

Oconee River Greenway Authority

MINUTES

25 September 2007

Members Present: Peter Boylan, Chairman; Troy Clymer,
Lee Moon, Marion Nelson, Bubba Williams

Others Present: Jeff Gray – GMC
Kraig Collins - GDOT
Dale Higdon - Georgia Forestry Commission
Beryl Budd – Georgia Forestry Commission
Scott Talbot – Breedlove Land Planning
Dave McCauley – Lyman Davidson Dooley, Inc.
Heather Langston – ORGA Director
Sherrill Jones – Recorder

Not Present: Richard Bentley, Bo Edwards, Dennis Holder

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

I. Call to Order – At approximately 1:30 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 25 September 2007 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority (ORGA) to order. He welcomed all who were present.

II. Approval of Minutes for 28 August 2007 – After a review of the 28 August 2007 Minutes, Mr. Williams 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 a current checking/savings total of \$152,961.58. A motion to accept the printed report was made by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Williams and unanimously approved.

IV. Old Business

A. Phase I: Construction Status –

1. Sewer - Dr. Langston reported that Southern Wilderness is working on a cost estimate for lowering the sewer caps. The city presently estimates a cost of \$17,000 and the Mayor is willing to ask the city council to consider this in the FY2009 budget. The present FY2008 budget does not include this item; however, the Mayor and Water/Sewer Director have indicated that there may be unspent funds late in the FY2008 budget year that could be used for this project. There was consensus among those present to take a “wait and see” stance.

2. Grassing – Dr. Langston reported that fescue will be planted along the walkway as requested by Mr. Edwards. Chairman Boylan inquired about the clearing of privet along the trail. Mr. Nelson responded that Mr. Bell can bring a handcrew to cut the privet with pole saws, drag it to a cleared area, and mulch on site with a grinder. Chairman Boylan asked Mr. Nelson to get a price quote for the work from Mr. Bell. Once this is obtained, he will conduct a telephone vote.

B. Property Appraisal and Purchase Issues – Dr. Langston reported that there is nothing new regarding property issues.

C. Phase II Status Report

1. Environmental Studies – Dr. Langston reported that more work needs to be done for environmental studies for Phase II and that TRC is working on this. To complete the required studies TRC needs more detail regarding trail location. Mr. Williams asked that Breedlove provide a minimal list of the needed studies.

Chairman Boylan expressed concern regarding the unwritten agreement with the ORLT to allow a conservation easement that tracks the existing sewage line through the Battle property to the Garner property. He noted that this needs to be put in writing. Mr. Nelson volunteered to work with Dr. Langston to draft a written agreement.

Chairman Boylan also asked that GDOT put in writing the critical path required for acquisition of property. Once again, he expressed urgency in resolving the issue of acquiring the Garner and Georgia Power properties without running afoul of GDOT guidelines and jeopardizing federal funding, noting that Garner property owners want to sell the property in a timely manner. Mr. Nelson volunteered to communicate with the Garner property owners to assure them of ORGA's intent to purchase. Dr. Langston reported that Joe Mangum has indicated the Foundation is scheduled to purchase the property relatively soon. Chairman Boylan stated that he will communicate with Mr. Mangum.

D. 2005 DNR Grant Resolution – Dr. Langston reported that a resolution agreeing to the terms of a contract between the Georgia DNR and ORGA for the acceptance of a DNR Grant for \$100,000 was unanimously adopted through a telephone vote on September 11, 2007. Mr. Nelson made a motion to affirm the telephone acceptance of the resolution. It was seconded by Mr. Williams and unanimously approved.

E. 2007 DNR Grant Application – Dr. Langston recommended that the northern loop for Phase II be considered for the 2007 DNR Grant application. Those present supported this recommendation.

V. New Business

A. Fishing Platforms/Overlooks – Mr. Nelson reported that he and Bo Edwards met with Stanley Gray and that they agreed conclusively that previously selected locations for the fishing platforms were not suitable. He and Mr. Edwards viewed the entire area both by foot and by boat to earmark other locations for Southern Wilderness to consider. The platforms will have a dual use in that they will not only provide fishing access, but they will also serve as viewing stations for trail hikers. He reported that Southern Wilderness needs to know specifications for the platform design. He then shared a proposed DNR design which is a departure from the original design. After reviewing the DNR design, Mr. Williams recommended the use of screws instead of nails and eliminating the 3/8" gap between decking boards. Mr. Moon suggested the addition of a handrail at the end of the platform. Mr. Clymer recommended building two platforms using the DNR design and two using the original design. Those present accepted this recommendation, with the modifications suggested by Mr. Williams and Mr. Moon to the DNR design.

B. Breedlove Presentation – Scott Talbot of Breedlove Land Planning, Inc. presented the Phase II Design contract agreement for review. Board members examined the project list and add alternates' list as follows:

Project List:

- Wetland Boardwalk Trail (master plan #16). *Breedlove instructed to determine the minimum width for a shared (hike/bike) use trail and adjust design accordingly.*
- Amphitheater/Outdoor Classroom (modified from master plan #20) & Restroom building. *Breedlove instructed to adhere to master plan location rather than Phase I Activity Field location.*
- Pedestrian connection south of bridge
- Concrete Trail north of Hancock Street (master plan #31)
- Power House Overlook (master plan #27) *Breedlove instructed NOT to renovate structure.*
- Interpretive Trail and Deck
- Pedestrian bridge (master plan #33) *Breedlove instructed to make this item an Add Alternate.*
- Fishing Deck (master plan #34)
- Concrete trail north of pedestrian bridge (master plan #35) *Breedlove instructed to make this an Add Alternate as it may be funded through a grant.*
- Wetland Loop (master plan #36) *Breedlove instructed to make this an Add Alternate as it will hopefully be funded through a DNR grant.*
- Asphalt Trail - master plan #30
- Additional Interpretive Signage – *Breedlove instructed to make this an Add Alternate.*
- Utilities

Add Alternates:

- McMillan Island (master plan #14) – *Breedlove instructed to delete this.*
- Brickyard Interpretation (master plan #13)

In addition to items identified above, Breedlove was asked to add the following item to the Add Alternates' List:

- A road extending from south of the river bridge through the Garner property to Montgomery Street.

Chairman Boylan invited discussion regarding the extension of Franklin and Washington streets for the purpose of entering the Greenway. Mr. Nelson noted that there will be two entrances, one on Greene Street and one on Montgomery Street. There was consensus to eliminate both the Franklin Street and the Washington Street extensions from the master plan.

Chairman Boylan asked Dr. Langston to provide Breedlove with Phase I roadway details so that the Phase II roadway design (road from Greene Street to the present Phase I roadway) may be made accordingly.

Under *Category I: Preliminary Phase Tasks*, Dr. Langston questioned task # 13 number of site visits (page 8). Based on site visit needs for Phase I, she indicated that the number of visits identified in the Phase II agreement need to be increased.

Under *Professional Fees* (page 10), Dr. Langston noted that *Category III: Wetland/Stream Services Consultation* needs to be eliminated as it is already covered and that *Category IV: Permitting/Bidding Phase* seems to be rather high. Chairman Boylan asked Jeff Gray to work with Breedlove to “fine-tune” fees for this Category.

Under *Payment Schedule* (page 11) Dr. Langston asked that the timeline for payment be increased from monthly to 60 days.

Dr. Langston requested that the section (beginning on page 11) dealing with *Services excluded from basic scope* be revised.

On page 12, under Documents and Use of Electronic Media, Dr. Langston questioned why “all documents prepared by Consultant for the project shall remain the property of Consultant”. Mr. Talbot responded that this refers to electronic files and was written in light of previous problems with clients reproducing materials for other uses.

Dr. Langston also stated that the last paragraph (*Termination*) on page 13 will need to be reviewed by ORGA’s attorney.

C. ORGF Update – Dr. Langston reported that ORGF’s Fall Sports Memorabilia Fundraiser is scheduled for 6:00 PM on Monday, October 1, 2007, at 119 Chops. Tickets (\$15) were available for all those interested.

- VII. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 30, 2007 at 1:30 PM in the conference room of the Old Capital Building.**
- VIII. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrill Jones, Recorder