

Oconee River Greenway Authority
MINUTES
26 February 2008

Members Present: Peter Boylan, Chairman; Richard Bentley,
Bo Edwards, Marion Nelson, Lee Moon, Bubba Williams

Others Present: Jeff Gray – GMC
Jim Hardin – Walden, Ashworth & Associates
Dan Hammock – Southern Wilderness
Kraig Collins– GDOT
Len Burgamy - GDOT
Heather Langston – ORGA Director
Sherrill Jones – Recorder

Not Present: Troy Clymer, Dennis Holder

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

- I. Call to Order** – At approximately 1:35 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 26 February 2008 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority (ORGA) to order. He welcomed all who were present and introduced Jim Hardin of Walden, Ashworth & Associates and Dan Hammock of Southern Wilderness, Inc.
- II. Approval of Minutes for 29 January 2008** – After a review of the 29 January 2008 Minutes, Mr. Bentley made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Nelson, to approve. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted.
- III. Treasurer's Report** – In the absence of Mr. Clymer, Dr. Langston reported a current net income of \$656,270.23 and a profit/loss balance of \$957,077.09.
- IV. Old Business**
 - A. Phase I: Construction Status**
 - 1. Sewer Update** – Mr. Gray reported that he has been assured that the city will lower the sewer caps within the next four to six months. To accomplish this, Mayor Bentley reported that the trail may have to be cut in an effort to access pipes. If so, the city will repair the damage.
 - 2. McMillan Island Privet Removal** – Mr. Nelson reported that GMC cadets have spent hundreds of hours removing privet from McMillan Island. Mr. Gerald Bell has agreed to grind the stacked privet. This will be more expeditious and less complicated than coordinating with GCSU for removal.
 - 3. Pay Request and Questions for Phase I** – Mr. Hammock presented a pay request for \$37,762.50 for the completion of a Wooden Boardwalk Bridge, detachable wood bollards, and 715 LF of wooden fence. Mr. Edwards made a motion to authorize the pay request. Mayor Bentley seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Questions and concerns regarding grassing issues ensued. It was agreed that grass is needed as soon as possible to stabilize the area and to prevent erosion and standing water. Both Mr. Edwards and Mr. Nelson emphasized the need to prepare the ground before seeding. It was noted that the seed previously applied to unturned soil did not germinate. Mr. Edwards recommended fescue mixed with un-hulled Bermuda, rather than rye. Mr. Hammock agreed to these terms.

4. Grand Opening of Phase I - Mr. Edwards announced subcommittees and team captains for the proposed May 17, 2008 (May 24...rain date) Grand Opening of Phase I, and he reported that the scope of the Grand Opening has been modified. He met with the Foundation to form committees and captains for the following: correspondence (Lynda Stamm), marketing (Phillip Joiner), music (Frank Stevens), historical entertainment (Ellen Goodrich), food & beverages (Kathy Boylan), logistics (Heather Langston). There will be an opening ceremony (probably around 11:00 AM), educational activities, bluegrass music, food and opportunities to walk the trail. Dr. Therry Deal will be the Foundation Co-chair for the event.

Following a brief discussion, the consensus of those present was to ask the Foundation Team Captains to consider changing the date of the Grand Opening to May 3. Chairman Boylan asked that a firm date be determined by the March board meeting. He also asked board members to make recommendations for speakers for the Grand Opening.

B. Phase II Status Report

1. Design Contract – Mr. Hardin responded to various questions regarding the proposed Design Contract for Phase II. During the question/answer discussion, board members became aware that the design location of the amphitheater encompasses property not currently owned by ORGA. Mayor Bentley volunteered to explore this issue with the current property owner. It was also noted that the design contract does not include updated topography and geotechnical surveys, which may be needed.

Mr. Hardin noted that the contract includes twelve site visits before construction, plus eight during construction, making a total of twenty site visits.

2. GDOT Concept Report – Dr. Langston reported that she will address some problems regarding the GDOT Concept Report with Vonda Everett (GDOT) before the March meeting and will report at that time. She asked board members to review a "Project Location Map" which identifies the beginning of the Greene Street extension on Warren, rather than Elbert Street. This is one of the issues she will address with Ms. Everett.

C. 2004 and 2006 DNR Trails Grant Update – Chairman Boylan reported that he met with Noel Holcomb and his assistant regarding the DNR Grant funds. He anticipates a decision later today or tomorrow.

E. Financial Spreadsheet Update – Dr. Langston shared an updated financial spreadsheet for review. Chairman Boylan once again noted a shortage of almost

two hundred thousand dollars (\$197,547.32) in matching funds for Phase II, and reiterated the need for a Grant proposal to the Woodruff Foundation.

V. New Business

A. FY2009 Budget – Dr. Langston presented an FY09 General Operating Budget totaling \$80,912. Mayor Bentley made a motion to accept the proposed budget, which will be presented to both the city and county. After being seconded by Mr. Williams, the motion was unanimously approved. The city and county governments will be asked to contribute approximately \$40,000 each to support this budget.

B. Reschedule May 27th meeting to June 3rd – Board members agreed to reschedule the regular May meeting to June 3, 2008.

VI. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 1:30 PM in the conference room of the Old Capital Building.

VII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrill Jones, Recorder