



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

Minutes November 28, 2011

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, John Grego, Gary Atkinson via phone, Glenice Pearson, Sam Holland, and Mildred Myers

Absent: Becky Bailey, Margaret DuBard, Frank Houston, Jim Lawracy, and Virginia Sanders

Others Present:

James B. Atkins (Buddy), Environmental Planning Division
Nancy Stone-Collum, Environmental Planning Division
Charlie Fisher, Environmental Planning Division
Ken Driggers, Legal
Tony McDonald, Assistant County Administrator
Jeff Thordal, Lobbyist for Republic Services

Chair Carol Kososki began the meeting at 4:10 pm without a quorum. The minutes and agenda were accepted as information. Carol referred everyone to their new RCCC binders.

Environmental Division Manager's Report

SCE&G Transmission Line – Buddy Atkins reported on the Public Service Commission (PSC) hearing for SCE&G's application to construct the 230kV transmission line held on October 27, 2011. SCE&G has since offered a settlement which County Council rejected and submitted a counter proposal. Draft language for the PSC order is due December 7. The City of Blythewood settled with SCE&G for \$450,000 to help pay to put wires underground at the I-77 intersection.

Northeast Landfill – Development & Services Committee met on November 22 and heard three presentations. Tony McDonald, Assistant County Administrator, explained the landfill's settlement offer. Republic's area president Jamie Amick expounded on reasons to keep the landfill open. Buddy spoke last and discussed technical issues with the site's hydrology, disposal trends, contaminants, and recommendations. Due to the complexity of the issues, the D&S Committee voted to have a work session in December, to be scheduled by Council at its Dec. 6 meeting. Carol thanked the Commission members who attended the session.

As part of the negotiations to extend the life of the landfill, Republic has made an agreement to provide funds to the Old McGraw community. Glenice Pearson asked if RCCC was involved with the 2007 settlement that gave \$1 million to NextGen, an organization in Lower Richland. Carol

replied that RCCC had not been involved in any way with the landfill discussions or settlement, and the county was a pass through for the funds. The county is not a pass through for the new funds this time; Republic is dealing directly with Old McGraw. Carol asked each commissioner to contact their Council member to determine where each stood on extending the life of the landfill.

John Grego expressed concern about the process of providing information to Council. At the work session there were questions about who was Buddy representing rather than his providing technical information as county staff.

Green Development - Buddy reported he had made a field visit to review a Green Development project at Greystone and Broad River.

Committee Reports

Conservation Committee

John Grego stated the Conservation Committee would adopt the Historic Committee's approach of having grant applicants make short presentations. Nancy Stone-Collum said she had received statement of interest forms from a property owner in the Hollingshed area and one on Cedar Creek in Lower Richland. She will make site visits and report back to the Conservation Committee.

Historic Committee

Nancy reported Zion Baptist Church has completed their renovation work on the Columbia Cottage. Pine Grove Rosenwald School had its Grand Opening on November 3rd. Since the project is completed, the remaining grant funds of \$9,356 will roll over into RCCC's Capital Fund. SERCO will host a tour of Historical sites in the Lower Richland Corridor on December 19th. Most of the grant projects are moving along well and all but two of the interim reports have been received.

Quorum obtained

With the arrival of Mildred Myers, a quorum was obtained.

Finance Committee

No report was given

Outreach Committee – Sam mentioned there had been a spate of publicity this fall about RCCC, most recently concerning the iPhone grant. Nancy is keeping a press book. RCCC now has a presence on Facebook so please "like" and interact with the page and encourage friends to do the same. Non-Facebook users can still view the page. Chanda is working with the county's IT department on the new web site.

Conservation Coordinator's Report

Grants – The grant application is being revised for the next sign-up cycle. Nancy suggested Friday, February 17th as the deadline. It was agreed to raise the grant ceiling to \$20,000 and drop the starting point for Community Conservation Grants. This will help bring in the types of projects the committee is looking for. Nancy wanted to clarify if grantees should be limited to 3 years or should the project be limited to 3 years. Nancy will send out an email with suggested language for members to respond to.

Greenways – Previously, Val Hutchinson asked where things stood with the Greenways plan and wants it addressed at the Council Retreat. Staff will make recommendations to Council for the need for a professional master plan. Greenville and Spartanburg both have had Greenway master plans done within the last two years. The regional Energy Sustainability plan due out in February will address bike/pedestrian issues and greenways.

New Business

Holiday Drop-in – A Holiday Drop-in will be held Tuesday, December 13th for County Council Members, grantees, and partners. Invitations will be mailed shortly.

Midlands Green Congregation Initiative – Sustainable Midlands requested sponsorship for a Green Congregation Initiative event scheduled for January. Carol reminded the Commission of the Caring for Creation conference RCCC put on in 2009. This year's event features Sister Paula Gonzalez, the Solar Nun, who will lead a free public lecture and discussion on January 23 followed by a workshop for staff and volunteer faith leaders. Glenice moved to contribute \$250 for each Green Congregation Initiative session for a total of \$500. Sam seconded the motion and all approved.

John made a motion to approve the minutes of October 24th and the motion was seconded by Glenice and all approved.

Ken Driggers expressed the concern that there does not appear to be a clear direction among the D&S Committee regarding the landfill and Council does not understand the permitting process. Buddy will need to explore all the details at the work session. RCCC members should contact their County Council representative to find out what questions they want answered and where they stand.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, January 23, 2012 at 4:00pm at the Richland County Administration Building

Submitted by
Charlie Fisher
Administrative Assistant