

**Oconee River Greenway Authority**  
**MINUTES**  
**28 October 2014**

**Members Present:** Peter Boylan, Chairman; Bill Caldwell (2:20-3:00) Sammy Hall, Bo Kelly, Marion Nelson, and Eric Mosley (via phone: 1:30-3:00)

**Others Present:** Dr. Heather Langston, Executive Director  
Dr. Jim Lidstone - GCSU  
Duane Clayton – GMC  
Colin Moore - ORGF  
Sherrill Jones – Recorder

**Not Present:** Richard Bentley, Bo Edwards

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

**I. Call to Order** – At approximately 1:30 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 28 October 2014 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority to order.

**II. Approval of 26 August 2014 Minutes** – Prior to the meeting, board members were provided minutes for the 26 August 2014 meeting to review. *Mr. Hall made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson and unanimously approved.*

**III. Treasurer’s Report**

**A. Election of Secretary/Treasurer** – In light of Dr. Pillay’s resignation from the board a new secretary/treasurer is needed. *Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve Eric Mosley as Secretary/Treasurer for the Board. Mr. Hall seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.*

**B. Report** – Director Langston presented the treasurer’s report with a total checking/savings balance of \$49,848.16 and total liabilities & equity of \$3,463,034.37. She noted that the Total Liabilities figure was incorrect in that the Century Bank and Trust LOC figure should be zero. Chairman Boylan requested that the Treasurer and Executive Director correct the balance sheet and then email it to the board for approval.

**IV. Old Business**

**A. Phase II Construction Status -**

**1. Phillips Brothers Company Contract Close-Out** – Director Langston reported Phillips Brothers has completed their part of the construction of Phase 2 following a meeting during which Phillips Brothers credited ORGA with work that was not completed.

**2. Riverbank Stabilization** – Director Langston reported that Lorna Campbell has been hired to work with a hydro-engineer on stabilizing the riverbank. It will cost between \$40,000 and \$50,000. The permitting process for this work has begun.

**B. Security**

**1. MPD Closure of Park Due to Flooding** – Director Langston reported no update as she has not heard from the city attorney and the mayor has taken a leave of absence. The mayor-pro team was unable to represent the city at today’s meeting.

**2. Pre-signed Trespass Form** – Director Langston shared the Milledgeville Police Department’s *Trespass Letter of Authorization* form that she will pre-sign for use, noting it must be updated every six months. Mr. Hall suggested that she also determine whether or not a similar form might be used by the Sheriff’s office. Mr. Kelly reported that DNR also patrols the Greenway. Director Langston indicated she will coordinate with the city police, the sheriff’s office and DNR as well as GMC Security.

**C. Revision of Park Regulations and Hours** – Director Langston provided board members with a copy of the general park rules for Central City & Huley Parks. Chairman Boylan requested that she adapt the rules presented accordingly and present for approval at the next board meeting. She then asked that board members email suggestions and changes for consideration.

**D. Vote on amending GA Code to allow all board positions to have a designee and/or amend ORGA Bylaws to allow for appointment of proxy** – Chairman Boylan reported that he has already spoken to Representative Kidd about presenting legislation to allow the President of GMC to appoint a designee. He would now like permission to request that the Mayor also be allowed to appoint a designee. *Mr. Nelson made a motion to ask Representative Kidd to change the law to allow both the President of GMC and the Mayor of Milledgeville to appoint a designee. Mr. Hall seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.*

Chairman Boylan asked Director Langston to write a proposed amendment to the Bylaws to allow for appointment of proxy to be presented at the next board meeting.

**E. Recommendations for Open ORGA Community Representative Position** – Director Langston suggested that a younger female be identified to serve on the board. Dr. Langston reminded the board that Mr. Hall is to make the appointment. Mr. Hall indicated that he would appreciate recommendations from the board. He asked that the board submit candidates’ names and qualifications to him for consideration. Director Langston suggested that the ORGF Board also submit recommendations to Mr. Hall.

**F. Vote on Spending of 2011 TE Funds** – Chairman Boylan noted that ORGA has over a million dollars in TE funds for Phase III; however, at this point in time no group (city, county, colleges, Development Authority) will assume responsibility for maintaining the Fishing Creek Community Trail. Director Langston added that the concept report for these funds has not been submitted; therefore, construction could not begin on any project before 2021. If a concept report were submitted, the construction date could be moved up.

Chairman Boylan expressed frustration regarding a lack of commitment regarding maintenance. Mr. Nelson countered with three points:

1. When ORGA built the existing trails there was no contract or written agreement with anyone for long term maintenance;
2. During past ORGA discussions regarding the direction of the trail there was consensus to extend the trail along Fishing Creek and to eventually connect Central Park to West Campus; and
3. If a concept report is not submitted, then the issue becomes moot.

Director Langston commented that the original grant proposal was to extend the trail south and to include an amphitheater. She, too, expressed concern about the responsibility for maintenance, regardless of which direction the trail takes. Chairman Boylan remarked that the Fishing Creek Community Trail does not fit the original mission of ORGA.

Mr. Hall spoke to the Greenway tying into the Fishing Creek Community Trail in that he feels it affords a better opportunity for the city and Georgia College to partner with ORGA regarding maintenance, noting that the city would have to maintain any trail constructed on the city sewer easement. He also noted that the Development Authority has no funds to maintain trails and suggested that the CVB be brought into the discussion.

Mr. Nelson declared that both he and Mr. Edwards also feel the trail should be extended along Fishing Creek as this is of more value to the community. Dr. Lidstone assured the board that park maintenance will not be an issue if the Fishing Creek Community Trail is developed.

The discussion concluded with Director Langston stating she would write a concept report to move the trail south as outlined in the original grant proposal, and then if necessary alter it later.

**G. Request to GCSU President to Provide Financial Support for Current Trail/Park Maintenance via Dr. Jim Lidstone** – Dr. Lidstone reported that he met with President Dorman and Johnny Grant about the maintenance issue. GCSU has more of a stake in the section of the trail contiguous to its property. At this time the college could contribute to a user or impact study and could provide financial support for a master plan. He also noted that GCSU would like to have a representative on the ORGA Board.

Chairman Boylan indicated he will organize a meeting with the Central State Development Authority to explore possible support from that entity.

**H. Progress on Current Economic Analysis of the Greenway** - Director Langston reported that she met with GCSU's new Business School Dean who indicated a willingness to help with an economic analysis.

**I. Ownership of Existing Park** – After a brief discussion regarding whether to deed the park to the city, county, or GMC, there was consensus to not disturb the status quo.

*Note: General Caldwell joined the meeting.*

**V. New Business**

**A. Purchase of Southside Elementary School** – Chairman Boylan reported that the Baldwin County Board of Education (BOE) has agreed to sell the former Southside School buildings to a church and make available to ORGA the 5-10 acres between the church and the river. Mr. Hall asked if ORGA could purchase a small section of the property adjacent to the road so that there would be ingress, noting the Southside property is important as ORGA moves south in that it is contiguous to the Berry Farm property, which has no road access. Chairman Boylan believes the BOE will give the property to ORGA, if not TE funds could possibly be used to purchase the property. *Mr. Nelson made a motion to acquire the BOE property provided the property is available at minimal or no cost and if road access is included. Mr. Hall seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.*

*Note at 3:00 PM: General Caldwell departed and Mr. Mosley was no longer available via telephone thus losing the quorum and ending official business.*

**B. Vote on Board Resolution for 2014 RTP Grant Application** – Chairman Boylan expressed concern about Mr. Mosley submitting a grant proposal to the Knight Foundation for the “new Selma Erwin Park” without first receiving board approval. He noted that actions such as these may have negative legal consequences and therefore, reminded the

board that no individual board member can act on behalf of ORGA unless expressly approved to do so by the ORGA Board of Directors. Unfortunately, the conference phone connection with Mr. Mosley had dropped at this point in the meeting, so he was unavailable to respond.

Director Langston reported that now is the time to apply for a 2014 DNR RTP Grant. The application for the \$100,000 grant is due by November 26. As per Mr. Mosley's 23 October 2014 email, he suggested that Tom Glover of the Bicycle Club take the lead on drafting the grant document.. Mr. Mosley wrote, "*We believe that there will be ample funding through multiple sources in the form of cash or in-kind contributions to serve as match toward the project. The project will request \$100,000 toward the construction of a trailhead to include parking, signage, and construction of beginner trails to help meet a larger audience.*" Chairman Boylan asked that representatives from the Bicycle Club attend the next ORGA Board meeting and directed Dr. Langston to take the lead and gather information for this grant. She will submit a proposal at the next board meeting.

**C. Knight City Challenge** – Dr. Langston and General Boylan will submit a 150-word proposal(s) on behalf of ORGA for the Knight City Challenge due on November 14.

**VI. ORGF** – Mr. Moore reported the following:

- ORGF has been involved in events at the Greenway almost every weekend.
- The River Rat Day, sponsored by the Milledgeville Kiwanis Club on October 4, was a huge success with 50 boats in the water.
- Sixty volunteers participated in the most recent Keep Milledgeville/Baldwin Clean Day, which focused on the river along the Greenway.
- In collaboration with Main Street's First Friday events there have been monthly bike rides to/from the Greenway.
- ORGF will participate in Georgia Gives Day on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

**VII. Schedule Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority is scheduled for 1:30 PM on 18 November 2014 in the Sibley Cone Library at Georgia Military College.

*Note: Before going into Executive Session, Mr. Clayton suggested asking Georgia Power to solicit funds for ORGA through its customer billing process. No action was taken.*

**VIII.** At 3:20 PM, the remaining board members reviewed job performance evaluation with the Executive Director.

**IX.** 3:45: end of unofficial meeting

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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**Sherrill Jones, Recorder**