



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

Minutes October 28, 2013

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, Gary Atkins, John Grego, Margaret DuBard, Ann Furr, Becky Bailey, Mildred Myers, Sam Holland

Absent: Glenice Pearson, Virginia Sanders

Others present:

James B. Atkins (Buddy), Conservation Department
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department
Ken Driggers, Contract Legal Counsel
Tracy Hegler, Richland County Planning Director
Brenda Carter, Richland County GIS Manager for Planning
Betty Etheridge, Richland County GIS Technician II

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:00pm with a quorum present.

Agenda: Becky Bailey made a motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Ann Furr. Motion was unanimously approved.

Minutes: A motion was made by John Grego and seconded by Becky to approve the minutes of September 23, 2013 as written. Motion was unanimously approved.

Report of the Chair

Carol, a member of the Transportation Penny Advisory Committee (TPAC), reported staff had investigated the Charleston and York counties road and greenways programs and found more similarities with Charleston. A Request for Proposals for the management team has been advertised and the \$50,000,000 bond for construction services was approved at a very low interest rate.

Treasurer's Report

Buddy referred everyone to their copy of the budget report and explained \$45,667.30 of rollover funding from FY13 is now in place. Combined with the Professional Services line item, a total of \$169,264 is available for non-grant projects and easement acquisition. The Acquisition

line item of \$105,000 will be expended for the Connor easement - \$45,000 and the Hopkins easement - \$60,000. Roll over funds for three FY13 grants were not approved. If this cannot be resolved with the Finance Department, FY14 funds of \$54,150 will be allocated to fund the Chicora Foundation, Gills Creek Watershed Association, and Friends of Congaree Swamp grants.

GIS Mapping Demonstration

Tracy Hegler, RC Director of Planning and Development Services, explained the Lower Richland master plan included a suitability assessment for land development based on natural resource features. Brenda Carter, GIS Manager for the Planning Department, demonstrated how mapping layers can be used in a geographic information system (GIS) map to make natural resource decisions. Different GIS layers such as prime farm land, flood zones, wetlands and soil slope can be assigned weights to conduct suitability analysis for development or natural resource protection. Carol questioned how this program can assist with mapping greenway connectivity associated with transportation penny projects. Tracy replied a greenway plan is necessary before connectivity can be identified. Carol will ask Rob Perry, RC Transportation Director, to map the transportation penny greenway projects to determine possible connections. Buddy urged use of GIS mapping to look at development projects holistically.

Conservation Director's Report

Yard Debris Bagging

Buddy explained County Council debated the pros and cons of bagging yard debris at the Council meeting on October 1 and will be taken up again at their next meeting. Bagging yard debris is currently required for two areas in the county to reduce yard waste costs and to keep yard debris out of stormwater systems. Council also approved studying composting of yard waste by individuals and the county.

Lower Richland Parcel Rezoning

Buddy referenced a copy of an article from *The State* regarding a request by East Richland Public Service District to rezone 148 acres on Bluff Road from rural to industrial. In return East Richland would sell the county a separate 84-acre tract. There was concern waste sludge would be spread on the land if the rezoning was approved. John spoke against the rezoning as did Council Chair Kelvin Washington. The motion to rezone failed by a 7-3 vote. Mildred voiced her dismay at another negative project proposed for Lower Richland. Buddy said this was another example of why the Transportation and Economic Development directors need to consult with the Conservation Department.

Committee Reports

Conservation Committee

John has not has a chance to analyze the data from the conservation opinion survey but plans to present his findings at the next RCCC meeting.

Historic Committee

Sam Holland explained the Eastover-Lower Richland Business Association (ELRBA) was awarded a FY14 grant of \$20,000 for the Farmers and Merchant's Bank building which was increased to

\$50,000 by Council. The grantee has declined the grant. The Historic Committee evaluated its previous reallocation of these funds (see May 20, 2013) and recommended \$20,000 be awarded to Wesley United Methodist Church to repair termite damage to the sanctuary floor which was worse than first understood. Sam moved to reallocate \$20,000 from ELRBA to Wesley UMC for a total FY14 grant of \$35,000. Gary Atkinson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Outreach Committee

Becky passed out a three-point marketing plan for RCCC members to raise public awareness of RCCC programs. Commissioners are asked to set up a district meeting with their County Council member for a presentation on RCCC activities specific to each district. Members would also participate in two neighborhood meetings during the year. Staff would be available for presentations. The third point involves investigating a photo contest to emphasize Richland County's natural beauty.

Time extension

Margaret DuBard moved and Gary seconded a ten minute extension of the meeting which was approved.

Conservation Coordinator's Report

Committee members received a copy of quarterly grant reports from Historic or Conservation, depending on their committee. Nancy reported the Nature Classroom behind the USC Children's Center is finished with their grant project and RCCC members are invited to an Open House Friday, November 1st from 4pm-6pm. RCCC will host a Holiday Drop-in on Tuesday, December 3rd from 4:30pm – 6:00pm on the third floor. The Gills Creek Watershed Association's Middle Watershed Master Plan grant project is almost complete and they wish to present the plan to the RCCC. It was decided to invite them for a presentation at the November 25 Commission meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Submitted by Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant