

Oconee River Greenway Authority
MINUTES
29 January 2008

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

Others Present: Jeff Gray – GMC
Heather Langston – ORGA Director
Sherrill Jones – Recorder

Not Present: Lee Moon

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

- I. **Call to Order** – At approximately 1:30 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 29 January 2008 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority (ORGA) to order.
- II. **Approval of Minutes for 27 November 2007 & 4 January 2008** – After a review of the 27 November 2007 and 4 January 2008 minutes, Mr. Edwards made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted.
- III. **Treasurer's Report** – Mr. Clymer reported total assets of \$959,485.38 and a total net income balance of \$610,872.70 for the period 1 July 2007 through 29 January 2008. A motion made by Mr. Nelson, and seconded by Mr. Bentley, to accept the report was unanimously approved.
- IV. **Old Business**
 - A. **Phase I: Construction Status** –
 1. **Sewer Update** - Mayor Bentley reported that he made a site visit with city staff and engineers to assess the sewer cap situation. The engineering firm is in process of drafting a letter to state that the upstream hydraulic system prohibits decreasing the size/height of the sewer caps. Those present questioned this rationale; consequently, Chairman Boylan asked Mr. Gray to follow-up with Mayor Bentley and the engineering firm in hopes of resolving this issue by the **February Board Meeting**.
 2. **McMillan Island privet removal** – Mr. Nelson reported that GMC students have removed considerable privet from McMillan Island. The removed debris is presently piled on the concrete trail. He has also contacted GCSU regarding the use of its industrial grinder for grinding the debris, which could then be spread as mulch on the bank and on the section of the natural trail walkway. Once all of the privet has been removed, Mr. Nelson will arrange for the use of GCSU's grinder. In the meantime, Dr. Langston will coordinate with Colonel Beer for the removal of the remainder of the privet.

3. **Approval of pay requests 5 and 6** - Dr. Langston presented two pay requests (#5 & #6) from Southern Wilderness, Inc. She noted that some of the work (grassing) for pay request #5 is not complete. Mr. Edwards made a motion to approve pay request #6. This was seconded by Nelson and unanimously approved.

Mr. Edwards expressed the desire to observe the grassing job, rather than inspect it after it is done; therefore, Chairman Boylan asked Dr. Langston to have Mr. Hammock of Southern Wilderness contact Mr. Edwards before proceeding and be advised that payment will be conditional upon contacting/coordinating with Edwards.

Mr. Nelson reported that GDOT provided stone for placement under the river bridge to armor the river bank. The placement of rock is in lieu of a fishing platform under the bridge, and will need to be put in place by Southern Wilderness.

4. **Grand Opening** - Mr. Edwards, Grand Opening Chair, reported that he has had three meetings with representatives from Milledgeville Mainstreet, the GCSU Museum and the CVB. Initially, they had hoped to coordinate the Grand Opening with Earth Day (April 17); however, after observing the site he realized grassing (lack of) was an issue; therefore, May 24, 2008 has been selected as the date. He reported that discussion with these groups focused on coordinating the Grand Opening with a major event that might include a sanctioned Chili Cook-Off, Arts & Crafts vendors, Food & Beverage vendors, and entertainment.

After a lengthy discussion, those present agreed that the Grand Opening should be on a much smaller scale with perhaps a bluegrass band, an opening ceremony, food and beverages, and an opportunity for the public to simply walk the trail. Mr. Edwards will share the Board's preference with the appropriate groups and provide a follow-up report at the **February Board Meeting**.

B. Phase II Status report

1. **Design contract** – Dr. Langston reported that GSFIC will allow Walden, Ashworth & Associates, rather than Breedlove Land Planning, Inc., to do the design work for Phase II. The design contract is currently being drafted.

2. **Concept report/meeting with GDOT** – Dr. Langston is working on the Phase II concept report. She and Russell Thompson met with members of GDOT and have resolved the issue of “logical termini” for Phase II of the Greenway and for the Green Street Extension. Chairman Boylan requested that Russell Thompson be asked to attend future ORGA Board meetings. Mayor Bentley will contact Mr. Thompson.

- C. **Security and Maintenance of the Park** – Dr. Langston reported that she is scheduled to meet with Mark Bell from the city police department on Monday regarding

security of the park, and that Sheriff Bill Massee has indicated that his department will provide support for security. Chairman Boylan reported that GMC is purchasing a 4-wheeler so that its security can monitor the trail. A follow-up report will be made at the **February Board Meeting**.

D. Light Poles and water lines for DNR loop – Dr. Langston reported that she has consulted with Greg Tyson of Georgia Power regarding light poles for the DNR loop of the trail. Mr. Tyson indicated that GP can provide the poles; however, its trucks cannot traverse the concrete trail. He is reviewing the situation. Dr. Langston will provide a follow-up report at the **February Board Meeting**.

E. 2004 and 2006 DNR Trails Grant Update – Chairman Boylan reported that he is meeting with Noel Holcomb, DNR Commissioner, at 8:00 AM Thursday in Atlanta regarding the denial of funds for the two DNR grants. Mr. Edwards, Mr. Nelson, and Dr. Langston will coordinate with Chairman Boylan regarding the information/strategy needed for the meeting with Mr. Holcomb.

F. Financial Spreadsheet Update – Dr. Langston presented the monthly financial spreadsheet noting that GDOT funds of \$235,105 have been reimbursed in full. Once again, she noted that \$200,000 in matching funds would be needed for Phase II. Chairman Boylan requested that she create a grant proposal to the Woodruff Foundation for approximately \$500,000 to cover the needed matching funds as well as security for the Greenway.

G. Garner Property – Dr. Langston reported that the Foundation (ORGF) is in the process of donating the Garner Property which will be part of Phase III. She will contact GA Power to request their property donation ASAP to avoid complications in developing the concept report for Phase III (everything north of river bridge).

V. New Business

A. Phase III monetary request – Chairman Boylan reported that he met with Chris Schepis of John Barrow's office and had been assured that ORGA will be among Congressman Barrow's top five budget requests for FY09. Dr. Langston directed board members to review the 2009 Appropriation Form in their packets. Item #4 (Previous Federal Funding) was questioned by several board members. Chairman Boylan asked Dr. Langston to contact Jim Marshall's office to determine previous federal funding and to ascertain how much detail is needed for Item #1 (Project Description) of the Appropriation Form.

B. Amphitheatre Committee – Dr. Langston requested that an Amphitheatre Committee be formed to make recommendations regarding the design of the amphitheatre. She noted that information regarding capacity, etc. is needed before Jim Hardin can proceed with a design. Chairman Boylan asked Mayor Bentley to work with Dr. Langston to determine community/corporate representation on the committee. Mr. Edwards & Mr. Hood volunteered to serve as representatives from the ORGA Board on the committee.

VI. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 1:30 PM in the conference room of the Old Capital Building.

VII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrill Jones, Recorder