

Oconee River Greenway Authority

MINUTES

4 January 2008

Members Present: Peter Boylan, Chairman; Richard Bentley, Troy Clymer, Marion Nelson; Kyle Hood (proxy for Dennis Holder)

Others Present: Jeff Gray – GMC
Vonda Everett – GDOT
Kraig Collins – GDOT
Dale Higdon - GFC
Russell Thompson – Milledgeville City Planner
Heather Langston – ORGA Director
Sherrill Jones – Recorder

Not Present: Bo Edwards, Lee Moon, Bubba Williams

Location: President's Conference room in the Old State Capital building.

I. Call to Order – At approximately 2:00 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 4 January 2008 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority (ORGA) to order for the purpose of determining priorities for amending the Phase II Concept Report and preparing for Chairman Boylan's meeting with Congressman John Barrow.

II. Phase II Proposals – Dr. Langston presented two proposals for the Board's consideration for the next phase of the Greenway. An approved proposal to encumber existing funds (approximately \$2.1 million) is needed so that the required GDOT Concept Report may be appropriately amended. Chairman Boylan will subsequently submit items not included in this proposal to Congressman Barrow for inclusion in the FY2009 federal budget.

➤ **Proposal A** – Proposal A, totaling \$2,100,000, allows for the completion of all aspects of the greenway south of the HWY 22 Bridge. Specific details are as follows:

1. Concrete Entry Road
2. Wetland Boardwalk and Observation Platform
3. Wetland Restoration
4. Amphitheatre and Outdoor Classroom
5. Restrooms
6. Pavilion Field
7. Maintenance Building and Yard
8. Trail Amenities
9. Lighting

➤ **Proposal B** – Proposal B, totaling \$2,286,000, reflects the completion of trails north of the HWY 22 Bridge, as well as various aspects south of the bridge. Specific details are as follows:

1. Concrete Entry Road
2. Wetland Boardwalk and Observation Platform
3. Wetland Restoration

4. Trails
5. Pedestrian Bridge
6. Fishing Platforms/Overlooks
7. Power House Overlook
8. Restoration/Stabilization of Power House
9. Trail Amenities
10. Maintenance Building and Yard
11. Stream Bank Stabilization
12. Lighting

Discussion regarding the two proposals included the following:

- Dr. Langston recommended Proposal A noting that it does not require any additional funding beyond already existing funds, and that the inclusion of the amphitheatre and the outdoor classroom creates the potential for generating revenue and attracting people who might not otherwise use the greenway.
- Chairman Boylan echoed Dr. Langston's remarks and also noted that the development of the amphitheatre should make the greenway more eligible for funding through the One Georgia Grant Program.
- Dr. Langston reported that Bo Edwards could not attend today's meeting; however, he met with her earlier in the day and wanted her to inform the board that he prefers Proposal B as he feels strongly about completing all trails.
- Mr. Nelson indicated that his personal preference is the completion of the trails; however, he further acknowledged the potential for revenue and stated that he would acquiesce to the preference of the board.
- Mr. Thompson reported that the Concept for the Greene Street extension has not been approved as it is considered by the FHWA, as a "road to nowhere" in that the Concept for the greenway road to which it would extend has not been approved. Ms. Everett reported that she has consulted with Kelly Wade of the FHWA and is waiting for a response from Ms. Wade who is researching the issue. Chairman Boylan noted that this situation makes another argument for the support of Proposal A.
- Chairman Boylan reported that he will meet with Congressman Barrow on Tuesday, January 8, in Washington D.C., to request additional funding (approximately \$2 million) for the greenway and that he thinks a request for funds to complete the trails and the area north of the bridge makes a more compelling argument than that of a request for funds for trails in one section, an amphitheatre, outdoor classroom, restrooms and pavilion field in another section.
- Mayor Bentley stated that he felt a community-use-facility such as the amphitheatre would make the greenway more appealing to the entire community.
- Mr. Hood commented that based on its experience in the development of Balls Ferry, Wilkinson County supports Proposal A.

- Ms. Everett noted that Proposal A is "tidier in terms of environmental studies, etc."
- Mr. Gray stated that he feels the amphitheatre would create an "anchor" for the community, giving it a sense of "ownership".

Mr. Bentley made a motion to accept Proposal A. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson and unanimously approved.

III. Other Business – Dr. Langston reported that she is having communication problems with Breedlove Land Planning, Inc. She asked that the board consider using Walden, Ashworth & Associates (Jim Hardin) rather than Breedlove. Chairman Boylan asked that Dr. Langston consult with Ms. Everett and George Zier to make sure that no funds would be jeopardized if a change were made. No action was taken on this request.

IV. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 29, 2008 at 1:30 PM in the conference room of the Old Capital Building.

V. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:40 M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrill Jones, Recorder