

Oconee River Greenway Authority
MINUTES
28 September 2010

Members Present: Peter Boylan, Chairman; Richard Bentley, Bo Edwards, Eric Mosley, Joe Yeager

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

Not Present: Dennis Holder, Marion Nelson, Bubba Williams

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

- I. **Call to Order** – At approximately 1:30 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 28 September 2010 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority (ORGA) to order.
- II. **Approval of 31 August 2010 Minutes** - After a review of the 31 August 2010 Minutes, Mr. Edwards made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Moseley, to approve the August Minutes. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted.
- III. **Treasurer's Report** – Mr. Mosley reported a total of \$40,938.46 in the Century Bank & Trust account, a current net income balance of \$12,863.83 and a total liabilities & equity balance of \$1,555,803.40. Director Langston noted during the recent annual state audit the auditor questioned why \$427.37 was left in a Money Market Account that no longer accrues interest due to the fact the balance is less than the required amount to earn interest. Chairman Boylan suggested moving this money to either the checking/savings account or to an existing 6-month CD. Dr. Langston also responded to questions about expenditures in the area of grounds and landscaping by explaining that a fire hose hung from a tree over Fishing Creek had to be removed and that there are monthly fees for porta-potty rentals. In addition, to reduce the cost for accounting, Chairman Boylan asked Dr. Langston to contact Randall Hattaway to determine if he would be willing to provide pro bono monthly bookkeeping service. Mr. Bentley made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Edwards, to approve the treasurer's report. It was unanimously approved.
- IV. **Old Business:**
 - A. **Phase II ROW Status** – After summarizing the situation with Georgia Power, Dr. Langston reported that Greg Tyson of Georgia Power is currently working with GP lawyers on the terms of the Right of Way agreement. She anticipates a positive resolution before the end of October.
 - B. **Green Street Extension**– Mr. Bentley reported that he recently learned the city has received only half (\$280,000) the grant money anticipated for the Green Street Extension. Chairman Boylan and Dr. Langston explained this is most likely a misinterpretation in that the city must submit pay requests before money is forthcoming.

Ultimately the city should receive \$400,000 from the grant, plus \$100,000 in matching funds from ORGA. Chairman Boylan suggested that Mr. Bentley contact Vonda Everett or Kraig Collins at GDOT for clarification.

Date/Time for Monthly Meetings - In another matter Chairman Boylan commented that the current date (last Tuesday of the month) and time (1:30 PM) for monthly board meetings seems to be a problem in that there are frequent absences among members; therefore, he asked if the board should consider changing the time and date for meetings. Mr. Moseley responded the present date/time are well suited to his schedule and that a change would be difficult for Mr. Yeager whose roundtrip driving for meetings takes six hours. Mr. Yeager then alerted the board to the fact he is seeking a DNR representative from a closer location to serve on the board, as the driving distance is an issue. Members present expressed a desire to continue with the present date/time for monthly meetings.

C. McMillan Island Connection Trail Status – Dr. Langston reported the completion of this project, and several board members commented on its success and appearance. After Mr. Gray inquired about the need for yellow caution tape at the top of the stairs, he was given permission to remove it.

D. Line of Credit – Dr. Langston reported speaking with Chat Daniel of SunTrust Bank regarding the establishment of a line of credit for Phase II. Mr. Daniel is eager to assist and will work with Dr. Langston to create a line of credit.

E. Woodruff & Grassman Grant Requests - Chairman Boylan reported that Dr. Langston has completed the application for the Woodruff Grant and is preparing to work on an application for a Grassman Grant. He asked that she contact Dudley Rowe for more information on this particular grant application.

F. City Budget Cuts for ORGA – Dr. Langston reported that after checking with the city the budget cut for ORGA is 10%, rather than 15%.

G. Maintenance of Greenway Trails – Mr. Edwards reported that Mr. Nelson spoke with Bryan Haines of GDOT and determined that GDOT cannot assist with park maintenance. Mr. Nelson is currently working with Sheriff Masee regarding the use of county prison details. Chairman Boylan once again volunteered GMC cadet assistance.

H. Trees for LRC – Mr. Moseley and Mr. Edwards stated they feel there is no huge need for trees to be planted along the perimeter of GMC's Leadership Reaction Course (LRC); consequently, the purchase of trees would be an unnecessary expense. Chairman Boylan inquired about the possibility of trees being donated by the Forestry Commission. Mr. Moseley responded that the Forestry Commission could provide seedlings; however, it would take time before they matured to provide a buffer for the LRC. Chairman Boylan expressed a desire to put seedlings in to enhance the area and noted GMC cadets can do this work. Mr. Moseley reported that he will work with Dr. Langston to apply for a WHIP grant to eliminate the invasive privet, which would then showcase some of the magnificent arbor trees on the site. Mr. Yeager pointed out that the privet removal will change the appearance of the site and that seedlings might be needed for erosion

prevention in the area. Chairman Boylan asked Mr. Moseley and Dr. Langston to coordinate with Mr. Gray regarding the privet removal and seedling planting. He also asked Mr. Moseley to plan for the next Arbor Day Celebration. Dr. Langston reported that Master Gardeners will have a workday on the second Saturday of October and they will plant several live oaks at that time.

I. Grant Request Priorities – Mr. Edwards reported that he, Mr. Moseley, Mr. Nelson, Dr. Langston and Mr. Aubrey Nelson met to set priorities for grant requests. The consensus from this group is to continue the trail from ARF to Memory Hill Cemetery. They also discussed the development of trails on both the Garner and Tomlin properties. Dr. Langston spoke with DNR regarding the possibility of grant funds being used for paved trails and was informed that DNR generally does not approve requests for paving. The next DNR grant request is due on November 30, 2010. Chairman Boylan stressed the importance of adhering to plans for Phase III as ORGA's top priority.

J. Berry Farm Property – Dr. Langston reported having communicated with Steve Friedman of DNR regarding the Berry Farm property. This conversation revealed DNR's lack of awareness of its ownership of the property; consequently Mr. Friedman seems amenable to donating the property to ORGA. The terms of the property deed require that the property be used for a plant and wildlife preservation. Dr. Langston will provide DNR with documentation regarding ORGA's mission and its proposed use of the property. Mr. Yeager noted this is a good time to request land donation from DNR.

V. New Business

A. Resolution to Authorize the Acceptance of Terms and Conditions of the 2009 RTP Grant – Dr. Langston asked that board members review the terms and conditions of the 2009 RTP Grant. Once they have had an opportunity to review the document, she will take a telephone vote to approve a resolution to authorize the acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant.

B. Bicycle Ride Across Georgia – Chairman Boylan noted that GMC will host this group for two nights in June (6-8).

C. Paddle Georgia – June 20-22 – Dr. Langston reported that approximately 300 canoeists will participate in Paddle Georgia in June. They will canoe down the Oconee with a stop in Milledgeville. Mr. Nelson is working to coordinate this event.

D. ORGF update – Dr. Langston reported that the Foundation is working with Greg Kaufman's GCSU Masters in Public Administration class regarding bylaws, strategic planning, etc. The class may want to make a presentation to the ORGA board in October.

E. Bartram Closing – It was noted that the Georgia Forestry Commission currently plans to close the Bartram Forest. If this happens, ORGA may want to consider seeking ownership of the Selma Erwin property also held by the Commission. Chairman Boylan asked Mr. Moseley to bring a map of the property location to the next meeting. Mr.

Moseley asked and received permission to also bring Reggie Lanier with the Forest Legacy Program to the October meeting.

E. Schedule next meeting – The next ORGA meeting is scheduled for 26 October 2010 at 1:30 PM in the President's Conference Room at the Old State Capital.

VI. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrill Jones, Recorder