



2020 Hampton St. • Room 3063A
P.O. Box 192 • Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 576-2082

Minutes

November 28, 2005

4:00 P.M.

Richland County Administration Building
4th Floor Administrative Conference Room

Attendance

Six members were present:

Becky Bailey, Preston Holston, Stuart Hope, Frank Houston, Maxey Love, Virginia Sanders.

Three members were absent:

Margaret DuBard (In Charleston), Mildred Myers and Ken Simmons (work conflict).

Others Present:

Ken Driggers & Nancy Stone-Collum, Palmetto Conservation Foundation; Michael Criss, & John Newman, Richland County Planning & Development; Jim Wilson USDA-NRCS, Elaine Nichols, Downtown Columbia Cemetery Task Force, Robin Waites, Historic Columbia, Frank Washington, Committee for Restoration and Beautification of Randolph Cemetery, Evelyn Bush – Citizen; and Hugh Caldwell - Richland Conservation District.

Call to Order

Becky Bailey, Chair, called the meeting to order and declared a quorum available to conduct business at 4:07 P.M.

Minutes

Minutes from August 22, 2005, were approved as presented. Minutes or record of October 24, 2005, were received as information since there was no quorum present on October 24th.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to amend the agenda by moving item 3 (Connor Tract) after item six (Randolph Cemetery Update) and deleting item 9 (Executive Session). Agenda was approved as amended.

Attendance Record

The commission member attendance record for commission meetings was distributed and discussed with emphasis on acknowledging attendance plans for quorum determination.

FY-06 Budget Update

The budget spreadsheet was distributed with FY-06 expenditures totaling \$22,151.81 leaving a balance of \$559,003.19. This included the adjusted amount \$112,110 which was the left over from FY-05.

Environmental Program Manager Position

Becky Bailey introduced Jim Wilson who was selected for the Environmental Program Manager. He will work as liaison for Richland County Administration with the Conservation Commission, Soil and Water Dept., Planning Dept. and Public Works.

The Executive Committee will meet with Jim and a representative of Palmetto Conservation Foundation and Soil and Water Dept. to better define the roles of each with the Conservation Commission. Monday, December 12th at 1 PM was set for this work session.

Commission Officer Elections

Elections for the 2006 Commission Officers will be held at the January 23, 2006, meeting. Officers include Chair, two Vice Chairs (Historical & Environmental) and Finance Chair. Present Officers are Chair - Becky Bailey, Historical Chair - Margaret DuBard, Environmental Chair – Vacant and Finance Chair- Stuart Hope.

Randolph Cemetery:

Frank Houston introduced Elaine Nichols, Downtown Columbia Cemetery Task Force, Robin Waites, Historic Columbia and Frank Washington, Committee for Restoration & Beautification of Randolph Cemetery. Ms. Nichols and Ms. Waites summarized the restoration project to include identifying and clearing cemetery boundaries, mapping and recording the site, threats to the site and the approximate cost of \$35,000 for completing the project. Several small contributions have already been received and application for grant funds will be submitted. A motion was made, seconded and passed to appropriate \$15,000 from the Conservation Commission for the project.

Connor Tract Easement Press Conference

Becky Bailey reported on the press conference. Adjoining land owners were invited to attend and several did attend. It was covered by TV and news media.

Palmetto Conservation Foundation Report

Ken Driggers indicated that the first phase renovations, exterior, of Monteith School should be finished by mid-December and hopefully all work will be completed by March 2006. More funds may or may not be needed.

Nancy Stone-Collum discussed the draft of the Richland County Conservation Commission Historic Preservation Grant Program which includes criteria for grants from the Commission, Landmarks criteria, Standards & Guidelines and draft grant application. This was received as information to be voted on at the January 23, 2006, meeting.

Ken Driggers reviewed the Mechanisms of Richland County's Greenway System consisting of Hubs, Links and Sites. The proposed vision plan will be presented to County Council in spring of 2006. The estimated cost for the 30 year plan is \$30 million. Ken asked the Commission to put

their 0.5 mil on the table as leverage for raising the funds. This was received as information. No action taken.

Public Input

The Richland County Appearance Commission is having an Arbor Day Press Conference Tuesday November 29th at 10 AM in front of the Richland County Administration Building. Conservation Commission members are invited to attend.

Michael Criss, Richland County Planning Dept. displayed and discussed a SCDNR announcement of a conservation focus area in the Congaree-Wateree/Upper Santee Watershed as shown on the map.

Mrs. Evelyn Bush spoke of her concerns in regards to the Conservation Commission activities.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Next Meeting

Monday January 23, 2005 at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Hugh Caldwell
Staff Support