

Oconee River Greenway Authority
MINUTES
24 February 2015

Members Present: Peter Boylan, Chairman; Bo Edwards, Sammy Hall, Liz Havey, Bo Kelly, Marion Nelson, Joan Scales, Jeanette Walden

Others Present: Dr. Heather Langston, Executive Director
Duane Clayton – GMC
Tom Glover – Bicycle Club & ORGF
Andy Davis - KMBB
Frank Baugh – City of Milledgeville
Hank Griffin – City of Milledgeville
Carter Shadden – Live Healthy Baldwin
Troy Clymer – Georgia Forestry Commission
Seth Hawkins – Georgia Forestry Commission
Chris Howell – Georgia Forestry Commission
Lin & Linda McKnight – Property Owners
Sherrill Jones – Recorder

Not Present: Bill Caldwell

Location: Conference Room – Sibley-Cone Library – Georgia Military College

I. Call to Order – Introduction of New Board Members: Mrs. Jeanette Walden, Ms. Liz Havey, Ms. Joan Scales - At approximately 1:30 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 24 February 2015 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority to order. He then welcomed and introduced new board members: Mrs. Jeanette Walden (replacing Mr. Bentley), Ms. Liz Havey (replacing Dr. Pillay) and Ms. Joan Scales (replacing Mr. Mosley).

II. Approval of 18 November 2014 Minutes – Prior to the meeting, Minutes for 18 November 2014 were distributed via email for board review. *Mr. Edwards made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hall and unanimously approved.* Mr. Nelson asked for clarification regarding additional funds to be appropriated by the county. Chairman Boylan indicated the county had approved additional funding of \$9,000. He also noted that Sheriff Masee has instituted procedures for use of the Pre-signed Trespass Form.

III. Treasurer’s Report - Director Langston presented the treasurer’s report with a total checking/savings balance of \$48,347.08 and total liabilities & equity of \$3,064,348.29. The Profit/Loss report was tabled after discovering a discrepancy with dates; consequently, no vote was taken to approve the treasurer’s report. Chairman Boylan announced that Ms. Havey has agreed to serve as Treasurer and will be meeting with him and Director Langston later in the week.

IV. Chairman’s Report- Chairman Boylan asked Director Langston to distribute proxy forms as well as notebooks containing ORGA’s Bylaws and other pertinent information. He also cautioned Board Members when speaking publicly about the Greenway, noting that personal opinions are often interpreted as being a stance sanctioned/approved by the ORGA Board.

V. Old Business

A. Phase II Construction Status –

1. Contract Close-out with Phillips Brothers Contracting, Inc. – Director Langston reported that all sub-contractors have been paid (\$94,883.30) and that sufficient funds (\$12,150) are being withheld to ensure that permanent vegetation and grassing is established during the Spring; therefore the balance due to Phillips Brothers was \$15,709.09. She secured GDOT approval to accomplish this. Chairman Boylan commended Director Langston for her diligence in overseeing the entire construction project and bringing it to a satisfactory conclusion.

2. Riverbank Stabilization – Director Langston displayed pictures of riverbank problems and two possible solutions.

Solution #1 – Construct a Gabion Wall at a cost of approximately \$30,000.

Solution #2 – Construct Toe Wood: “Burrito” Soil Lift at a cost of approximately \$8,000. This option utilizes a coir fabric to hold backfill, soil, hay bales and debris from fallen trees.

Director Langston recommended the Toe Wood option, noting that Phase II funds will not be available for use due to time limit constraints as permitting will take six to eight months. Funding can be secured from grants and SPLOST. Following a discussion of the options presented, it was determined that additional information is needed to assess the effectiveness of both options as well as other possible options. Director Langston, Mr. Nelson and Mr. Edwards will meet and report further at the next board meeting.

B. MPD Closing of Park Due to Flooding (*tabled*)

C. Southside Elementary School Property (*tabled*)

D. Selma Erwin

1. Coordination with GA War Veteran’s Home/Bicycling Club for Trailhead Facilities – Chairman Boylan reported a meeting with Mike Couch and Dennis Mize regarding the establishment of a fishing pier on the pond and improving the access road near the proposed pier. Director Langston has begun the coordination of plans with all stakeholders and feels it will be a great partnership.

2. Schedule Meeting for Selma Erwin Oversight Committee – Chairman Boylan reported that Ms. Havey and Mr. Glover have agreed to serve on an oversight committee for the property. Mr. Edwards and Mr. Nelson also volunteered to serve. Chairman Boylan asked Ms. Havey to form a committee and establish a meeting schedule.

E. TE Funds

1. Project Overview/Requirements – Director Langston displayed a “Process Flow Chart” for using TE Funds, stating that the grant application has been approved and the MOU executed. Mr. Nelson asked that she explain the project scope for the benefit of new board members. She then displayed a trail map for the project that will extend the Fishing Creek Community Trail 1.4 miles, noting that the existing trail, which is primarily on GMC property, will be paved. The plan is to connect the Greenway to Central City Park. The one million dollar TE-Grant requires a 20% match that will come from SPLOST funds. She explained that funds must be used immediately and that the

concept report is due in less than four weeks. A discussion regarding the notification of property owners affected by the trail and whether they should be consulted prior to contracting with Stantec to assist with the development of the concept report ensued. Mr. Nelson expressed concern about property owners learning about the trail through a public announcement. Mrs. Walden and Mr. Hall also spoke in support of identifying property owners and speaking with them prior to a public announcement. Everyone was in accordance that there should be an agreement between ORGA and the City to contact property owners as soon as possible. Chairman Boylan asked Mr. Nelson to put together a plan to communicate with property owners. Ultimately, those present supported submission of the concept report with the understanding that changes can be made to the report after it has been submitted.

2. Approve Contract with Stantec for Project Coordination, Concept Report Assistance, Preliminary Engineering, Right-of-Way Plans, Final Engineering, and Bidding – Director Langston requested approval to contract with Stantec, noting that the board members received the detailed contract for review prior to the meeting. *Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the contract with Stantec. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.*

G. ORGF Update – Mr. Glover reported that ORGF’s Annual meeting is scheduled for 6:00 PM on March 26. Once a location is determined he will email board members accordingly. He also noted that ORGF is seeking additional volunteers.

V. New Business

A. Extension of the Oconee River Greenway and Riverwalk South – Mr. Edwards reported that he is coordinating with Mike Couch to begin work on developing trails on the Central State Hospital property, noting that extensive surveying has already been done on the identified 500 acres. He conveyed that Mr. Couch needs a letter of intent from ORGA to submit to his Board. The letter needs to indicate that ORGA will accept the property for the development of trails. Once approved by the Central State Hospital Development Authority Board, it will go to the Governor for approval. *Mr. Edwards made a motion to create a letter to Mr. Couch asking that the property be transferred to ORGA. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion.* Following discussion during which Mrs. Walden asked that the motion be tabled; Mr. Hall expressed concern about acquiring more property to maintain; and Mr. Edwards explained the urgency involved in getting approval from the Governor, *the motion was unanimously approved.*

B. Blueway Trail to Connect Greenway to Points of Interest Along the Oconee River - Mr. Davis explained that a water trail is “hiking with a paddle”. One moves from point A to point B on water. He shared a short video illustrating the concept, which is promoted by the Georgia River Network’s Water Trails program. With three boat ramps along the stretch of the river between Sinclair Dam and the Central State Property, this part of the river is a natural for the Water Trails program. The only issue is safe portage around the rapids at Buzzard Island. Ms. Havey also expressed concern about safety at the Central State boat ramp, noting it is hazardous at this point. No action was taken on this report.

C. Oconee River Land Trust visit/annual monitoring of Battle Conservation Easement – Director Langston announced the recent receipt of a letter from the Oconee River Land Trust regarding its annual visit to monitor conservation on the Battle property. She inquired whether any board member wished to meet with the group and if so, to suggest possible dates.

D. Motion to amend O.C.G.A. § 12-3-402 to add *the President of Georgia College & State University or the designee thereof.* *Mr. Edwards made a motion, which was seconded by Nelson, to amend the law authorizing board membership for ORGA to include the President of GC&SU or the designee thereof. The motion was unanimously approved.*

E. Interim Vice-Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer - Chairman Boylan announced the appointment of Mr. Nelson as interim Vice-Chairman and Ms. Havey as interim Secretary/Treasurer.

VII. Schedule Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority is scheduled for 1:30 PM on 31 March 2015 in the Sibley Cone Library at Georgia Military College.

VII. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 3:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrill Jones, Recorder