

Oconee River Greenway Authority

MINUTES

9 January 2007

Members Present: Peter Boylan – Chairman
Dennis Holder, Lee Moon, Marion Nelson, Greg Strenkowski, Guy Thompson, Bubba Williams

Others Present: Jan Nichols – ORGA Director
Ed Moore – GMC
Hannah Marney – UR
Sherrill Jones – Recorder

Not Present: Richard Bentley

Location: Conference room in Cone-Sibley Library at GMC.

- I. **Call to Order** – At approximately 1:30 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 9 January 2007 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority (ORGA) to order and welcomed all who were present.
- II. **Approval of Minutes for 31 October 2006** – Mr. Williams made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Strenkowski, for the approval of the 31 October 2006 ORGA Minutes. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted.
- III. **Treasurer's Report** - Mr. Strenkowski directed members to review the printed financial statement, ending 31 December 2006, which reflects a Checking Balance of \$52,685.51, a Money Market Balance of \$420.98 and a CD Balance of \$10,199.21. Mr. Edwards made a motion to accept the report. It was seconded by Mr. Williams and unanimously approved.
Chairman Boylan asked Director Nichols to contact William Thompson, Foundation President, to request that a Foundation member attend monthly ORGA Board meetings so that the board may be kept abreast of Foundation resources and activities.
- IV. **Old Business**
 - A. **Approval of Phase I Contractor** – Chairman Boylan reported that he had been advised by counsel not to approve a Phase I Contractor at this time; consequently, this item was tabled.

Road Design for Battle Property - Chairman Boylan reported that George Brewer and Vonda Everett of the GDOT have strongly recommended that the road concept for Phase II be removed from the plan as sufficient funds to build a road are not presently available. It does appear that the ORLT will grant a partial easement but will be part of Phase III planning.

Breedlove Land Planning, Inc. cannot move forward with the Phase II Design Plan until a Concept Plan is approved by the DOT. Ms. Everett has provided Director Nichols with an approved Concept Plan for a similar project. Using this plan as a foundation, Director Nichols has drafted a Concept Plan for Phase II, which she will email to board members

for review. Chairman Boylan asked board members to review the plan and make applicable comments/responses by the middle of next week.

Those present also recognized the need to finalize arrangements regarding the Georgia Power property ASAP. Chairman Boylan will pursue a transaction to either convey the property to ORGA or to grant permission for ORGA to utilize the property along the river.

Chairman Boylan noted that Design costs for Phase II might run as high as 15% of the construction costs, which are considerably more than anticipated and which, no doubt, will increase the overall cost of the project. Cost for Phase I could approach 1.1 million. He further noted that existing resources will not cover both Design and Phase II construction costs. Funds for Phase II will not be available before FY09; therefore, he suggested that the board considering eliminating some of the Phase I add alternates. This would reduce overall costs for Phase I and cover cost of the Design for Phase II.

As more funding becomes available, the eliminated add alternates could be reinstated. Director Nichols shared a two page list of tasks required for Phase II prior to construction. The list was prepared to emphasize how the requirements will expand the timeline, and therefore engineering costs.

Mr. Holder asked that the board meet with local members of the state legislature to keep them informed of the project's scope and needs. Chairman Boylan asked Director Nichols to set up a meeting with Representative Parham and Senator Grant to solicit support. He also asked Director Nichols to make a case statement, in the form of written materials and a PowerPoint presentation, for a specific request for funds from the state legislature. Once these materials are created Chairman Boylan will share with board members.

C. Approval of Board to Eliminate Garner Property or Road Design as part of Phase II – It was noted that the Foundation currently has \$8,500 which can be used toward the purchase of the Garner property. This constitutes half of the total cost; consequently, an additional \$8,500 is needed. Mr. Williams agreed to ask the county commission to cover the additional cost; however, he noted that he was not in a position to promise or guarantee that the requested funds would be forthcoming. There was general consensus among board members to not include the Road Design in Phase II.

D. GSFIC – Bank Line of Credit Update – Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve a resolution that ORGA consent to an agreement with First National Bank, Century Bank and Trust, Magnolia State Bank and Exchange Bank to accept a line of credit from each bank for \$125,000 each, or a total amount of \$500,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Edwards and unanimously approved.

V. New Business

A. Resolution regarding contributions to ORGA – A resolution regarding all contributions to ORGA be given to the Foundation was reviewed and rejected.

B. Groundbreaking Ceremony: Mr. Edwards suggested that the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Greenway be a joint venture with the Foundation. Chairman Boylan agreed to chair the committee, which will be comprised of one or more members of the Foundation as well as Chairman Boylan, Mr. Edwards and Mr. Williams. Chairman

Boylan indicated that GMC will underwrite costs for the ceremony, and that he will schedule a committee meeting next week.

- VI. **The next scheduled meeting for the ORGA Board is for Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 1:30 PM in the conference room of the Cone-Sibley Library at GMC; however, members were asked to reserve January 30 as a tentative date for a called meeting. Director Nichols will notify members accordingly.**
- VII. **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrill Jones, Recorder