



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

Minutes
May 20, 2019

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, John Grego, Charles Weber, Buddy Atkins, Tim McSwain, Andrea Williams, and Glenice Pearson via telephone

Absent: Virginia Sanders, Jim Thomas, and Robert Squirewell

Others present:

Quinton Epps, Conservation Division

Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Division

Ken Driggers, Legal Counsel

Clayton Voignier, Community Planning & Development Department

Meghan Sullivan, Community Planning & Development Department

Call to Order

Chair Carol Kososki welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:35 with a quorum.

Approval of Agenda

Charles Weber made a motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Tim McSwain.
Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Buddy Atkins moved to approve the April 15 minutes as presented. Tim McSwain seconded the motion which carried.

Report of Chair

Carol reported she had attended a budget work session for the FY20-21 biennium budget and will be meeting with Clayton Voignier to discuss various matters.

Treasurer's Report

Nancy Stone-Collum pointed out that less than half of the grant funds had been spent with six weeks left in the fiscal year. Several of the grantees will be submitting one request for the full amount, several others were given extensions through June but all have been warned there is no carry forward.

Quinton reported the part-time position for Pinewood Lake Park was not recommended by Administration but funds can be taken from the line item for Special Services. The salary lines have not been increased in years although salaries have; this is an issue across departments and Finance says they will address making budgets whole for personnel costs. Other requests for increases were not approved which could result in budget transfers. The Acquisition line was decreased by \$48,833 from the requested amount of \$177,000; however, the recommended amount of \$128,167 is \$30,555 more than the FY19 budget. Clayton Voignier said he planned to have a discussion with Administration about the RCCC budget and its dedicated revenue source. He pointed out that with the ½ mill, revenues exceed expenditures by \$150,000 on average which then goes into the RCCC Capital Acquisition Fund. Carol asked about the overall county financial situation and Clayton replied there is a budget shortfall for FY19.

Report of the Community Planning & Development Director

Clayton reported there are four finalists for the County Administration position and a decision is imminent. Staff has compiled comments from various stakeholders for the Land Development Manual (LDM) and the revision was sent out for review with comments due May 24. A formalized draft will be sent to Council by May 30 for approval in July or September. John expressed unhappiness with the information from the February presentation that indicated staff was acquiescing to requests to change buffers rather than being faithful to the ordinance language. Carol explained how the buffers were established through the Development Roundtable – a group of developers and environmentalists who agreed on major policies that were then adopted by Council. John reiterated the LDM was to be a clarification and consolidation of current code, not a code rewrite. Clayton volunteered to have staff explain the process at the next meeting. He mentioned that some council members had expressed concerns with Module 1 of the code rewrite.

Lower Richland Tourism Plan

Nancy reviewed the purchases of the Cabin Branch and Mill Creek parcels and development of the Lower Richland Tourism Plan by Asakura Robinson. The three themes of the plan are: 1) the need to develop tourism infrastructure; 2) residents must benefit and participate in economic growth and new amenities; and 3) successful tourism is based on a three-legged stool: nature tourism, heritage tourism, and economic development. Concept plans were developed for Mill Creek, Cabin Branch, and a heritage center at Hopkins. The next steps are to issue a Request for Proposal to create a master plan for Mill Creek and one for developing economic opportunities.

Carol asked where things stood with getting the plan approved by Council. Quinton, Clayton, Nancy, and Ashley Powell met with council members Myers and Newton two weeks ago to address adoption of the plan. Ms. Myers expressed doubt that Council would fund the capital improvement requests for Mill Creek this year. She suggested using some of the \$2 million allocated for the Lower Richland government services outpost/multi-use facility and from the Historic Corridor funded with \$800,000 of Hospitality Tax. Ms. Myers asked Ashley to develop a comprehensive phasing plan to send to Council with the Lower Richland Tourism Plan. Quinton and Nancy drafted a phasing plan for Ashley. The group will meet tomorrow to review the plan and strategize next steps.

When asked why RCCC capital improvement projects were not on the list sent to Council, Clayton commented that Administration chose to fund only those projects directly related to county facilities. Carol was disappointed no mention of the RCCC request was made to Council, thus delaying indefinitely opening the property to the public. Glenice Pearson asked why the recommendations for Mill Creek were being elevated over others. Charles was disturbed no explanation of why the projects weren't funded had been given directly to staff or RCCC. Nancy pointed out that funds will be available in the FY20 budget to pay for a master plan; however, Council needs to adopt the plan before the master plan request for proposals can be issued.

The Mill Creek Tour was cancelled due to weather; the consensus was that a tour should be arranged just for the Commission in June.

Conservation Committee Report

The request to rezone the Crickentree golf course property from Traditional Recreation Open Space (TROS) to medium density residential was withdrawn at the last Planning Commission meeting but a new rezoning request has been submitted for low density residential. This will still allow the building of 600 homes and does nothing to mollify the Crickentree homeowners. The Planning Commission will hear the rezoning request on June 3 and Council will make a decision on June 25.

John is developing comments on Module 1 of the code rewrite. Some of the issues include: the diagrams, lack of a role for the Conservation Division, no development of the agriculture district, little mention of compatibility with adjacent neighbors, water resources overlay is underdeveloped, rural hubs are quite constrained, lack of cemetery protection, and how will the open space code fit in. A Conservation Committee will meet to help to review his comments. Module 2 may be out this summer.

Conservation Division Manager's Report

Columbia Rowing Club

Quinton showed a map of the county-owned Broad River property that contains the Columbia Rowing Club shed and dock. The club has been leasing the property since 2009. The contract with the club expires in April of 2020 but since it has to get Council approval, Quinton asked to begin the process of having the lease extended for another five years. Buddy moved, seconded by Charles, for staff to move forward with a five-year extension of the Columbia Rowing Club contact. The motion was approved unanimously.

Greenway Fund Reprogramming

The policy for reprogramming greenway funds approved at the April meeting was sent to Council and should be on the next Transportation Ad Hoc Committee agenda. The meeting is likely to be on May 28 but Nancy will confirm.

Pinewood Lake Park

Chris Hansen showed photos of birds and animals at the park taken by Scott Gandy. Chris was able to get CSX to clean out a clogged culvert downstream from the park which relieved drainage issues for the pond dam. Volunteer Jim Johnson installed a drip line irrigation for the pollinator garden and his wife Anne Marie planted the pollinator plants. Attendance continues to increase. Two fishing clinics sponsored by SC Dept. of Natural Resources will be held June 8 and July 11.

Legal Contract

The contract with Ken Driggers for legal assistance expires in November 2019. Because of delays last time and the need for the contract to go through the Legal Department before it is signed by the County Administrator, Carol would like to begin the process early. Charles moved to begin the process of renewing Ken's contract. It was seconded by John and approved unanimously.

Conservation Coordinator's Report

The Forest Stewardship Plan contract with American Forest Management should be signed shortly by Administration. A historic marker unveiling will be held May 24 at Blythewood Academy at 11:00; Tim McSwain will represent the Commission and Mrs. Dickerson will represent Council. The Ag & Art Tour in Richland County will be held June 29-30 at five farms. Nancy gave directions where to meet for the walking tour of monuments on the Statehouse grounds led by Dr. Lydia Mattice Brandt who received an RCCC grant for the research.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Stone-Collum