



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

Minutes November 24, 2014

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, Sam Holland, Margaret DuBard, Charles Weber, John Grego, Virginia Sanders, Jim Thomas

Absent: Glenice Pearson, Becky Bailey, Ann Furr, Mildred Myers

Others present:

Quinton Epps, Conservation Department
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department
Debi Hacker, Chicora Foundation
Anna Lang, Office of Sustainability

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 3:36pm without a quorum present.

Cemetery Survey Presentation

Debi Hacker, partner in Chicora Foundation, gave a review of the work done through two grants in FY13 and 14 to research and document all of the burial grounds in Richland County. According to Ms. Hacker, this is the most comprehensive documentation of cemeteries in SC. The goals of the survey were to 1) prevent loss and destruction of cemeteries; 2) allow planners to identify development activities that could impact cemeteries and take actions; 3) help the coroner determine if found bones are from a known cemetery; 4) assist family and researchers to locate graves of ancestors; and 5) develop recommendations for protective ordinances.

The net result is 503 cemeteries with locations and 41 cemeteries documented with locations not known. A list of 52 cemeteries were identified that may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Ms. Hacker explained 48 cemeteries have been damaged, destroyed, or removed and showed examples of loss from different sources. Chicora made specific recommendations for County action including:

- Create and maintain a cemetery layer on the County Geographic Information System
- Create an ordinance requiring development activities be reviewed for impact on cemetery, use professional archaeologist
- Buffer, fencing, and public access requirements
- Burial of human remains only in licensed cemetery
- Bioanthropologist oversee any disinterments

Discussion ensued about difficulties in enforcement, what other counties do, and proving a landowner acted willfully. Beth McLean offered to check on other counties' ordinances. GIS Department is working on adding the cemetery layer and Nancy will begin the process for ordinance development.

With the addition of Virginia Sanders, a quorum was reached.

Agenda: Charles Weber moved and Margaret DuBard seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

Minutes: Charles moved and Margaret seconded the motion to approve the September 22, 2014 minutes as written. Motion approved. Virginia moved and John Grego seconded the motion to approve the minutes of October 27, 2014 as written. Motion approved.

Executive Session Briefing

Elizabeth McLean of the Richland County Legal Department was asked to review procedures and requirements for use of executive session. A session may be closed to the public for six reasons, two of which are pertinent for RCCC: 1) to discuss employee matters and 2) for contractual arrangements or receipt of legal advice. A vote must be taken to go into executive session and the specific purpose (as listed in the statute) announced. Discussions are confidential; minutes are not taken; paperwork is subject to Freedom of Information requests. No action can be taken during executive session. Once a body comes out of executive session, a motion to take action as indicated by executive session may be made. The motion does not need to be specific.

Conservation Director's Report

Cook's Mountain and Goodwill

At the November 18, 2014 Richland County Council meeting, Carol read a letter from RCCC making recommendations about the role of the County in developing a management plan for Wateree River Heritage Preserve (Cook's Mountain and 2/3rds of Goodwill). Jim Thomas, John Grego, Virginia Sanders, and Charles Weber were in attendance. Many questions were directed to Carol, Quinton, and Bob Perry with SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). The result was a directive by Council to RCCC to work with County Administrator Tony McDonald to send a letter of support for the transfer of Cook's and Goodwill to SCDNR. The letter sent Nov. 19 (distributed and on file) informed Mr. Perry that RCCC has been designated by Council to work in partnership with SCDNR to develop the management plan which should incorporate several specified provisions. Charles stated his concerns that Wateree River Heritage Preserve is greatly underfunded and encouraged a working committee of staff and RCCC members to begin developing objectives and time schedule.

Conservation Coordinator's Report

A letter of support from RCCC for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update was drafted and sent to Commission members for review. The final version will be sent to the Planning Commission for its Dec 1 meeting and then to Council. The plan sets out a vision for future growth; in order to implement the plan, zoning ordinances will have to be adopted. John mentioned his disappointment that the plan does not designate the northeastern portion of the County north of Langford Road as Rural (Small Lot), which was suggested at several of the public meetings. The plan

establishes several new land use categories including Conservation, Rural (Large Lot), and Rural (Small Lot). The area east of Blythewood is designated Neighborhood (Low Density). John moved to add a sentence supporting rural zoning for this area. Margaret DuBard approved the motion which was approved unanimously.

Nancy reminded members of the holiday drop-in on December 9 and requested help in publicizing the new grant cycle which has a deadline of February 20, 2015.

Meeting adjourned 5:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Stone-Collum