

Oconee River Greenway Authority

MINUTES (*unofficial meeting*)

29 June 2010

Members Present: Peter Boylan, Chairman; Richard Bentley, Marion Nelson, Joe Yeager

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

Not Present: Bo Edwards, Dennis Holder, Eric Mosley, Bubba Williams

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

I. Call to Order – Without the presence of a quorum, the meeting could not be officially called to order; however, those present discussed the following and reports for both old and new business were made:

- Chairman Boylan will write letters to board members stressing the importance of attending board meetings.
- Dr. Langston was asked to check on the status of the lease agreement with Lockerly. She will contact Jim Garner and ask to meet with the Lockerly Board of Trustees at its July Board meeting.
- Chairman Boylan suggested that Dr. Langston's contract be rewritten to include an additional week of vacation. This would be an effort to provide compensation for not receiving a pay raise this year. A letter outlining this recommendation will be sent to board members not present and it will be followed by a telephone vote. Those present voted to approve this recommendation.
- This past Saturday a man became stranded on a sand bar and several children struggled to get back to shore after an increase in water level on the river. Mr. Nelson explained that a siren at the dam is activated when there is a change in generation; however, the siren cannot be heard at the Hancock Street Boat Ramp. Chairman Boylan asked Dr. Langston to investigate the issue with Georgia Power to determine the person with whom he needs to discuss the problem. He has already sent an email message to Greg Tyson about the situation. Mr. Nelson noted there are two signs warning the public of river hazards, flash flooding, slippery rocks, swimming at your own risk, etc. He suggested submitting the sign language to the Attorney General's office to insure liability protection. Dr. Langston was asked to invite the Dam Operator to discuss the issue at the next ORGA Board Meeting.

II. Old Business Reports:

A. Phase II Status

1. ROW Appraisal Approved – Dr. Langston reported that the ROW appraisal has been approved by GDOT and that construction should begin in September

2. Meeting with Ronnie Brantley, GDOT ROW contact, Wednesday June 30

– Dr. Langston will meet with Mr. Brantley at 10:00 AM on the 30th. She noted it seems ORGA will need to formally make an offer to Georgia Power for the property. Georgia Power may refuse the offer and then donate it to ORGA. She will get exact details re: GDOT regulations when meeting with Mr. Brantley.

B. Green Street Extension Status - Mr. Bentley talked with the City of Milledgeville engineer today. Environmental and site review plans have been submitted to GDOT and he anticipates being able to let bids by the end of August or early September. Construction should begin by the end of the fall.

C. McMillan Island Connector Trail Status - Dr. Langston reported that 18+ days of rain have delayed the completion of this project. The boardwalk and pedestrian bridge are completed and the concrete for the trail should be poured on Friday.

D. Maintenance and Repairs

1. Clean-Up – Mr. Nelson noted there have been no big issues on the trail. There are littering issues, however, in the parking area, primarily under the bridge. The county allowed an inmate detail to work on the area last week. He also commended city crews for continuing to do a super job regarding grass cutting on a weekly basis.

2. Trimming the Privet – Dr. Langston has talked to Eric Mosley about Georgia Forestry personnel helping cut the privet that is encroaching on the trail. Mr. Nelson indicated that he, Mr. Edwards, and Mr. Mosley should be able to get the job done by coordinating with an inmate detail. Mr. Yeager suggested removal of the privet, rather than trimming it. Chairman Boylan asked Mr. Nelson to discuss securing trees from Georgia Forestry if the privet can be completely eradicated. Mr. Yeager volunteered to make contacts on this front as well.

III. New Business

A. ORGF – Dr. Langston reported that the Foundation is getting re-energized and has asked for a wish list for fundraising. She suggested that ORGF focus on fundraising for an amphitheater.

B. Schedule Next Meeting – The next meeting of the ORGA Board is scheduled for Tuesday, July 27, 2010 at 1:30 PM in the President's Conference Room at the Old State Capital.

IV. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrill Jones, Recorder