



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

Minutes January 30, 2017

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, Jim Thomas, John Grego, Charles Weber, Virginia Sanders, Glenice Pearson, Lee Rambo, Sam Holland, Jennifer Carter, and Becky Bailey.

Absent: Margaret DuBard

Others present:

Quinton Epps, Conservation Division
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Division
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Division
Tracy Hegler, Community Planning & Development
Ken Driggers, Contract Legal Council

Chair, Carol Kososki welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm. She explained that Margaret DuBard has been in a bad car accident and has a broken clavicle, ribs, tailbone, and two compressed vertebrae. Nancy will send a card from the Commission.

Approval of Agenda: Charles Weber moved and Jim Thomas seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from November 21: John Grego moved and Jim seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Carol asked for the Election of Officers to be delayed until the arrival of Becky Bailey, Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Report of the Chair

Carol introduced Tracy Hegler, Director of the newly created Community Planning and Development Department, for an update on the county's reorganization. Third reading is scheduled for next weeks' Council meeting. Tracy explained former department heads will be division managers and continue to supervise and provide the expertise for their area. When questioned, she said there may be a need for one or more assistant department directors. Carol questioned how time sensitive information will be relayed to Council. Administrator Seals is already looking at ways to do long range agenda planning for Council. Tracy is now included in all the Administration meetings so will be better informed about what is of importance to our division. Glenice said she hoped the diversity of the community is in the forefront of the planning – one size does not fit all. Tracy pointed out the budget process is also moving to a two year budget, again an attempt to be more proactive.

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Treasurer's Report/FY18 Budget

Virginia Sanders referred everyone to their copy of the treasurer's report. Quinton explained although it looks like a lot of money is unspent in Acquisitions, it is because Administration advised RCCC to take money out of the Fund Balance to avoid the necessity of budget transfers; not all of the projects can be completed this fiscal year. At Tracy's request, Quinton is serving on the Budget Team Group, a time consuming endeavor due to the scope of the budget. Requests from departments total \$225 million for a \$160 million budget.

Election of Officers

Becky Bailey, head of the Nominating Committee, spoke with RCCC members to establish who is willing to continue to serve as an officer. Becky made a motion, seconded by Sam Holland to accept the nominations below by acclamation.

Carol Kososki, Chair

John Grego, Vice-Chair for Conservation

Glenice Pearson, Vice-Chair for Historic

Virginia Sanders, Treasurer

The motion was approved unanimously.

Conservation Director's Report

Pinewood Lake Management

Quinton reported RCCC is scheduled to take over management of Pinewood Lake Park July 1st. A biennial budget has been proposed for one full time and one part time employee. The full time position would also support other county conservation properties. Operating expenses were also requested for Support Services who will provide maintenance for the park.

RCCC members want accountability to be established when the responsibility for the park changes. Questions were raised about Pinewood Lake Foundation (PLF) and what the relationship will be with RCCC. Carol read from a newspaper article that listed PLF as non-compliant with the Hospitality Tax requirements but the issues had been worked out. Glenice asked how RCCC can hold PLF accountable when they, as a non-profit, answer to their Board of Directors. Administration and staff are working to resolve the issues of concern as the transition proceeds.

John sent a Freedom of Information request to DHEC concerning the Pinewood Lake dam. The information showed that DHEC told SCALE Inc. (non-profit owner of the dam) to make improvements and have a dam inspection but they have been non-cooperative for over a year. Various estimates place repair costs between \$300,000 and \$1.8 million. Ken Driggers thought it is probable the county will have to take ownership of the dam in order to fund repairs. Carol requested the Conservation Committee make this a top priority and meet to discuss this matter in detail.

Strategic Planning

Staff recommends RCCC hire a facilitator to update mission/vision statements and develop a long-range/strategic plan for the Commission. The Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD) has approved hiring a consultant. The same facilitator would be engaged to work with each group but would also make recommendations on opportunities for synergies to develop between the Commission and the District. Administration wants ten-year plans by November. The estimated cost for the plan would be less than \$5,000 and could be taken from available FY17 funds. Glenice wanted to be sure the historic component of RCCC's mandate be included in any plan developed. Charles made a motion seconded by

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Becky to develop a ten year strategic plan for RCCC in conjunction with RSWCD. Motion carried unanimously.

Conservation Committee Report

NE Landfill Letter

Annually John requests information on the NE Landfill through Freedom of Information requests to DHEC and prepares an update for Council. The concerns he raised this year include: increased amounts of industrial process waste, above permitted limits of volatile organic compounds (VOC) in three off-site wells, and explosive gasses at the site's boundary which exceed the limits. He requested additional off-site wells and a reduction in industrial process waste until VOC contamination is resolved. Glenice made a motion seconded by Charles to forward John's letter to DHEC and copy County Council. (Letter on file)

History Initiative

Glenice reported she just received a lengthy revised document from Dr. Bobby Donaldson which is closer to the product RCCC requested. The Historic Committee and RCCC have an obligation to get the information out to county residents. A committee meeting will be scheduled to bring a recommendation back to RCCC on how to involve the county in utilizing this research. Quinton suggested this can be incorporated into the strategic plan and the Lower Richland Tourism project.

Lee Rambo will join the Conservation Committee to complete their committee roster.

Conservation Coordinator's Report

Lower Richland Tourism Plan

Nancy praised Virginia's involvement with the public meetings held by Asakura Robinson. A video from the WLTX news story covering the first of two January public meetings was played. Attendees gave positive feedback and were asked to submit a survey of what they liked, what their concerns were, and what is missing from the recommendations. Glenice voiced her concerns regarding economically deprived people having the opportunity to benefit economically. Nancy explained this issue is addressed in each of the consultant plan's three focus areas where a step up campaign has been created; how to get in on the ground floor with limited funds. Members were encouraged to return the survey forms.

Rosenwald/Pine Grove event

Councilwoman Joyce Dickerson asked for help creating an educational program at the Pine Grove Rosenwald School for Black History month. An event has been developed for Saturday, February 25th with a special dramatization of Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington presented by Richland School District One students. A showing of the Rosenwald documentary is scheduled at Harbison Theatre on the 23rd. Nancy asked RCCC members to finance the cost to cover rental of the theatre and movie, and insurance. Charles made a motion seconded by Sam to fund up to \$1,500 for the project which was approved unanimously. Mrs. Dickerson is using her discretionary funds for advertising and Saturday's expenses.

New/Old Business

Glenice asked about plans for a tree planting for Ann Furr. Nancy will have details at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant