



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

Minutes March 25, 2013

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, Ann Furr, Sam Holland, Gary Atkinson, Margaret DuBard, Becky Bailey, Virginia Sanders, John Grego

Absent: Glenice Pearson, Mildred Myers, Jim Lawracy

Others present:

James B. Atkins (Buddy), Conservation Department
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 3:45 pm with a quorum present.

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

Minutes: A motion was made by Ann and seconded by Margaret DuBard to approve the minutes of February 25, 2013 as written. Motion carried.

Report of the Chair

Carol reported the Development Round Table will have a final meeting Friday, March 29 to finish work on the open space ordinance. The voluntary code allows for increased density if the developer protects a certain percentage of open space. Next step is for the proposed ordinance to go before the Planning Commission before it goes to Council for three readings.

Treasurer's Report

Virginia Sanders referred everyone to their copy of the current budget. Buddy explained there will be a balance of ~\$115,000 in unencumbered funds in Professional Services after \$15,000 is spent on appraisals for Laurelwood and Jackson Creek.

Committee Reports

Conservation Committee

Gary Atkinson reviewed some of the committee's thinking about the 14 applicants in determining how \$80,000 in grant money was allocated. The Gills Creek kayak project was not

funded but would make a good special project for Richland County Conservation Commission (RCCC) to consider in the future. The Spring Valley project will require a public access agreement before it can be funded. Ann made a motion to fund the committee's FY14 grant recommendations with a requirement Spring Valley Homeowners Association provide a statement allowing public access. If Spring Valley cannot accept the grant, the \$3000 will be redirected to the Belser Arboretum. Becky seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Historic Committee

Sam Holland gave a brief explanation of the 17 grant applicants and moved to accept the committee's FY14 recommendations of \$170,000 as listed in their spreadsheet. Gary seconded the motion and all approved. Sam made a motion directing staff to reallocate funds from within the FY13 budget to fund Chicora Foundation's phase 2 of the cemetery survey. Becky seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Conservation Department Director's Report

Buddy reported seven companies responded to the Request for Qualifications for the Owens Field project. Evaluations are due to Procurement by April 4. Holstein Appraisals has been selected to do the appraisals on the Palmer/Jackson Creek and Laurelwood properties. A timber cruise has been ordered to determine the timber value for the Laurelwood land. Buddy relayed third reading of the RCCC ordinance amendment increasing the Commission's responsibilities to promote efforts to improve the appearance of the county has been deferred until later on in the budget process. Buddy will undergo knee replacement surgery on April 9 and be out of the office for a month.

Conservation Coordinator's Report

Nancy announced the airing of two videos funded by RCCC on April 18 on ETV - the 701 Whaley project and Historic Columbia's 50 Year Anniversary. Friends of Harbison State Forest will open the newly constructed mountain bike trail on Saturday, April 20 and Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation will have an event at the Laurelwood cabin later the same day. Details will be provided when they become available. Historic Randolph Cemetery is hosting a cemetery restoration workshop on Saturday, April 13. Anyone interested in attending the annual Historic Preservation Conference on April 16 needs to notify Nancy. Currently there is an issue before County Council regarding a special tax assessment for the rehabilitation of historic buildings, also known as the Bailey Bill. The county ordinance needs to be reconciled with the amended state statute and City of Columbia's ordinance. There may be a role for the Commission in the certification process for historic buildings in the unincorporated areas of the county.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Becky and seconded by Margaret to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 pm.

Next meeting date is April 22, 2013

Submitted by Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant