

**Oconee River Greenway Authority
MINUTES
18 November 2014**

Members Present: Peter Boylan, Chairman; Sammy Hall, Bo Kelly, Marion Nelson, Eric Mosley, Bo Edwards

Others Present: Dr. Heather Langston, Executive Director
Adam Heagy: Bicycle Club
Tom Glover: Bicycle Club
Duane Clayton - GMC
Colin Moore - ORGF
Carter Shadden - Recorder

Not Present: Richard Bentley, Bill Caldwell

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

I. Call to Order - At approximately 1:28 PM Chairman Boylan called the 18 November 2014 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority to order.

II. Approval of 28 October 2014 Minutes - Prior to the meeting, board members were provided minutes of the 28 October 2014 meeting to review. A motion was made to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

III. Treasurer's Report - Chairman Boylan provided information to the group. The balance sheet as of October 31, 2015 listed the total checking/savings as \$53,219.49 and total liabilities and equities at \$3,066,405.70. The county will provide ORGA with an additional amount of money for maintenance. PBC is owed money but there are plans to go through GDOT. Marion Nelson made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Bo Edwards seconded it.

IV. Old Business

A. Phase II Construction Status

1. Director Langston reported that ORGA has not accepted ownership of Phase II because of the liability issues (potentially dangerous part of the trail), which PBC has worked on but not completed. There are issues with the bridge and they have not backfilled a certain parts of the trail. Until PBC completes what is required in their contract, ownership will not be accepted. She (Heather) also indicated that they have not been consistent or professional in response. They are past due to pay subs an amount greater than \$80,000.00 and ORGA has not approved final payment this for that reason. Dr. Langston will request assistance from GDOT.

2. **Riverbank Stabilization** - Director Langston reported no change since last meeting. However, General Boylan expressed concern

over where the money would come from to pay for the construction. Dr. Langston explained that the money could be included in the Phase II construction funds, but the details as to the total cost of said construction has not been finalized.

B. Security

1. MPD Closure of Park Due to Flooding – Director Langston reported no update.

2. Pre-signed Trespass Form – Trespass Document to Sheriff Masee—Trespass document has already been taken care of. Boylan spoke with Sheriff Masee and he agreed to the terms.

C. Revision of Park Regulations and Hours – Director Langston provided board members with a draft of the general park rules. Discussion followed regarding changes to the firearms section to be consistent with Georgia firearms laws. Bo Edwards said that the law allows an organization to forbid them in an area, if that is the desire of the organization; however, Bo Kelly mentioned that criminals would not care about rules made by any organization. There are concerns about a person carrying a large weapon in sight that might frighten other park guests. Boylan suggested to delete the section and not address the matter at all, at least until it becomes an issue.

D. Recommendations for Open ORGA Community Representative Position – Sammy Hall discussed receiving a recommendation from Dr. Lidstone regarding the representative position (Liz Havey and Spellman were the two persons). Liz Havey has worked with Dr. Langston very closely and she regarded her as an asset to the community. Mr. Hall indicated a desire to speak with both individuals, but said he wanted to know who they were prior to talking with them. Previously, ORGA discussed having a place for someone specifically from Georgia College, but no one arrived at a conclusion. A few members mentioned the Bicycle Club as a valuable asset and wanted their participation on the board. Mr. Hall asked if it would be possible to appoint *ex officio* members as a means of bringing more ideas to the table. Dr. Langston remarked that such members were part of the Oconee River Greenway Foundation and that the ORGA meeting were open to the public.

E. Southside Elementary School Property—Chairman Boylan visited the property again with Heather. The price for the land, as Dr. Price told, was \$5,000 for this 2-acre property. Heather showed a map on the screen for the entire board to see. It was the opinion of Chairman Boylan that the land was essentially worthless and he asked if the land could be donated.

F. Knight Cities Challenge Proposal(s) —Heather displayed maps on the screen. The Knight Cities Challenge wanted proposals that contained ideas and what could be learned. She discussed her grant proposals, one of which would lead to the creation of an amphitheatre along the trail. She was not specific in where it would be built. Colin Moore is working on grant proposals that would extend the trail, and the amphitheatre could potentially be built on

this extension. The final decision will be made January 15, 2015. Chairman Boylan suggested placing the amphitheatre near Greene Street, on the Gumby (?) property, as a means of developing Milledgeville. Hall, who has spoken with Gumby, knows he probably doesn't intend on selling. However, Rusty (Kidd?) might be someone who could discuss with Mr. Gumby. General Boylan will talk to Mr. Kidd.

G. 2014 DNR RTP Grant Proposal — Dr. Langston introduced Tom Glover and Adam Heagy of the Bicycle Club. As Tom explained, a trailhead facility would be constructed along Vinson Highway (which would include a composting toilet, changing facilities, and so forth) because it would allow people to spend the day out on the trails. A donation box and maps would also be a part of this structure. Signage along the trail would mark mileage. Adam discussed the current trail at Selma- Irwin as not being user-friendly, particularly for new bikers, and damage to the land done by cyclists. It was proposed that a beginner friendly trail would be designed close to Laying Farm Road. Another key aspect of this grant proposal is the partnerships behind it, which would include the Bike Club and ORGF. This application is due November 26. The resolution allows Heather to apply for the grant. Eric Mosley made a motion to approve the resolution and Marion Nelson seconded it. Chairman Boylan signed the resolution, and the recorder did as well. Heather will send a letter to Eric Mosley of the Georgia Forestry Commission to follow up on GFC's partnership.

H. TE Grant — Dr. Langston has not submitted the concept report. A consensus of the Board could not be reached on the report and so it was tabled until the next meeting.

I. ORGF Update — Colin reported that there were donations amounting to \$2,700.00 and \$3,000.00 in prizes received by ORGF during GA Gives Day. Colin also reported that all members of the ORGF board participated.

V. New Business

A. Colin Moore discussed the extension of the Fishing Creek Trail and the stairs going down on Burke Street. Colin has spoken with the owners of the property and has contacted the GMC Foundation regarding one piece that belongs to them. Jeff Gray (GMC Foundation) asked him to make an offer, and they agreed upon selling it for \$7,000. This purchase could be used potentially in future grant proposals. Colin asked the board if this was a reasonable price for the amount of land and location. Hall asked if the other three pieces of land have been considered, and suggested that Collin wait until the rest of the landowners respond or check all the prices of the land prior to making a final offer. Boylan asked that ORGF and ORGA be on the same page prior to any final decisions, as the Foundation must be consistent with the Authority. Boylan felt that the purchase of the land would be unwise because there are a number of options regarding the trails and extensions. The land would still be there, so there is no need to rush the decision. However, Heather brought up that there may be some sense of urgency in buying the land, but the validity of this claim is dubious.

B. Eric Mosley mentioned approaching the Forestry Commission and asking for a donation of the northern part of Bartram Forest for trail extension. Chairman Boylan asked for a presentation to be made for the next meeting.

C. Heather mentioned a problem with hunters at Selma, and deferred to Adam to discuss the problem. Adam encountered a hunter along Selma who was unaware that the trail was not part of Bartram and an employee saw another individual later on. Chairman Boylan suggested placing signage along the trail and would pass the issue along to Sheriff Massee.

VII. Schedule Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority is scheduled for 1:30 PM on 27 January 2015 in the Sibley Cone Library at Georgia Military College.

VIII. Adjournment -- 2:55 PM end of meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

Carter Shadden, Recorder
Heather Langston, ED