



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

Minutes for Special Called Meeting June 1, 2020

Attendance

Members present via Zoom: Carol Kososki, Charles Weber, Gail Rodriguez, Buddy Atkins, and John Grego

Absent: Tim McSwain, Sam Holland, Robert Squirewell

Vacant: Districts 4 & 10

On Leave: Jim Thomas

Others Present: Quinton Epps, Nancy Stone-Collum

Call to Order

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order with a quorum at 3:30. She requested a discussion about next steps for the CDBG-MIT Action Plan be added to the agenda which was agreed to.

Land Development Code Comments

John Grego reviewed the main points of the draft comment letter he drafted on behalf of the RCCC. The lack of public input, no feedback from previously submitted comments, lack of work sessions with stakeholders, and no big vision for protecting conservation values was mentioned. John examined Beaufort County's forest protection ordinance and found their minimum protection standards for all development higher than Richland County's standards for green development.

Buddy Atkins commented on the lack of collaboration and his concern that developers will try to slip in under the old ordinance. He requested a change in the definition of watershed, and recommended an environmental overlay is needed rather than the individual floodplain and water resources overlays. He also suggested strengthening the summary paragraph.

Carol thanked and commended John for the time spent and the thorough job he'd done. Charles Weber moved and Gail Rodriguez seconded the motion to approve the letter with the changes discussed. Motion carried unanimously. Carol asked what the next steps are for maximum exposure of the issues raised. She then made a motion to send the letter to Council one week after sending it to the Planning Department and Clarion Associates. Buddy seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. Charles stated Councilman Malinowski had concerns about the new Land Development Code so Charles plans to go through the RCCC letter with him.

CDBG-MIT Action Plan 2020

RCCC submitted comments on the Action Plan to spend \$21.9 million in CDBG-Mitigation funds on April 23, 2020. Commissioners felt the response from Community Planning & Development (CP&D) staff was unresponsive and misleading. Their response was in a packet for the Blue Ribbon Committee meeting

on April 28. As a member, Carol participated in the virtual Blue Ribbon Committee meeting and said it was difficult to get the chairman's attention to speak or to ask questions in a timely way.

A virtual public hearing is scheduled for Friday, June 5 at 5:30pm. Buddy agreed to draft a statement reiterating the unanswered main points from the April RCCC comments. He will send it to the Conservation Committee for review and a final letter will be sent to members for an electronic vote. Nancy Stone-Collum will then send the letter by email to Lauren Hunter with CP&D and request it be read into the record. Carol plans to participate in the public hearing.

At the Blue Ribbon Committee meeting, Shaun Greenwood, City Administrator for Forest Acres, asked why the Four Paws project approved by the Blue Ribbon Committee in 2018 was not one of the projects in the 2020 plan. Synithia Williams, RC Stormwater Manager, contacted Shaun later and told him it would be resurrected. John questioned how several of the road projects were scored since scope was one of the criteria and the road projects appeared to serve few people and thus had a small scope. Low-to-moderate Income was not a criteria in the Public Works ranking but is a major consideration for CDBG fund allocation. Buddy asked Quinton to acquire the 300-page Stormwater Management 25-Year Roadmap and John suggested a friendly FOIA could be used if necessary.

The meeting adjourned at 4:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stone-Collum

Addendum: After revisions were made to the draft letter for the CDBG-MIT response, the final version was emailed to Commission members with a request for a vote to approve or disapprove the letter. Seven members voted in favor of approval while Buddy abstained. The letter was emailed to Ms. Hunter on June 5, 2020. (Letter on file)