



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

Minutes October 17, 2016

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, Charles Weber, Margaret DuBard, Virginia Sanders, Glenice Pearson, and John Grego

Absent: Sam Holland, Jennifer Carter, Becky Bailey, and Jim Thomas

Others present:

Quinton Epps, Conservation Department
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department
Dr. Jamelle Ellis, Richland County Sustainability Coordinator
Dr. Bobby Donaldson, USC Historian

Chair, Carol Kososki welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order without a quorum at 3:40 pm. Carol asked Quinton Epps to proceed with his report in lieu of Action Items on the agenda.

Conservation Director's Report

Lower Richland Tourism Plan

The Asakura Robinson team came to Columbia the week of September 26 to meet with stakeholders, the steering committee, and visit the two county-owned properties and the Lower Richland area. Councilwoman Myers organized a tour for the team with 11 community members. She requested a return visit from the consultants before the public meeting on Nov 14 to meet with a pastors group to inform them about the goals of the project and encourage their support. Virginia Sanders will provide Nancy with additional stakeholder names from District 11. Glenice Pearson expressed her concern that the low to moderate income population be incorporated into the plan for developing tourism as an avenue for economic development.

Owens Field

Construction of the infiltration basins is proceeding however a few Rosewood residents are upset over the tree clearing. Staff will attend the next Rosewood Community council meeting to report on the progress of the project and explain the necessity for removing trees to create the infiltration basins that will capture stormwater. EPA visited the project site and was pleased with the results.

Mitigation

Construction is almost complete for the Spring Valley project; the final check list will be finished later in the week. This project was selected by the American Council of Engineering Companies of NC for an Engineering Excellence Award. Engineering staff was on site during the recent inclement weather to

observe how the site was working. The site functioned properly so very few design changes were necessary.

A quorum was reached with the arrival of John Grego.

Once County Council gives their approval, the Mill Creek Mitigation Bank will be able to sell \$408,748 of mitigation credits; proceeds will then be returned to the Transportation Penny Program. Other credits made available to Richland County benefited the Shop Road Extension and China Jushi, thus saving money. Carol requested Quinton update the TPAC Committee on the status/availability of the bank's mitigation credits.

Pinewood Lake Management

County Council directed staff to develop plans to manage conservation properties including Pinewood Lake and requested an enterprise model plan similar to the Township as it relates to operation and maintenance. At the October 4 Council meeting, staff recommended against the enterprise model and proposed the Conservation Department absorb the management of Pinewood Lake; however, action was deferred. A memo to Administration stated the Pinewood facilities are inadequate to house the department's staff; the department will continue to work with the volunteer organization operating there now. An increase in budget and additional staff were requested which will be addressed in the FY18 budget process.

Conservation Land Management Plan

The Conservation Land Management Plan, developed at Council's request, is a means to sustainably manage the county's conservation properties for multi-use purposes. Revenue generated by the properties would be used for their management and enhancement. Volunteer organizations would be created to engage local residents and reduce costs. Two staff positions will be requested for a land manager and volunteer coordinator in the FY18 budget (includes Pinewood Lake management). Glenice requested the volunteer coordinator look for diverse organizations to partner with. A Request for Action will be sent to committee for Council action in November. Charles Weber made a motion to accept/endorse the Conservation Land Management Plan. It was seconded by Virginia and passed unanimously.

Agenda

Glenice made a motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by John. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Glenice made a motion, seconded by Charles, to approve the minutes of September 12, 2016. Motion passed.

Report of the Chair

Carol said several RCCC Members attended Ann Furr's funeral over the weekend. Ann was a valued member of RCCC and will be missed. An encore azalea was sent from the Commission. Glenice made a motion to have a tree planting ceremony in the district of RCCC members who pass away as an acknowledgement of their service. The family would be involved in the site selection. Virginia seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

Virginia referred everyone to the financial report in their packets. Nancy clarified the breakdown for Prior Year Rollover of \$121,977 is comprised of contracts that were continued from FY16 into FY17 and a 25% automatic rollover of unexpended funds. Nancy explained the \$5,400 rollover for the Olympia grant was not approved by Finance. Olympia was unable to spend all of their funds due to a multitude of problems. Nancy asked if RCCC members would be willing to approve taking \$5,400 from the Prior Year Rollover line and transferring it to Lump Sum Appropriations for the Olympia project. Charles made a motion seconded by Margaret DuBard to transfer \$5,400 from Prior Year Rollover to fund the Olympia window restoration. Motion carried. Carol requested an explanation from Finance as to whether RCCC unspent funds are going to the Capital Acquisition Fund.

History Initiative Presentation

Dr. Bobby Donaldson explained he did not fully anticipate the amount of available material to assist RCCC’s efforts to document/ chronicle the history of Richland County for the past three centuries. The assessment of published books, archival collections, and newspaper collections proved to be a daunting task due to the sheer volume. Another problem encountered was a great deal of SC antebellum material is housed in Charleston and Duke University in North Carolina; the existence of this material is notated in the draft. The current draft is an historian’s overview of known collections around Richland County with recommendations of areas that need further research. Developing a final product that is useable for the lay audience is the goal. Further thought is needed to devise means for people to access this information and to create a document that has longevity.

The research team reviewed previous studies from the last thirty years to see what their sources were and what recommendations were made at that time. An underutilized informational source is oral histories which can be a pathway to identifying historic sites. John Grego questioned Glenice whether she felt RCCC should be more focused on oral histories than historic restorations. Glenice indicated the building projects frequently have a narrow point of view. A broader look at the county’s history needs to be developed to create a more inclusive history. How did the county evolve economically, historically, and culturally? Dr. Donaldson questioned RCCC members as to what degree they want to be reactive or proactive in identifying possibilities for future grants. Carol read a mission statement for RCCC and questioned the emphasis on research. Glenice said RCCC may need to revisit the original mission. She also stated that a consulting historian should be available to help RCCC as Ken Driggers is for conservation.

The compilation of comments regarding the draft from RCCC members will be addressed. Dr. Donaldson said he hopes to have all issues resolved by the middle of November and submit the final document. The bibliography will be translated to a spreadsheet. Glenice explained the local history sessions with county residents will need to be postponed and the format reassessed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant