

Oconee River Greenway Authority
MINUTES
30 November 2010

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

Others Present: Heather Langston – ORGA Executive Director
Bob Rychel – Middle Georgia Regional Commission
John Sunday – Georgia Forestry Commission
Gregg Kauffman – GCSU
Alissa Torchia – GCSU Graduate Student
Sherrill Jones - Recorder

Not Present: Dennis Holder, Bubba Williams

Location: President's Conference Room in the Old Capital Building.

I. Call to Order – At approximately 1:35 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 30 November 2010 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority (ORGA) to order.

II. Introduction of Guests – Chairman Boylan asked guests John Sunday, Greg Kauffman, Alissa Torchia, and Bob Rychel to introduce themselves.

III. Approval of 26 October 2010 Minutes - After a review of the 26 October 2010 Minutes, Mr. Nelson made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Moseley, to approve the October Minutes. Mr. Moseley noted that Mayor Bentley was present, not absent as well as present, at the October meeting. Chairman Boylan asked for follow-up information on the various items reported in the Minutes:

- Erosion on the DNR trail – Dr. Langston reported that GMC students have put in stone to address the problem; however additional stone is needed.
- Arbor Day – Chairman Boylan inquired as to whether or not there will be a conflict with what is happening at the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery on that date. Mr. Moseley reported that the Veterans' activity will take place on Memorial Day, rather than Arbor Day. Dr. Langston noted there is a possible conflict with Lockerly Arboretum's Arbor Day event; however, she will seek additional information.
- WHIP Grant - Mr. Mosley reported that WHIP grants will be rewarded at the end of February and that there have been 5,000 applicants. He further noted there will be a subsequent opportunity to apply for additional money.
- The next deadline for a Grassman Grant application is April 15th.

The motion to approve the Minutes, with the amendment suggested by Mr. Moseley, was unanimously accepted.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Mr. Mosley reported a total of \$9,470.62 in the Century Bank & Trust account, a current net income balance of \$32,132.65 and a total liabilities & equity

balance of \$1,554,461.31. Mr. Edwards 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 reported there has been no resolution in the Georgia Power negotiations; however, communication with Greg Tyson indicates optimism. Georgia Power still wants ORGA to provide insurance coverage; consequently Georgia Power may donate the cost of the insurance premium.

B. Green Street Extension Status – Mr. Bentley reported there is no new information.

C. TE Grant Status – Dr. Langston has written a TE grant for trails extending south of Fishing Creek and for a pedestrian bridge across Fishing Creek. The grant application is due by December 15th. She asked for volunteer readers before submitting the application. Mr. Edwards, Mr. Nelson and Chairman Boylan volunteered.

V. New Business

A. Multi-Region River Corridor Feasibility Study - Bob Rychel of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission discussed the two-year Multi-Region River Corridor Feasibility Study, noting the first year is one of fact finding and data gathering, and the second year will be one of data analysis. Of the 11 counties in the middle Georgia service area, nine are affected by the study. The ultimate objective is to establish a linked river corridor from the Oconee to the Ocmulgee. The completed study should assist governments and authorities in applying for grant funding. Dr. Langston expressed concern in that it appears as if this project is duplicating ORGA's mission. She requested that the study recognize the scope of ORGA's legal authority. Mr. Rychel anticipates reporting that ORGA has statutory authority to create trails along the Oconee River, and he assured the board he will coordinate with Dr. Langston so that the study will convey ORGA's purpose.

B. Forestry Legacy Program – John Sunday of the Georgia Forestry Commission provided information regarding conservation easements under the Georgia Forestry Legacy Program. This program allows the state of Georgia to hold conservation easements on sensitive property that has been donated or purchased. Chairman Boylan inquired as to whether this might be a solution to the Georgia Power property. Mr. Moseley expressed a desire to acquaint the board with the Legacy Program in that it may serve as another tool for land acquisition and usage by ORGA. He was asked to explore whether or not DNR would accept property and lease it to ORGA. He further stated that he will request support from the Legacy Program as ORGA moves south along the river. Mr. Edwards noted that the Wilkinson County property owned by Lockerly Arboretum has restrictions put on it by Corps of Engineers and that it cannot be sold for other purposes. His understanding is that amendments can be made as long as the original easement is protected.

C. ORGF – Gregg Kauffman, GCSU Government & Sociology Instructor and Coordinator of Civic Engagement Projects, currently teaches a graduate level course in non-profit management. With the assistance of graduate student Alissa Torchia, he explained that his current class has been developing a plan to assist ORGF in promoting the Greenway through fundraising and membership. Through their guidance the bylaws have been updated, social networking (website, Facebook, Twitter) has been established and a grant to the Knight Foundation to support a part-time digital marketing position for ORGF has been written. Ms. Torchia demonstrated the website. A community presentation to promote the Greenway will be held at Digital Bridges on December 9th.

D. Other – Mr. Moseley reported a plant nursery in Metter is going out of business and is a good source for acquiring trees that can be held until Arbor Day. Midway Elementary school, in partnership with the Georgia Forestry Commission, is planting 45 two-inch hardwoods later in the week. He also noted that his position at Bartram Forest will end in December; however, he will assume the role of community wildfire plan specialist and continue to reside on the Bartram Forest property.

E. Schedule next meeting – The next ORGA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 1:30 PM in the President's Conference Room at the Old State Capital.

VI. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrill Jones, Recorder