

Oconee River Greenway Authority

MINUTES

27 April 2010

Members Present: Peter Boylan, Chairman; Bo Edwards, Eric Mosley, Marion Nelson, Bubba Williams

Others Present: Jeff Gray – GMC
Heather Langston – ORGA Executive Director
Callie Boteler - Intern
Sherrill Jones - Recorder

Not Present: Richard Bentley, Dennis Holder, Joe Yeager

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

- I. **Call to Order** – At approximately 1:44 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 27 April 2010 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority (ORGA) to order. Dr. Langston introduced new intern Callie Boteler, a GCSU graduate student.
- II. **Approval of 17 November 2009 & 26 January 2010 Minutes** - After a review of the 17 November 2009 and the 26 January 2010 Minutes, Mr. Edwards made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Williams, to approve. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted.
- III. **Treasurer's Report** – Mr. Mosley reported a total of \$144,860.80 in the Century Bank & Trust account, a current net income balance of \$26,855.32 and a total liabilities & equity balance of \$1,549,432.74. Mr. Edwards made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Nelson, to approve the treasurer's report. Mr. Mosley also reported that to satisfy the audit report he has been added to the bank signature card and is personally delivering checks to the bank. The motion to accept the treasurer's report was unanimously approved.
- IV. **Old Business:**
 - A. **Phase II Status**
 1. **PE** – Dr. Langston reported that as of March 31st all PEs for Phase II have been approved.
 2. **ROW** – Dr. Langston is still working with Ronnie Brantley, ROW coordinator from GDOT, on acquiring right-of-way for the Georgia Power donation of land. A cost estimate and appraisal should be completed within the next two months, Chairman Boylan pointed out the need to begin putting together an RFP now. He asked Dr. Langston to prepare this for approval at the June Board meeting.
 3. **Construction Plans** – Dr. Langston reported that construction bids are coming in under original cost estimates. As a result, Vonda Everett of GDOT has suggested including the addition of add alternates.

a. Amenities – Director Langston proposed the following amenities to consider as add alternates: bicycle racks, trash cans and benches, as well as an entry gate, similar to the GMC entry, with a plaque reflecting the Greenway's history.

b. Entry sign – Dr. Langston proposed placing a gate/sign at the Warren/Greene Street entrance to the Greenway.

c. Greene Street – Dr. Langston noted that when the Greene Street extension is completed a traffic signal will be installed; however, GDOT plans for the extension do not include this project until 2011. Dr. Langston suggested that ORGA consider including an entrance on Greene Street as an add alternate for Phase II. This would allow the closing of the HWY 22 entrance, which is a constant problem in terms of maintenance. Chairman Boylan expressed caution in terms of not jeopardizing funding for the Greene Street Extension and asked Dr. Langston to get approval from GDOT in writing before including a Greene Street entrance as an add alternate.

4. Line of Credit – Dr. Langston pointed out that a line of credit might be needed for Phase II. The Board directed Dr. Langston to contact Chat Daniel at Century Bank & Trust to set-up a line of credit similar to that established for use in Phase I.

B. Greene Street Extension Update – No report.

C. 2004 DNR Recreational Trails Grant modification

1. Construction contract – Dr. Langston reported that the Washington County Machine Shop has been awarded the bid. Construction will begin on May 3rd with an anticipated completion date of June 30th.

2. Change Order #1 – Dr. Langston reported that funds are available for a much-needed culvert in that \$120,000 was allocated for construction and the bid came in at only \$89,000. As a result, she is completing a change order to include the culvert as well as the removal of the middle overlook, which can later be incorporated when the wetland boardwalk is constructed.

D. 2009 DNR Recreational Trails Grant – Dr. Langston noted this grant will provide a trail from the Greenway, west along Fishing Creek, to ARF. The grant proposal is still in Atlanta waiting for environmental review approval. Required matching funds would come from the Woodruff Foundation and ORGF. Chairman Boylan emphasized the need to insure sufficient funds for Phase II before committing matching funds for other projects. Mr. Mosley pointed out that ORGA had already informed DNR that matching funds would be available; consequently, he is concerned about retracting this commitment. Mr. Edwards stated that he personally would commit to raising the funds necessary for the DNR match. He suggested seeking Grassman funds and will work with Dr. Langston in this pursuit. Chairman Boylan suggested seeking additional Woodruff Foundation funds, again noting the possibility of insufficient funds for Phase II.

E. Maintenance and Repairs

1. Boulders under bridge - Mr. Nelson reported that the county has placed additional stone, provided by GDOT, in areas where rock has been removed. Chairman Boylan noted that two drains from the trail into Fishing Creek also need additional stone. Mr. Nelson will investigate and determine what can be done about this.

2. Middle overlook – As noted above (#IV.C.2.) Dr. Langston recommended the removal of the middle overlook as an add alternate for Phase II. Its remains would later be incorporated in the wetland boardwalk.

3. Trash Pick-up - Mr. Williams has been successful in getting the county to pick up trash on Fridays. GMC is assuming responsibility on Mondays.

4. Flooding

a. Park Closure – Excessive flooding during this past year has resulted in frequent calls to both Dr. Langston and Mr. Nelson regarding the need to close the greenway; therefore, a new procedure has been established. Dr. Langston will now contact Jack Graham, City Public Works Director, who will assume responsibility for city personnel to close the park.

b. Trash Cans – Dr. Langston has postponed ordering trash cans in light of being able to include this among the add alternates for Phase II.

V. New Business

A. FY2009 Audit Review/Questions – Dr. Langston provided a written follow-up to the FY2009 Audit noting that these audit findings will not effect ORGA negatively.

B. FY2011 Budget – Dr. Langston presented a proposed operating budget totaling \$81,970.88 for FY2011. Interim City Manager Barry Jarrett has requested a meeting at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow to discuss the FY2011 budget. Dr. Langston asked if a board member might attend with her. Mr. Nelson volunteered to accompany Dr. Langston.

C. ORGF – Dr. Langston reported that the Foundation's executive committee met last week to regroup. A new president is being sought.

D. Schedule next meeting – The next ORGA meeting is scheduled for June 2010; however, a specific date was not determined. Dr. Langston will poll members via email to determine an exact date. Chairman Boylan asked that the Minutes reflect appreciation to Sherrill Jones for attending Board meetings to take notes and create a written record for the Authority.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrill Jones, Recorder