

Oconee River Greenway Authority

MINUTES

28 October 2008

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

Others Present: Jeff Gray – GMC
Kraig Collins- GDOT
Shannon New – ORGF
Heather Langston – ORGA Executive Director
Allyson Bailey – Intern
Jim Hardin – Walden, Ashworth & Associates
Sherrill Jones – Recorder

Not Present: Dennis Holder, Lee Moon

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

I. Call to Order – At approximately 1:35 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 28 October 2008 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority (ORGA) to order.

II. Introduction of Guests – Chairman Boylan welcomed all who were present and recognized Jim Hardin of Walden, Ashworth, & Associates and Kraig Collins of the GDOT. He then asked Dr. Langston to introduce Allyson Bailey who is currently interning with Dr. Langston.

III. Approval of 26 August 2008 Minutes - After a review of the 26 August 2008 Minutes, Mr. Nelson made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Williams, to approve. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Mr. Clymer reported a current net income balance of \$189,790.09 and a total liabilities & equity balance of \$1,271,699.29, noting a miscellaneous payment to GDOT of \$2,838.97 from operating funds. Dr. Langston explained that this payment was the result of required changes in GDOT's payment procedures. The county, through SPLOST funds, will reimburse this amount.

Chairman Boylan asked for clarification of the line item on the balance sheet that reflects a \$300 Fixed Asset for the Thimural Land, and subsequently asked Dr. Langston to schedule a meeting with CPA David Grant for the purpose of gaining a better understanding the entire monthly financial report. Dr. Langston, Mr. Clymer and Chairman Boylan will plan to participate in this meeting.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Nelson. It was unanimously accepted.

V. Old Business:

A. Phase II Status

1. New Archaeology Report – Dr. Langston reported that the new archaeology report indicates a "finding of no historic properties affected" by ORGA's plans for

the Greenway. A memo reporting this finding has been submitted to GDOT for review.

2. Topographic Survey Complete – Dr. Langston reported that the topographic survey has been completed and that Patrick & Associates has been paid accordingly.

3. Slide Show and Preliminary Phase II plans - Mr. Jim Hardin of Walden, Ashworth, and Associates presented a Power Point slide show, which identified eight elements in the design of Phase II.

1. Wetland Boardwalk & Observation Areas
2. 10' wide concrete multi-use trail
3. Pedestrian Bridge over Tanyard Creek
4. Concrete drive extended from Greene Street Extension to Phase I drive
5. Additional parking along concrete drive
6. Wash-off Stations and lighting along multi-use trail
7. Greenway monument sign along Greene Street
8. Continued coordination on Greene Street extension design

Mr. Hardin also identified eight design options and alternatives for which he requested board direction. By using picture slides and design drawings, he led the board in a discussion of these design options:

1. Additional parking space location – There was agreement to add additional parking spaces in areas other than the existing parking lot.
2. Typical sections for drive and multi-use trail
3. Bridge across Tanyard Creek – Mr. Hardin suggested the use of a plastic coated welded wire to prevent small children from falling through the railing. He also suggested adding this to the Phase I Bridge to McMillan Island.
4. Boardwalk – Mr. Hardin suggested that the boardwalk follow the stream or at least cross over the wetland, noting that the walkway could meander around trees. With slides he provided examples of raised walkways. He also suggested a "fringe area boardwalk" option featuring a slightly raised wooden curb rather than handrails.
5. Observation areas – Visual examples of an elevated observation area with seating, as well as a seating area around trees and a pre-manufactured gazebo were given. Board members expressed a preference for an uncovered platform, rather than a covered gazebo.
6. Monument sign locations, type, materials, etc.
7. Greenway Monument sign along Greene Street – Mr. Hardin recommended a pre-manufactured concrete monument sign for the Greene Street entrance.
8. Emergency Beacons and Sirens – Board members indicated that these are not needed as Georgia Power already has a siren at the dam and will phone city officials when floodgates are opened, so that the Greenway may be cleared and closed in an expeditious manner.

Mr. Edwards, Mr. Nelson, Dr. Langston and Mr. Hardin will meet at 10:00 AM on November 10th to walk the area to determine the best locations for overlooks and boardwalks.

B. Greene Street Extension Status – In the absence of Russell Thompson, Milledgeville City Planner, Dr. Langston reported that she received, via email, the following information regarding the Greene Street extension from Mr. Thompson: “The revisions from the concept meeting have been addressed and submitted back to DOT. Waiting on their approval.”

C. Financial Spreadsheet Update – Dr. Langston presented the following financial spreadsheet for Phase II. Chairman Boylan asked Dr. Langston to investigate how matching funds might be phased in to cover the shortfall (\$179,389.11) in stages rather than all at one time.

October 2008							
Source	Available Funds	Greene St.	Phase II, PE	Phase II, CST	Total Budgeted	Total Expended	Remaining
SPLOST (FY09)	415,358.52	94,747.63	50,000.00	270,610.89	415,359.52	0.00	4415,358.52
GDOT (7629)	2,000,000.00		200,000.00	1,800,000.00	2,000,000.00	11,355.86	1,988,644.14
Woodruff 2004	68,580.70	5,252.37			5,252.37	5,252.37	63,328.33
		5,252.37					
Total Budgeted		100,000.00	250,000.00	2,250,000.00			
Total Expended		5,252.37	11,355.86				
Remaining		94,747.63	238,644.14				
Shortfall				179,389.11			

- 1 – Amounts highlighted in blue are budgeted amounts.
- 2 – \$431,419.30 from the Woodruff Grant was spent on Phase I construction and engineering.
- 3 – Remaining Woodruff funds will be spent on educational signage.
- 4 – Amount highlighted in red represents the shortfall of "local match" for the GDOT 7629 Grant.

D. Plan for Signage and Recommendations – No report was given; however, a committee to make recommendations for historic/informative signage was established. Mr. Nelson agreed to chair this committee. Steve Chambers from city council, Dr. Bob Wilson and Dr. Doug Oetter from GCSU will be asked to serve on this committee along with Dr. Langston, Mr. Nelson and Mr. Edwards.

VI. New Business

A. Visit with State Representatives - One Georgia Grant – Mr. Edwards reported a recent conversation with property owner, Dan Tomlin, regarding 60 acres of land that could possibly be used for an amphitheater. Mr. Edwards feels that Mr. Tomlin is at least interested in future discussion of this possibility. Chairman Boylan and Dr. Langston will work on a proposal to present to Representative Parham and Senator Grant.

B. DNR Trail – Mr. Edwards suggested using DNR grant funds to create a trail along Little Fishing Creek that would connect the Greenway Trail to the cemetery. This trail would utilize an existing trail belonging to the Animal Rescue Foundation. He indicated ARF officials are supportive of the concept. Chairman Boylan expressed concern about taking on responsibility for an additional project before completing Phase II, as he does not want to jeopardize or diminish efforts needed for the completion of Phase II. Mr. Nelson asked if there were time constraints regarding use of DNR funds. **It was decided that Dr. Langston would communicate with DNR officials to determine time constraints as well as other possible uses of DNR funds, and report findings at the November Board meeting.** In the meantime, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Nelson and Dr. Langston will explore ways/means of creating a trail along Little Fishing Creek.

C. Woodruff Visit – Chairman Boylan reported meeting with Russell Hardin of the Woodruff Foundation. Once again, Chairman Boylan is optimistic about eventually receiving up to \$100,000. Dr. Langston has already created a proposal to submit to the Woodruff Foundation in Spring 2009.

D. Driveway Repair and Trash Disposal – Mr. Nelson reported that the driveway has been repaired and trash has been collected and disposed. He noted that Dr. Doug Oetter of GCSU supervised 16 student volunteers in removing refrigerators, sofas, tires, etc. from the river, and that the county maintenance crew graded the road and patched washed-out areas.

E. ORGF Update – Mrs. Shannon New-Diaz of ORGF reported that the Lions Club recently assisted with river clean-up and plans to do so again in the near future. The Lowe's for Heroes Project, scheduled for November 1, will focus on staining fences and pouring concrete. She also reported that the Foundation wishes to donate a golf-cart to ORGA. Mr. Edwards made a motion to accept the cart. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson and unanimously approved. Mrs. New-Diaz also announced an ORGF fundraiser scheduled for 6:00 PM on Wednesday, December 3rd at 119 Chops. Cost per person will be \$60, and will include a 4-course wine pairing. There will be door prizes and Stan Strickland prints for sale. Only 100 tickets will be sold, as seating is limited.

VII. The next ORGA meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at 1:30 PM in the conference room of the Old Capital Building.**

VIII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
