

Oconee River Greenway Authority

MINUTES

26 August 2008

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

Others Present: Jeff Gray – GMC
Ed Powelski – Milledgeville Lion's Club
Russell Thompson – City of Milledgeville
Jeremiah Shepherd – Lowe's
Shannon New – ORGF
Heather Langston – ORGA Executive Director
Sherrill Jones – Recorder

Not Present: Troy Clymer, Dennis Holder, Bubba Williams

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

- I. **Call to Order** – At approximately 2:00 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 26 August 2008 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority (ORGA) to order.
- II. **Introduction of Guests** – Chairman Boylan welcomed all who were present and asked the following guests to introduce themselves: Mr. Ed Powelski (Milledgeville Lion's Club), Mr. Jeremiah Shepherd (Lowe's), Ms. Shannon New (ORGF), Mr. Russell Thompson (City of Milledgeville).
- III. **Approval of 24 June 2008 Minutes** - After a review of the 24 June 2008 Minutes, Mr. Edwards made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Nelson, to approve. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** – In the absence of Mr. Clymer, Dr. Langston reported a current net income balance of \$13,340.19 and a total liabilities & equity balance of \$334,690.83. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Bentley. It was unanimously accepted.
- V. **Old Business:**
 - A. **Phase II Status**
 1. **Concept Report Approved** – Dr. Langston reported that the Concept Report for Phase II has been approved.
 2. **Environmental Studies Update** – Dr. Langston reported that an Environmental Studies Update is required for Phase II as the existing survey is out-of-date. She asked the board to approve dispersal of funds (from GDOT & SPLOST) totaling \$250,000 to cover the cost of an Environmental Studies Update (TRC), the Walden, Ashworth & Associates contract, a Topographic Survey, and a Geotechnical Survey. Mr. Bentley made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Mr. Nelson and unanimously approved.

3. Contract with Walden, Ashworth & Associates – Chairman Boylan noted a discrepancy on page 5, Section 2, of the Walden, Ashworth & Associates contract. On the first line of this section the concrete walkway is identified as being 10' wide, whereas in subsection 2.a. it is described as an 8' wide walkway. Dr. Langston further noted that clarification is needed on page 6 regarding "Deductible Alternates." Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the contract with amendments reflecting corrections to the areas identified above. Mr. Bentley seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

4. Proposal for Topographic Survey – Phase II - \$10,000 - Mr. Bentley made a motion to accept the proposal for a Topographic survey from Patrick & Associates. After being seconded by Mr. Nelson, the motion was unanimously approved.

5. Proposal for Geotechnical Services - Mr. Bentley made a motion to approve Preston Testing & Engineering's proposal for Geotechnical Services. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson and unanimously approved.

B. Greene Street Extension Status – Mr. Russell Thompson, Milledgeville City Planner, reported that the Concept Report for the Greene Street Extension has been completed, submitted to GDOT, returned for revisions and resubmitted. He anticipates a Concept Report Kick-off Meeting for the Greene Street Extension on September 3, at 11:00 AM. He also anticipates a preliminary construction cost of \$607,000 and noted this figure does not include any landscaping. Mr. Edwards commented that landscaping could most likely be achieved through efforts of local garden clubs, volunteers and plant donations.

C. Woodruff Grant – Chairman Boylan reported that he, a member of the Foundation and another member of the GMC staff met with Russell Hardin of the Woodruff Foundation. He left the meeting feeling that now is not a good time to request money from Woodruff; however, next year would be. Dr. Langston echoed this sentiment based on a phone conversation with Mr. Hardin.

Chairman Boylan indicated that he is now hoping to secure a Coca-Cola Foundation Grant and is currently working on a proposal for approximately \$50,000 to be used as a portion of the required matching funds for federal grants. Mr. Nelson expressed appreciation to Chairman Boylan for his continued efforts in seeking funding for ORGA.

D. DNR Grants Status

1. 2006 Grant Refund – Dr. Langston referred members to an email from Bryan Alexander in which he outlined required documentation for receiving funds (\$100,000) from the 2006 DNR Grant. In light of the fact that grant funds were put "on hold," Baldwin County paid the entire bill (\$224,000). She asked that the board approve a payment of \$100,000 to the county so that she could submit the cancelled check to DNR for reimbursement. Mr. Edwards made a motion to approve this request. After a second by Mr. Nelson, the motion was unanimously approved.

2. **2004 Grant Re-write** – Chairman Boylan reported that Dr. Langston is rewriting this grant to conform to grant guidelines. Once this task is accomplished funds will be forthcoming.

E. Financial Spreadsheet Update – Dr. Langston presented a spreadsheet that reflected all financial transactions for Phase I. In addition, she presented the following spreadsheet for August 2008 Construction Funds, noting an uncertainty regarding exact SPLOST funds available:

Construction Funds, August 2008									
	Available Funds	Phase I, CST	Add Alt. #7	Greene St.	Phase II, PE	Phase II, CST	Total Budgeted	Total Expended	Remaining
Source									
SPLOST (FY08)	536,000.00	142,453.41	124,000.00					266,453.41	0.00
SPLOST (FY09)	469,546.59			94,747.63	50,000.00	324,798.96	469,548.59	0.00	469,546.59
DNR (NRT-06(16))	100,000.00		100,000.00					100,000.00	0.00
GDOT (6690)	254,944.12	235,105.00					235,105.00	254,243.04	701.08
GDOT (7629)	2,000,000.00				200,000.00	1,800,000.00	2,000,000.00	9,621.38	1,990,378.62
Woodruff 2004	426,417.38	143,891.00		5,252.37			149,143.37	434,893.74	65,106.26
		358,061.75		5,252.37					

Total Budgeted				100,000.00	250,000.00	2,250,000.00			
Total Expended		754,758.20	224,000.00	5,252.37	9,621.38				
Remaining		0.00	0.00	94,747.63	240,378.62				
Shortfall									125,201.04 ⁵

¹ Remaining SPLOST FY08 funds (\$269,546.59, highlighted in green) have been added to FY09 available funds (\$200,000.00) for a total of \$469,546.59

² Amounts highlighted in blue are budgeted amounts

³ Remaining GDOT funds from Phase I PE were added to available Phase I CST funds (highlighted in pink)

⁴ Remaining Woodruff funds will be used to finance educational signage (highlighted in purple). \$71,582.62 was spent prior to construction.

5 Amount highlighted in red represents the shortfall of "local match" for the GDOT 7629 grant

F. Maintenance of Park – Chairman Boylan reported that he met with Marvin Bailey of CSH, that Mr. Bailey was forthcoming in terms of having a lot of equipment, was supportive of the Greenway, and wants to do something. Exactly what remains to be seen; however, Chairman Boylan left with a positive feeling. He asked Mr. Bailey to assume responsibility for maintenance of the trail during one week each month. He encouraged those present to approach Mr. Bailey, and specifically asked Ms. New to make contact.

G. Signage - Mr. Lee Moon presented a comprehensive power point presentation on signage within the North Oconee Greenway Trail in Athens, Georgia as well as examples of DNR signage used in state parks. His presentation included positive and negative aspects of various types of signage and related cost figures.

In addition, he noted that property owners may display "no swimming" signs even though access to the river cannot be denied. He also provided an example of a river hazard warning sign used by state parks. Mr. Edwards recommended use of the stock "Warning River Hazard" sign as well as "No Swimming" signs for the Greenway.

Dr. Langston asked if DNR could provide signs to be used at the DNR boat ramps. Mr. Moon will investigate this possibility. He will also determine whether or not Georgia Correctional Industries can create tri-color signs. At the request of Chairman Boylan, Mr. Moon agreed to develop a total plan for signage and make recommendations for types/numbers/potential cost, etc. at the next board meeting.

Mr. Nelson urged immediate placement of two "River Hazard Signs."

H. Map of River Walk – This item was put on hold until the next board meeting.

VI. New Business

A. ORGF Update – Foundation representative, Ms. Shannon New reported there was no ORGF meeting last month. She also reported that the Baldwin High School class of '69 is planning a huge 40th reunion in 2009. This group has accrued a sizable treasury and she anticipates it will donate several thousand dollars to the Greenway; hence the board needs to begin thinking of an appropriate "project" for which the group's funds may be used.

Dr. Langston reported that trashcans have been acquired; however, concrete pads are needed for permanent installation. Ms. New volunteered to contact Gus Pursley of Fowler-Flemister, and Mr. Shepherd volunteered to check whether or not Lowe's might be able to help with this.

B. River Cleanup – Mr. Ed Powelski of the Milledgeville Lion's Club reported that members of this organization are eager to get involved with river clean up. Mr. Nelson noted that October is typically the best time of year for clean up, and he volunteered to coordinate with Mr. Powelski and with the Environmental Science Club from GCSU. Mr. Shepherd indicated that this, too, is a project in which Lowe's could assist, in terms of volunteers. Dr. Langston, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Shepherd, and Mr. Powelski will work together to determine a date and coordinate this project.

C. Schedule Visit with State Representatives – Chairman Boylan expressed disappointment in the failure of local representatives in securing state funding for the Greenway. He asked Dr. Langston to contact local representatives to either schedule a date in October to meet with the ORGA Board and key members of ORGF or to invite them to attend the October ORGA board meeting. Mr. Nelson suggested that the board have a specific "target" (project with dollar figure) in mind before meeting with representatives.

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

VIII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrill Jones, Recorder