



2020 Hampton Street • Room 3063A
 P.O. Box 192 • Columbia, SC 29202
 (803) 576-2080

Minutes
March 21, 2022
4th Floor Conference Room

Attendance

| Commissioner | District | Present |
|---------------------|----------|---------|
| Charles Weber | 1 | Yes |
| Tim McSwain | 2 | Yes |
| Wayman Stover | 3 | Yes |
| Glenice Pearson | 4 | Yes |
| Vacant | 5 | -- |
| John Grego | 6 | Yes |
| Robert Squirewell | 7 | Yes |
| Deborah DePaoli | 8 | Yes |
| Vacant | 9 | -- |
| Darrell Jackson Jr. | 10 | No |
| Gail Rodriguez | 11 | Yes |

| Staff & Visitors | Affiliation |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Quinton Epps | Conservation Division |
| John McKenzie | Conservation Division |
| Aric Jensen | County Administration |
| Brian Crooks | Planning Department |
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Call to Order

Grego welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order with a quorum at 3:30 pm. Members, staff, and guests met in-person or by telephone.

Approval of Agenda

⇒ Weber moved to approve the agenda which was seconded by McSwain. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

⇒ Weber moved to approve the minutes of the February meeting which was seconded by McSwain. Motion passed unanimously.

Report of the Chair

- **FY21-22 & FY22-23 Annual Plan – update of presentation:** Grego stated he had prepared a slide show for the presentation but Councilmember Overture Walker said members had it in their package and had seen it and it was very clear. Councilmember Terracio still requested that Grego give his perspective on it. He gave a brief summary and mentioned the two main sources of funds and what they are used for.

- **LRTP – update:** Grego stated since the drop-in, we have been looking for direction. Staff was able to get a note to an agenda item on tomorrow’s D&S Committee meeting. We are ready for this to go forward to the full Council to vote on adoption.

Report from Community Planning & Development

- Grego noted feedback he has received from people often indicates they are unclear of permitted uses. Crooks stated if they could go back, they would change the notices. They have received 10,000-15,000 individual calls about this. They are still holding additional community meetings to make sure they are available to answer questions while still encouraging calls and emails. Most, but not all feedback is negative and many are unfamiliar with zoning and the code. There is also the belief that current standards are new and have not been applied in the past. The Planning Commission held a meeting on March 7 just for feedback on the maps. They are using this and all feedback to reevaluate the overall recommendation. They hope to be done this week or early next week to have a recommendation for the Planning Commission meeting on April 4. Because the Planning Commission has not acted yet, the March 22 meeting has been cancelled and those items will be moved to the April 26 meeting. This will push the May 2 effective date to July 6. Weber asked what the predominant concern was and Crooks answered it relates to the overall density and uses of a district. There are also questions about taxes. Ultimately, what you do with your property affects taxes. Taxation based on primary use of property is different than zoning. McSwain stated often people don’t understand a zoning change. Jensen reiterated taxes are based on use not zoning.

Treasurer’s Report

- **Budget:** Squirewell reported there are no notable changes and we are on track with the budget. Grego asked about the coding error at the budget office, where salaries were not being properly recorded out of the budget. Epps stated Finance is still working on it.

Conservation Committee Report:

- **Committee name change – action item:** Weber explained the confusion of the Conservation Committee and the Conservation Commission names.
- ⇒ **The Conservation Committee moved to change its name to the Natural Resources Committee which was seconded by Squirewell. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **RCCC Community Conservation Grants – presentation:** Weber reported a grant applicant, the USofC Heat Island Tracking project, reduced the requested amount. \$10,000 had been awarded by the committee and was now reduced to \$6,250. The difference (\$3,750) was redistributed to two other applicants (The Gills Creek Watershed Association award increased from \$4000 to \$5000 and the Dutch Fork Elementary award increased from \$5,000 to \$7,750) for the same recommended total of \$72,208.
 - **Cabin Branch purchase** – Epps stated this is proceeding. We have a closing attorney and we have submitted an agenda briefing to Administration and we hope it will be on the next Council agenda (April 5) for approval.
 - **Mitigation credits potential purchase** – Epps stated we are still in negotiations and are making slow but positive progress.

- **Lake Elizabeth donation acceptance** – Epps reported we are still waiting to hear back from them and their attorney.
- **Columbia Rowing Club agreement** – Epps updated the agreement is still being reviewed by Legal.
- Grego asked about the status of possible changes in the Ganus conservation easement and Epps explained we had provided comments from our attorney but have not received a response. McKenzie added in a recent call, Mr. Ball reported there was not yet an agreement with neighbors but he appreciated the check-in.

Historic Committee Report

- **Heritage Tourism Marketing - Request for Proposal:** Epps reported it has been submitted to Procurement earlier this month and we are waiting to hear back from them.
- **Historic Tourism Marketing project – update:** DePaoli stated the Historic Committee has been discussing the non-profit Pearson has been creating. There is a desire to look at past grant recipients to see if they can be tied into the project.
- Pearson stated she wanted to have discussions with Historic Committee members about the proposed self-assessment.

RCCC Amended Grant Approval - action item

- ⇒ **Weber moved to approve the RCCC FY22-23 Grants package as amended and presented earlier and pass it on to Council and was seconded by McSwain. Motion passed unanimously.**

Conservation Program Coordinator’s Report

- **RCCC Grants – update:** McKenzie reported everything was on schedule for the FY22-23 grants. As far as FY21-22 grants, there is a complete project and there will be an event at Richland Library Ballentine at 2pm on March 28, to celebrate the SC Wildlife Federation’s CollideEscape project on the building’s large windows that were a problem for bird collisions. Epps reported the Keenan-Ensor project is also complete and has been visited.

Conservation Manager’s Report

- **Staff vacancies – update:** Epps stated we are still working on hiring a new Land Program Planner and an Administrative Assistant.

New Business

- Pearson asked to put into the record today marks the beginning of hearings to appoint the first African-American Woman to the US Supreme Court.
 - Grego stated we still need to take steps to recognize the service of Sam Holland.
- ⇒ **At 4:36 pm, Weber moved to adjourn the meeting which is seconded by McSwain. Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
John McKenzie