



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

## Minutes January 28, 2013

### Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, Ann Furr, Sam Holland, Gary Atkinson, Jim Lawracy, John Grego, Glenice Pearson

Absent: Becky Bailey, Margaret DuBard, Mildred Myers, Virginia Sanders

### Others present:

James B. Atkins (Buddy), Conservation Department  
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department  
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department  
Ken Driggers, Contract Legal Counsel

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:03 with a quorum present.

**Agenda:** Jim Lawracy made a motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Ann Furr. Motion carried.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Jim and seconded by John Grego to approve the minutes of November 26, 2012 as written. Motion carried.

### Election of Officers

The following were elected by acclamation to serve a one-year term:

Carol Kososki – Chair

John Grego – Vice Chair for Conservation

Sam Holland – Vice-Chair for Historic

Virginia Sanders - Treasurer

### Report of the Chair

Carol reported she will represent Forest Acres on the Transportation Advisory Committee. Virginia Sanders was appointed to the committee as a representative for the City of Columbia. Carol will attend the Rules and Appointments Committee meeting next Tuesday since Council is considering a motion to dissolve the Appearance Commission and amend the Richland County Conservation Commission's (RCCC) responsibilities to include promoting efforts to improve the appearance of the county. Buddy Atkins explained some appearance issues were assigned to

RCCC in the Strategic Plan. Due to a lack of appointed members and poor attendance, the Appearance Commission has frequently not had a quorum. Few members combined with a small budget of approximately \$8,800 and an unclear focus has limited their effectiveness. Jim moved and Gary Atkinson seconded to ensure RCCC millage funding is spent for historic and conservation purposes and may not be used to fund strictly appearance projects unless additional funding is provided by Council. The vote was six in favor, Ann Furr opposed.

### **Conservation Department Director's Report**

- The Owens Field Request for Proposal was pulled last week and will be reposted with a closing date of February 20.
- Buddy attended the stormwater session of County Council's retreat on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The mitigation bank opportunity at Jackson Creek and Decker Boulevard was discussed. Council gave approval to move forward with appraisals on the Jackson Creek properties, and to also order an appraisal on Mr. Ted Hopkins' property in Lower Richland. Stormwater will pay for the Hopkins appraisal but RCCC will probably pay for the Jackson Creek appraisal. Once the appraisals are completed, RCCC will only assist Public Works with mitigation banking. Council agreed to take a more proactive approach on Stormwater programs. Quinton Epps, Stormwater Director, has proposed a comprehensive watershed improvement program which Council approved.
- Public meetings to provide further input on the master plans for Lower Richland and Spring Hill will be held on January 29 and 30. Buddy is pleased with the natural resource emphasis of the plans. Planning Director, Tracy Hegler will begin to incrementally update the Comprehensive Plan so ordinances will match the plan. Discussion is ongoing about changing rural zoning and creating an agriculture zoning classification.

### **Conservation Coordinator's Report**

Nancy referred everyone to their copy of the expense report for the Historic and Conservation grants and gave a brief update of each project. The SC PTA grant for roofing came in under budget and they would like to spend the balance on historically accurate shutters. The SC Wildlife Federation received funding for four educator grants but only received three applicants so \$600 remains; they propose spending it for honoraria for four guest speakers to the Master Naturalist classes. Jim made a motion to give staff authority to deal with left over grant money up to \$1000 with notification to Committee members. Any funding over one thousand dollars would need to be referred back to respective committees. Grant agreements will need to be amended to reflect changes in the scope of the grant. Sam seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. The deadline for the 2013 grant cycle is February 22. The Commission is invited to the unveiling of the historic marker for Zion Chapel Baptist Church No. 1 on Feb 4 at 11 am.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Buddy referred to the financial statement and reported on the balance of each professional contract. The 2014 budget was submitted to Administration last week with no change from this year's budget. Jim made a motion to extend Ken Driggers' contract for 18 months through the end of FY14. The motion was seconded by Gary Atkinson and approved unanimously.

## **Committee Reports**

### Conservation Committee

Nancy reported the Spring Valley easement will be signed Tuesday, February 5 at a ceremony at the site. Current discussions with the owner of Laurelwood revolve around cutting out a 10-15 acre section which would leave 95 acres to place under easement. John made a motion to approve \$1,000 per acre for the 95 acres. Jim seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. Discussion of the Ted Hopkins' easement resulted in Jim making a motion to meet Mr. Hopkins halfway and offer \$55,000. After further discussion Jim amended his motion to offer \$55,000 with the option to go to \$60,000 if needed. Gary seconded the motion and all approved.

### Time Extension

Jim made a motion to extend the meeting an additional 10 minutes. Glenice Pearson seconded the motion which was approved.

Glenice believes the Commission needs to lead the drive to unearth and publicize the human and cultural history of the Lower Richland plantation system. She will develop a strategy to present to the Commission.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Jim and seconded by Gary to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 pm.

Next meeting date is February 25, 2013

Submitted by Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant