

Oconee River Greenway Authority
MINUTES (*unofficial meeting*)
26 April 2011

Members Present: Peter Boylan, Chairman; Richard Bentley, Bo Edwards, Bubba Williams

Others Present: Heather Langston – ORGA Executive Director
Jeff Gray - GMC
Mark Patrick – City Engineer
Vonda Everett - GDOT
Colin Moore - ORGF
Sherrill Jones - Recorder

Not Present: Eric Mosley, Daniel Hill, Dennis Holder, Marion Nelson

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

I. Call to Order – At approximately 1:36 PM, Chairman Boylan welcomed those who were present; however, due to the lack of a quorum, no official business was conducted.

II. Approval of 30 November 2010 Minutes – No discussion.

III. Treasurer's Report – Dr. Langston reported the money market account has been closed and the balance (\$400+) was transferred to the operating fund account.

IV. Old Business:

A. Greene Street Update – Mr. Patrick reported that Greene Street plans have been submitted to GDOT for review and it looks as if construction for the 60-90 day project should begin in July. Chairman Boylan asked that Mr. Patrick bring the approved plans to the next ORGA meeting.

B. Phase II ROW Status – Dr. Langston reported that the Phase II ROW status should be fully completed by this Thursday (April 28) and sent to the regional GDOT to be audited. From there the files will be sent to Atlanta for approval. Once all the paperwork is approved, ORGA should be able to let bids after 30 days (around end of June) with construction possibly beginning in August. Chairman Boylan asked Mr. Gray, Dr. Langston and Mr. Patrick to serve on a Bid Review Committee. Mr. Edwards volunteered to serve as well. In addition, Chairman Boylan asked Dr. Langston to chair the committee and to identify a GFIC representative to serve.

Chairman Boylan personally expressed appreciation to Mrs. Everett for her support and assistance throughout the project.

Dr. Langston reported that Georgia Power has finally agreed to remove the indemnity clauses and insurance requirement previously attached to the land transfer. Mr. Mangum is working on the closing documents that will transfer the Georgia Power property to ORGF and then from ORGF to ORGA.

C. Lockerly Property – Mr. Edwards reported that the Arboretum Foundation is selling the Wilkinson County river property to a private entity. While exploring this possible land acquisition, he has re-established a relationship with BASF and made an appeal for ORGA to utilize significant acreage along the river.

D. Berry Property – Dr. Langston reported that a request was made to DNR to donate the Berry Property track to ORGA for a game reserve and public use. She anticipates approval of the request by the DNR Board which is scheduled to meet in late May.

E. – Director's Report – Dr. Langston reported the following:

- The WHIP Grant application was not approved; however, the application will be reworked for submission during the next funding period.
- A letter expressing regret for not being able to honor earmark requests was received from John Barrow's office.
- The status of the transportation enhancement grant request should be known by the end of the month.
- At the request of Ralph McMullen Dr. Langston submitted a request for Phase II funding through an 11-county transportation SPLOST proposal. Mr. Bentley explained that each county was asked to submit an unrestrained list to the regional GDOT office, which will reduce the requests to a smaller, constrained list.
- Dr. Langston suggested that ORGA move forward with its master plan.
- Chairman Boylan expressed concern that ORGA has not received any state funding, even though other communities have received funding from the state for similar projects. He suggested that Senator Grant and Representative Kidd be invited to the next ORGA meeting to explore possibilities for state funding.
- Chairman Boylan asked Dr. Langston to set-up a meeting with Bobby Parham to discuss TE -Grant funding as soon as possible. Mr. Edwards asked to attend.
- The Selma Irwin property, which is held by Georgia Forestry, has a corridor leading to the river via Camp Creek. This property could become available to ORGA now that Georgia Forestry is no longer using it.

V. New Business

A. Purcell Property – Dr. Langston reported that Mr. Purcell has expressed a desire to donate his property along the river. Mr. Edwards volunteered to contact Mr. Purcell regarding this possibility.

B. Berry Farm Property – Dr. Langston is working on the acquisition of this property through DNR support. Prospects appear promising.

C. Adding Director from GCSU – Dr. Langston reported a recommendation from the GCSU study group (guided by Gregg Kauffman) to add a director from GCSU to the ORGA board. Chairman Boylan suggested selecting a board member with political influence, rather than an individual tied to a specific organization. Mr. Edwards commented that an association with GCSU could be considered a political association within the community. Chairman Boylan then suggested asking Rusty Kidd to serve on the board. Mr. Williams volunteered to broach the subject with Representative Kidd later today.

D. FY 2012 Budget request: City – Dr. Langston presented a copy of the FY2012 budget request submitted to the city, noting it did not include a raise for the director and eliminated expenses for an accountant. Chairman Boylan recommended that the \$1,680 saved from not having to compensate an accountant be added to the director's salary. Dr. Langston also noted that the budget included \$10,000 as a cost for cutting grass. Mr. Bentley volunteered to investigate the cost of having the city cut the grass.

E. ORGF - Colin Moore introduced himself as the new treasurer for ORGF. He reported that ORGF's bylaws have been amended, the organization has a new P.O. Box (1841), and it now has the ability to accept credit cards. Other new officers are David Grant, Chair; Shannon New-Diaz, Vice-Chair; and David Groseclose, Secretary. The organization sponsored a successful 2-day Earth Day event that grossed \$1,700 with an attendance of 150-200 for the Friday night concert and about 400 for Saturday activities. Z-97 was an extremely supportive partner. There are plans to have similar events on the second Saturday each month. Mr. Moore hopes to hear from the Knight Foundation by the end of May regarding funding for a digital marketing coordinator. Dr. Langston commended Mr. Moore and Rebecca Edwards for their work in coordinating the Earth Day Weekend events. Chairman Boylan asked Dr. Langston to draft a letter of commendation to be sent to both.

G. Schedule next meeting – The next ORGA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 31, 2011 at 1:30 PM in the President's Conference Room at the Old State Capital.

VI. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrill Jones, Recorder