

Oconee River Greenway Authority
MINUTES
07 February 2012

Members Present: Peter Boylan, Chairman; Bo Edwards, Eric Mosley, Marion Nelson, Indiren Pillay, Daniel Schay, Bubba Williams

Others Present: Heather Langston - ORGA Executive Director
Eric Wilkinson - GDOT
Colin Moore - ORGF
Sherrill Jones - Recorder

Not Present: Richard Bentley, Dennis Holder

Location: President's Conference Room in the Old Capital Building

- I. **Call to Order** – At approximately 1:30 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 7 February 2012 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority to order.
- II. **Introduction of New Board Member** – Chairman Boylan introduced and welcomed new board member Mr. Daniel Schay from the Department of Natural Resources.
- III. **Approval of 27 September 2011 Minutes** – After a review of the 27 September 2011 minutes, Mr. Nelson made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Mosley to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** – Mr. Mosley reported a net income balance of \$32,383.94 and a total liabilities & equity balance of \$1,726,572.35.
- V. **Old Business:**
 - A. **Phase II Status – SPLOST Funding** – Chairman Boylan reported that he has spoken to several members of the county commission regarding SPLOST funding. ORGA still needs \$150,000 from SPLOST to meet its need for matching funds. Chairman Boylan has secured the willingness of three county commissioners to accelerate SPLOST payments to generate the needed matching funds by June 30th. Once funding is secured, an RFP for Phase II can be let and construction could possibly begin by October.
 - B. **Greene Street Extension Status** – Director Langston reported she is waiting on Ms. Everett from GDOT to approve the letting of bids, and hopes construction will commence by May. Mr. Wilkinson reported that Ms. Everett has requested funds and is waiting on action from the next level of GDOT.
 - C. **Selma Irwin Property** - Mr. Edwards reported that Georgia Forestry has acquired the Selma Irwin property from the Georgia Department of Human Resources. The next step is to request a transfer of the property to ORGA. Mr. Edwards suggested

that the transfer of the Berry Property from DNR to ORGA could serve as a template. Discussion regarding how best to proceed ensued with Mr. Mosley making the point that the original purpose of the transfer should be made clear to Georgia Forestry and Mr. Nelson inquiring as to whether or not it would be beneficial to have a face-to-face conversation with the Forestry Director. Chairman Boylan asked Director Langston to draft a letter requesting the transfer of the property. It was agreed that Director Langston, Mr. Nelson and Mr. Edwards would hand deliver the letter to the Forestry Director in Macon and request his assistance.

D. 2009 DNR RTP Grant – Director Langston reported that the change request for the 2009 DNR RTP Grant (for Fishing Creek trail) was approved and that ORGF is willing to supply the \$25,000 matching funds requirement, if the Georgia Power land donation can be considered as an in-kind donation. Mr. Wilkinson stated that he did not believe the Georgia Power land donation would be considered; however, he volunteered to set up a meeting with GDOT and Federal Highway officials to resolve the question. Director Langston noted that the deadline for completing this project is December 2012.

As in September 2011, Chairman Boylan posed the question of priorities and the need for Phase II matching funds. Mr. Nelson then reminded those present of the motion approved at the 27 September 2011: *Contingent upon using the Georgia Power donation as matching funds to provide sufficient dollars for Phase II, then ORGA poses no objection to the Foundation providing matching funds (\$25,000) for the Fishing Creek Trail.*

E. Phase 3 Status - No change.

F. Woodruff Foundation Request – Chairman Boylan is optimistic regarding a request for 2013 funds.

VI. New Business

A. Tri-County EMC Foundation Grant Request – Director Langston reported that a grant request to the Tri-County EMC for \$10,000 for Phase II matching funds was rejected. Subsequently, Mr. Nelson spoke to two Tri-County Foundation Board members, who indicated that a grant request of this size is rarely funded. These grants are awarded quarterly; therefore, it was agreed that a request for a smaller amount for a specific project (perhaps signage) should be made.

B. Grassmann Trust Grant Request: due April 15 – Mr. Edwards suggested that a request for \$25,000 to support matching funds for the Fishing Creek trail should be made to the Grassmann Trust.

C. FY2011 SAO Audit – Director Langston reported that the FY2011 Audit once again reflected the need to delegate various tasks; however, with a staff of one this is not possible. She also provided a corrective action plan for meeting SAO deadlines. It seems she inadvertently sent reports to the wrong email address. By the time the error was discovered and data was correctly transmitted, it was past the deadline. Chairman Boylan

complimented Director Langston on the preparation of the material submitted for the audit.

D. OCMS Request Permission to Allow 12 Re-enactors to Camp at Greenway on October 19 & 20 During Deep Roots Festival – Following a brief discussion regarding possible ground disturbing activities and related issues, those present indicated approval of the Old Capital Museum’s request to allow Civil War Re-enactors to camp at the Greenway during the 2012 Deep Roots Festival. This request was granted with the understanding that Mr. Nelson will meet with the campers to establish ground rules and expectations prior to “set-up”.

E. ORGF - Mr. Moore reported the following:

1. November 17, 2011 - Fund Raiser at Jackson’s – This endeavor yielded approximately \$3,000.

2. Power Pole and Stage – The existing power pole is temporary. An estimate from Crawford Electric to replace the pole at the same location came in at \$20,000. Subsequently, a proposal to place the pole closer to Highway 22 was made for considerably less (\$5,000). This proposal would also involve relocating the stage area. Discussion evolved about building a permanent stage; however, the idea was rejected, as it would be too costly to construct a stage built to meet flood standards.

3. Arbor Day – February 17th – 11:00 - There will be an Arbor Day event at the Greenway during which five trees will to be planted. Attendees will be encouraged to bring a picnic lunch.

4. The Greene Mile and St. Patrick’s Day Celebration – March 17 – ORGF is working with the Life-Enrichment Center to raise money for their Music/Art program. It is hoped that this will be the beginning of an annual St. Patrick’s Day event at the Greenway.

5. Knight Foundation Grant – ORGF is working with Digital Bridges to write a grant proposal to the Knight Foundation for \$40,000 to be spread among various groups in Milledgeville. Options discussed were wheelchair accessible picnic tables or WiFi availability. WiFi availability was chosen.

F. Berry Property – Mr. Nelson reported that following the September meeting, he discovered that the Berry Property does have road access, as approximately 200 feet of the property is adjacent to the road.

G. Trash Problem – Mr. Nelson noted that trash along the access road to the Greenway and in the parking lot continues to be a problem. Director Langston will request a weekly pickup by GMC cadets.

H. Schedule Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority is scheduled for 1:30 PM on Tuesday, 27 March 2012 in the President's Conference Room of the Old Capital Building.

VII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:59 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrill Jones, Recorder