



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

Minutes February 25, 2013

Attendance:

Members present: Carol Kososki, Ann Furr, Sam Holland, Gary Atkinson, Jim Lawracy, John Grego, Glenice Pearson, Margaret DuBard, Becky Bailey, Virginia Sanders

Absent: Mildred Myers

Others present:

James B. Atkins (Buddy), Conservation Department
Nancy Stone-Collum, Conservation Department
Charlie Fisher, Conservation Department
Ken Driggers, Contract Legal Counsel

Chair Carol Kososki called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm with a quorum.

Agenda: Jim Lawracy made a motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Margaret DuBard. Motion carried.

Minutes: A motion was made by Jim and seconded by Ann Furr to approve the minutes of January 26, 2013 as written. Motion carried.

Report of the Chair

Carol reported the Development Round Table has only two more meetings on an open space ordinance. Buddy and Quinton Epps, Stormwater Director for Richland County Public Works Department, developed a matrix to weight criteria for the various conservation (open space) areas to be protected. The result should be protection of larger natural areas by providing an incentive for high value features. The voluntary code allows for a density bonus if the developer protects a certain percentage of open space, but the resultant gross density cannot exceed the gross density of the next highest zoning district. Carol asked members about how to use the list of RCCC projects by Council Districts Nancy prepared. It was agreed the list should be posted on the website and sent to Council members with a letter from Carol.

Conservation Department Director's Report

County Council is moving forward with a county mitigation program to be overseen by Public Works. Cost proposals for appraisals on Jackson Creek/Decker Boulevard, Laurelwood, and Ted Hopkins' property have gone out to the two approved appraisal firms.

Requests for Qualification for Owens Field improvements have been received from several firms. A review team will make a selection of a design firm to move forward with this project by the end of March.

Buddy reviewed the most recent version of the RCCC ordinance amendment increasing the Commission's responsibilities to include promoting efforts to improve the appearance of the county. On second reading of the ordinance last week, a substitute motion was approved to add purposes/objectives G, H, and I (see file copy) to the RCCC's enabling ordinance and to transfer remaining Appearance Commission funds to the RCCC budget*. Third reading should take place on Tuesday, March 5.

Leachate from Waste Management's landfill on Screaming Eagle Road is collected, pumped into tankers and transported to the City of Columbia Wastewater Plant at a cost of approximately \$1,000,000/year. The City of Columbia has proposed to build and operate a six-inch pressurized line to carry the Waste Management leachate to Columbia's wastewater treatment plant on the Congaree River, saving approximately \$700,000/year. The three proposed routes cross most of the major creeks in eastern and Lower Richland with the potential for serious contamination from a leak or break in the line. It also sets a precedent for other industries not to install industrial pre-treatment systems. The proposal was withdrawn last week from the Development and Services Committee agenda but the issue remains alive. RCCC members should make their Council representative aware of any activity regarding this issue.

Carol mentioned her interest in developing a vision for how to obtain/protect large conservation parcels. She is also concerned the Transportation Advisory Committee has no staff to do work on greenways, the plan from 2008 is inadequate, and she questioned how the projects will be prioritized. The Executive Committee will meet with Ken Driggers and staff to clarify the issues and develop a strategy for funding conservation lands.

Conservation Coordinator's Report

Nancy distributed a new walking tour guide for the Waverly community and a postcard for www.ColumbiaSC63.com that commemorates the height of the 1963 Civil Rights Movement with activities throughout the year. On February 4, Glenice, Becky, and Nancy attended the unveiling of the historic marker at the Zion Chapel Baptist Church No. 1. Work on the Laurelwood cabin is almost complete; a special event is planned for April 20. RCCC has received 17 Historic grant requests totaling \$625,000 and there were 13 Conservation grant requests totaling \$175,953. Dates for committees to meet to hear from grant applicants were settled for March 14 for Conservation and March 15 for Historic.

Treasurer's Report

Virginia referred everyone to their copy of the current budget and expenses. Buddy explained money for easement expenses like appraisals is in Professional Services. The contract with Tidewater for Jackson Creek/Decker Blvd. could be extended for a water quality analysis plan which would require additional funding.

Committee Reports

Conservation Committee

John Grego requested all Conservation Committee members carefully review grant applicants ahead of time.

Nancy reported a request has been made to subdivide the G.P. Monroe homesite from the easement parcel on Two Notch Road. Ken and Nancy will meet with the personal representative and her attorney to discuss ramifications. If an amendment to the easement is needed, it will require approval from the Commission and Council. Carol commented on the well-attended easement signing at Spring Valley on February 5.

Historic Committee

Sam Holland reported the Historic Committee recommends awarding Landmark Designation to the Textile Union Hall in Olympia. This 1944 building is significant architecturally and historically due of the rarity of union activity in textile mills. The committee recommendation was approved unanimously.

Time Extension

Jim made a motion to extend the meeting an additional 10 minutes. Margaret seconded the motion and all approved.

Outreach Committee

Becky Bailey questioned who else serves on this committee. Virginia and Sam volunteered to serve and assist Becky. The committee will develop a plan to better promote the mission and activities of the RCCC.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Jim and seconded by Gary to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 pm.

Next meeting date is March 25, 2013

Submitted by Charlie Fisher, Administrative Assistant

*as reflected in Council Report of Actions for Feb. 19, 2013. We will investigate further since this does not address funding for future years.