairfield County, putting the grant on hold until a decision is made whether or not to relocate. February 20 is the deadline for the new grant cycle. Presentations will be scheduled for the middle of March. The unveiling of the historical marker for the Confederate Soldier's Home is February 15. A cheat sheet of Roberts Rules of Order was included in everyone's packet as was a Burning of Columbia brochure of events.

Charles mentioned hearing Michael Bedenbaugh of Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation on Walter Edgar's Journal earlier in the month. Mr. Bedenbaugh praised RCCC as a shining example of county leadership in preserving significant buildings. Sam attended Columbia's Bike-Ped master plan and found it very interesting.

Meeting adjourned 5:10pm

Submitted by Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant