



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

Minutes

February 28, 2011

4:00 P.M.

Attendance:

Members present:

Gary Atkinson, John Grego, Sam Holland, Frank Houston, Carol Kososki, Jim Lawracy, Glenice Pearson, Margaret DuBard

Members absent: Mildred Myers, Becky Bailey, Virginia Sanders

Others Present:

James B. Atkins, Environmental Planning
Nancy Stone-Collum, Palmetto Conservation Foundation
Elizabeth Oswald, HP Intern
Ken Driggers, Legal

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM with a quorum present.

Minutes: The minutes of January 24, 2011 were approved.

Agenda: The agenda was approved with Historic Committee report moved to the front.

Committee Reports:

Historic Committee: Frank Houston, Chair

The Committee recommended Landmark designation for two applications: Holloway House in Ridgewood and an old cemetery located in the Neal Ecological Preserve. Jim Lawracy moved for approval of the designations, John Grego seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Frank Houston reviewed the FY 2012 Historic Grant recommendations from 14 applicants. Eleven projects were recommended for funding by the Historic Committee with amounts ranging from \$1,250 to \$35,000 totaling \$167,000. Jim Lawracy moved to approve with the option to reallocate \$8,000 from the Saluda Canal documentary to another project if that amount renders the project unworkable, John Grego seconded; the motion passed unanimously. (The award list will be provided to Richland County Council for their approval))

The Airport Commission submitted a proposal for the Curtiss-Wright Hangar at the Hamilton-Owens Airport. Because restoration of the Hangar was deemed a worthy preservation project, the Committee recommended funding initial studies as a special project, and directed staff to reallocate \$50,000 of FY 2011 funds which were originally intended to acquire the Laurelwood easement. Jim Lawracy moved for approval, Glenice Pearson seconded; the motion passed by a 7 – 1 margin (Gary Atkinson voting nay).

Conservation Committee: John Grego, Chair

John Grego stated the Conservation Committee was transitioning on their review methodology of grant proposals. It was agreed that applicants should provide detailed information regarding the required cost share. Further the inclusion of either a matrix or point system should be included in future grant applications to enable the applicants to understand what the Commission considers the most important selection criteria.

With assistance from James Atkins, John Grego reviewed the merits of each of the FY 2012 Conservation proposals received by the Commission. A total of 14 proposals were received requesting \$119,335 in funding, of which, 11 were funded totaling \$60,000. Consistent with the Commission's guidance, applicants who had received funding for three prior years were excluded from funding.

Publicity Committee: Sam Holland, Chair

No report

Finance Committee: Virginia Sanders, Chair

In Virginia's absence, James Atkins distributed a budget summary by expenditure categories.

Meeting Extension

John Grego moved to extend the meeting by 15 minutes, Jim Lawracy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Program Manager's Report: James Atkins

Mary Jane Henderson is retiring as of March 11 after 30 years with the Richland County Soil and Water Conservation District. A dessert drop-in will be held for county employees on Wednesday, March 9 at 3 pm. Another retirement party is being planned for April.

Work is continuing to complete the approved easements including filing and making final payments. Four easements remain to be completed as of this meeting.

Following County Council approval, Mr. Milton Pope, County Administrator, sent Mr. Ted Hopkins an offer letter to purchase approximately 500 acres of land in Lower Richland to be used as a potential Mitigation Bank. More information regarding the offer and response will be available in March.

Staff is working with Tidewater Environmental to develop a prospectus for a Mitigation Bank on Jackson Creek upstream of Decker Blvd. The document will be submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers, Interagency Review Team, on March 4.

The FY12 Green Development Grant was advertized with proposals due on February 18, 2011. The grants required work to be conducted in one of the approved Neighborhood Improvement areas. Unfortunately, no proposals were received by the deadline. Staff will bring an update on how to proceed to the next Commission meeting.

Staff is waiting on a response from Richland County Human Resources regarding a reclassification of the current Education Specialist position (held by Mary Jane Henderson). The reclassification requests changing the position into an exempt position and increasing the salary range. Mary Jane has announced her retirement effective March 11, 2011.

Other Business:

Gary Atkinson relayed that he had spoken with Vulcan executives who own the quarry adjacent to the proposed Gregg Quarry on Bluff Road. Gary reiterated his opposition to the quarry rezoning, but suggested if the zoning request were approved, and if Vulcan were ultimately involved with any new quarry, a number of opportunities could result to lessen the potential impact. These could be to minimize truck traffic and dust in the area and possibly to remediate the current Vulcan quarry site at the end of its useful life in 15 to 18 years.

Public Input:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Next Meeting

March 28, 2011 at 4:00 pm at the Richland County Administration Building

Submitted by
Nancy Stone-Collum
Conservation Coordinator