

Oconee River Greenway Authority
MINUTES
26 October 2010

Members Present: Peter Boylan, Chairman; Richard Bentley, Bo Edwards, Eric Mosley, Daniel Hill, Marion Nelson. Bubba Williams

Others Present: Heather Langston – ORGA Executive Director
Jeff Gray – GMC
Vonda Everett – GDOT
Kraig Collins - GDOT
Lee Carmon - NEGRC
Mark Patrick – City Engineer, Milledgeville
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 26 October 2010 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority (ORGA) to order.
- II. Introduction of New Board Member Daniel Hill** – Chairman Boylan introduced new board member, Daniel Hill, Park Manager of Hard Labor Creek, who will replace Joe Yeager. He then asked everyone present to introduce himself/herself to Mr. Hill. Following the introductions Chairman Boylan shared a letter to be sent to Mr. Yeager expressing appreciation for his 19 months of dedicated service to ORGA and for his recommendation of Mr. Hill as his replacement on the board.
- III. Introduction of Guests Lee Carmon and Mark Patrick** – Chairman Boylan welcomed Lee Carmon, Planning Director for Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, and Mark Patrick, Chief Engineer for the city of Milledgeville.
- IV. Approval of 28 September 2010 Minutes** - After a review of the 28 September 2010 Minutes, Mr. Nelson made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Mosley, to approve the August Minutes. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted. This was followed by a discussion of various points identified in the minutes:
 - \$427.37 in the money market account still needs to be moved.
 - Randall Hattaway still needs to be contacted re: possible pro bono bookkeeping services.
 - Dudley Rowe still needs to be contacted re: Grassman funds.
 - Mr. Nelson will follow-up with Sheriff Masee regarding the use of inmates for regular maintenance of the greenway. He informed the board that Sheriff Masee has approached Judge Thrower asking permission for flexibility in using inmates; however, he does not know if the Sheriff has received a response. The county jail administrator has assured Mr. Nelson that jail labor is available for intermittent

projects. Mr. Moseley reported that there is also the possibility of using a detail from the Macon Work Release Program. This, too, would be on an intermittent basis. Dr. Langston noted that GMC bullring students are keeping the trails blown on a regular basis.

- Chairman Boylan expressed concern regarding erosion on the north end of the DNR trail. Mr. Edwards reported that he has consulted with Louis Kaduk who recommended the use of rip/rap. Mr. Gray and Dr. Langston will coordinate a solution for this problem.
- WHIP grant – Mr. Moseley reported that ORGA has completed a WHIP grant application for the grant process that closes on November 15th.
- Arbor Day plans are on track.
- Dr. Langston reported there are no living descendants of the Berry family.
- ORGF is still on tap to present information to the public on December 9th at Digital Bridges. At that time they will unveil their strategic plan and new bylaws.
- Mr. Moseley distributed copies of the map for Bartram Forest.

V. Treasurer’s Report – Mr. Mosley reported a total of \$6,910.55 in the Century Bank & Trust account, a current net income balance of \$22,691.40 and a total liabilities & equity balance of \$1,551,901.34. Dr. Langston noted payment of \$136,081.05 for the McMillan Island Boardwalk project. Mr. Williams made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the treasurer’s report. It was unanimously approved.

VI. Old Business:

A. Phase II ROW Status – Dr. Langston expressed frustration regarding negotiations with Georgia Power attorneys in that they now want ORGA to carry insurance on the property as a condition of their donation. The insurer does not clearly comprehend Georgia Power's request; however, based on information provided the anticipated cost of the required insurance would be somewhere between \$5,000 and \$25,000 annually. Without the Georgia Power property ORGA would have to start over with the concept report for Phase II. Chairman Boylan asked Dr. Langston to set up an appointment to discuss the situation with Greg Tyson of Georgia Power as soon as possible.

B. Green Street Extension – Mr. Patrick, Engineer for the city of Milledgeville, reported the cost of the Green Street Extension project has increased significantly since the original plan which was for an expenditure of \$400,000. At this point in time estimates from the contractor are coming in at \$700,000+; therefore, the project concept will need to be modified and additional engineering work will need to be done. The new concept will eliminate sidewalks, curbing and landscaping. It will begin at Warren Street and extend west into the Greenway with an anticipated cost of approximately \$460,000. Hopefully, work will commence in June 2011. When the extension is completed, the present park entrance at the river bridge can be closed.

C. Resolution to Authorize the Acceptance of Terms and Conditions of the 2009 DNR RTP Grant – Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Nelson and unanimously approved.

WHEREAS, at the regular meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority of Milledgeville, Georgia held on 26 day of October 2010, a motion was made and duly seconded that the Oconee River Greenway Authority agree to the terms of the contract for a state grant between the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and Oconee River Greenway Authority for a grant of financial assistance to design and construct approximately 1 mile of trail near Lower Fishing Creek, authorize, Peter Boylan to execute said contract on behalf of Oconee River Greenway Authority of Baldwin County, and accept the grant provided for in said contract in the amount of \$100,000.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Oconee River Greenway Authority of Baldwin, County, Georgia that the terms and conditions of the contract between the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Oconee River Greenway Authority are hereby agreed to, that Peter Boylan is authorized and empowered to execute said contract and any subsequent amendments thereto on behalf of the Oconee River Greenway Authority, and the grant provided for in said contract in the amount of \$100,000 is hereby accepted to be used under the terms and conditions of said contract, and that sufficient funds have been designated to assure the acquisition and/or development, operations and maintenance of the facilities and/or delivery of services as identified in said contract.

VII. New Business

A. Multi-region River Corridor Study – At the invitation of Mr. Moseley, Ms. Lee Carmon of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC), provided information about a four regional commission (Heart of Georgia Altamaha, Middle Georgia, Northeast Georgia, Three Rivers) collaborative effort to conduct a feasibility study along the Ocmulgee and Oconee Rivers for the purpose of establishing a clearly defined multi-region river corridor connecting the two rivers. Phase I of this two-year project is a data-gathering year, to be completed by June 30, 2011. The second year (Phase II) will focus on developing the implementation plan for making the corridor a reality. Mr. Edwards pointed out that the Middle Georgia Regional Commission (MGRC) has already mapped the section of the Oconee through Baldwin and Wilkinson counties. Dr. Langston volunteered to contact Bob Rychel of the MGRC to determine ORGA's role with this project. Mr. Nelson asked that Dr. Langston request the presence of Mr. Rychel at the next ORGA meeting.

B. Georgia Forest Legacy Program – Mr. Mosley reported that he will email updated information about the Georgia Forest Legacy Program as it evolves. He also requested, and was given, permission to invite Reggie Lamar to attend the next ORGA meeting so that he might discuss the Legacy Program and how it might help ORGA with the future acquisition of properties.

C. TE Funding Application – Dr. Langston reported having attended a recent GDOT workshop for the TE funding application. TE grants for up to \$1million require a 20% match and are highly competitive. Both the City of Milledgeville and the Andalusia Foundation will also be applying. Each Congressional District's Transportation Board Member (Bobby Parham represents Baldwin County's district) prioritizes and selects the projects to be funded. Ms. Everett noted that previous project success is in ORGA's favor as this generally weighs heavily in the selection process.

Chairman Boylan shared a letter from Russ Hardin President of the Woodruff Foundation, which will not meet again until April 2011. In spite of the somewhat less than encouraging tone of the letter, Chairman Boylan recommended resubmitting a request for funding prior to the Woodruff Foundation Trustees meeting in April.

D. 2011 SPLOST – Chairman Boylan noted the next SPLOST will be voted on in March 2011 and that it is imperative ORGA be included so that matching funds for Phase II, as well as matching funds for a TE grant, will be assured. Mr. Edwards suggested including matching funds for DNR grant funding as well. Chairman Boylan asked Dr. Langston to calculate the dollar figure for discussion at the next board meeting as the request will need to be presented to city/county officials by January 2011.

E. ORLT to Monitor the Battle Property October 27 – Dr. Langston announced that ORLT's annual monitoring of the Battle Property will take place tomorrow (October 27th).

F. Lunch for City Crew November 17 – Dr. Langston announced that in an effort to express appreciation to the city crew responsible for keeping the grass cut at the Greenway a Chicken BBQ lunch will be provided on November 17th.

G. Schedule next meeting – The next ORGA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 30, 2010 at 1:30 PM in the President's Conference Room at the Old State Capital.

VIII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrill Jones, Recorder