

Oconee River Greenway Authority

MINUTES

26 May 2009

Members Present: Richard Bentley, Vice-Chairman; Bo Edwards, Dennis Holder, Marion Nelson, Bubba Williams, Joe Yeager

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

Not Present: Peter Boylan, Troy Clymer

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

- I. **Call to Order** – At approximately 1:33 PM, Vice-Chairman (VC) Bentley called the 26 May 2009 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority (ORGA) to order.
- II. **Approval of 24 February 2009 Minutes** - After a review of the 24 February 2009 Minutes, Mr. Nelson made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Williams, 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 balance of \$425,680.66 and a total liabilities & equity balance of \$1,517,962.26. On the Equity Balance sheet she noted that the reporting of two "retained earnings" lines was a mistake, which after meeting with the accountant David Grant, will be rectified for next month's report.
- IV. **Old Business:**
 - A. **Phase II Status**
 1. **Environmental Review** – Dr. Langston reported good news in that both the Archaeology and Ecology Reports have been revised and returned to GDOT for approval. The not so good news is that GDOT lost the Air studies. They have been resubmitted for the third time last week. The GDOT has reviewed the preliminary construction plans and has submitted them to soil & water for review.
 2. **ROW** – Approval for the right-of-way is still pending. Georgia Power has updated their required legal work.
 - B. **Greene Street Extension Update** – Mr. Bentley reported there has been no change in progress on the Greene Street Extension. Since the resignation of Commissioner Gena Evans there has been little communication from/with GDOT. Funding to complete the project is still in question; however, Mr. Bentley will meet with Congressman John Barrow tomorrow to discuss use of funds from the Congressional Stimulus Bill.
 - C. **Financial Spreadsheet Update** – Dr. Langston presented a financial update for May 2009 (see below), noting a \$129,242.19 reimbursement from GDOT. All paperwork for SPLOST reimbursement has been submitted; therefore, payment is pending.

May 2009

	Available Funds	Greene St.	Phase II, PE	Phase II, CST	Total Budgeted	Total Expended	Remaining
Source							
SPLOST (FY09)	415,358.52	94,747.63	42,637.33	276,000.00	413,385.96	0.00	415,358.52
GDOT (7629)	2,000,000.00		170,549.34	1,104,000.00	1,274,549.34	129,242.19	1,145,125.15
Woodruff 2004	65,580.70	5,252.37			5,252.37	5,252.37	63,328.33
Total Budgeted		100,000.00	213,186.67	1,380,000.00			
Total Expended		5,252.37	129,424.19				
Remaining		94,747.63	83,762.48	1,380,000.00			

- 1 – Amounts highlighted in blue are budgeted amounts.
- 2 – Remaining Woodruff funds (red) will be spent on educational signage.

D. 2004 DNR Grant Modification – Dr. Langston reported DNR approved the Concept Report for building the bridge and boardwalks from McMillan Island to Greene Street. It is now under environmental review, and she anticipates approval by next month.

E. Acquisition of Wilkinson County property from Lockerly – Dr. Langston shared a letter from Jim Garner, Lockerly Arboretum Director, in which Mr. Garner communicated the willingness of the Arboretum's Board of Trustees to lease a portion of its river frontage property in Wilkinson County to ORGA. Joe Magnum is currently preparing a five-year lease agreement for the two Boards to sign. Mr. Nelson stressed the importance of signage along this corridor so that paddlers will be able to identify property, noting that this site could be a designated stopover when paddling from Milledgeville to Ball's Ferry. Mr. Edwards proposed an onsite visit. Mr. Nelson concurred by stating that DNR law enforcement will accommodate the group. Mr. Nelson made a motion to support the preparation of a lease agreement for the Lockerly Property in Wilkinson County. The motion was seconded by Mr. Williams and unanimously approved.

Mr. Holder brought maps, created by RDC, reflecting Historic points of interest between Fort Defiance, near the Oconee River Bridge in Milledgeville, and Blackshear's Ferry in Wilkinson County. Mr. Holder has requested that streams and creeks also be identified on the map, and he asked board members to assist him in noting additional areas of interest to be included. He stated that a brief paragraph about each site should be added. Mr. Williams commented that GPS markers would be helpful and Mr. Bentley noted that sometime in the future an audio might be created to accompany the map.

V. New Business

A. FY2010 Budget – Dr. Langston presented a proposed operating budget for FY2010 noting that it is \$3,000+ less than the FY2009 budget. Mr. Holder made a motion to accept the proposed budget. It was seconded by Mr. Edwards and unanimously approved.

ORGA OPERATING BUDGET FY10

EXPENSE	AMT
Account	
Salary for Executive Director	\$47,472.00
Accounting fees	\$1,680.00
Insurance and Taxes	\$4,500.00
Retirement	\$5,200.00
Utilities: Lighting	\$5,300.00
Education and Training	\$1,000.00
Subscriptions/Membership dues	\$720.00
Travel	\$1,000.00
Marketing	\$1,000.00
Legal	\$300.00
Equipment	\$1,000.00
Supplies	\$500.00
Permits	\$500.00
Postage and delivery	\$300.00
Maintenance	\$5,000.00
Other	\$2,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$77,472.00

B. Bylaws – Dr. Langston asked whether changes are needed to the current bylaws. Mr. Williams asked if the board was in compliance with the Conflicts of Interest section (Article XII). Dr. Langston will communicate with Todd Blackwell to secure the proper forms, etc. for meeting these requirements. Those present agreed that the section on Board Membership (Article V, Sections 2 & 4) needs to be revised to reflect the inclusion of two community representatives on the board, as well as the Chairperson or "designee" of the County Commissions represented on the Board. Dr. Langston was directed to draft the applicable changes and present them at the next Board Meeting.

C. Phase III – Dr. Langston presented a map proposal for Phase III that includes the extension of the walking trail south of Little Fishing Creek as well as an amphitheater on land owned by GMC. It also includes a bridge across Fishing Creek and a parking lot. She has submitted a request for \$2.75 million from the government Stimulus Bill to construct this Phase III to Congressman John Barrow. She further urged board members

to assist her in identifying and writing other grants to support this phase of the Greenway construction.

D. Ocmulgee Heritage Trail Visit – Mr. Edwards reported that he is currently working with the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail to create a partnership with ORGA. A site visit at the ORGA Greenway is scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2009, at 10:00 AM. The group will meet in the parking lot at the River Bridge. All board members were invited to participate.

E. ORGF update - No report

VI. The next ORGA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 28, 2009 at 1:30 PM in the conference room of the Ennis Building.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrill Jones, Recorder