

Oconee River Greenway Authority
MINUTES
24 February 2009

Members Present: Peter Boylan, Chairman; Richard Bentley, Bo Edwards, Dennis Holder, Marion Nelson, Bubba Williams, Joe Yeager

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

Not Present: Troy Clymer

Location: President's Conference room in the Old State Capital building.

- I. Call to Order** – At approximately 1:35 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 24 February 2009 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority (ORGA) to order.
- II. Introduction of New Board Member** – Chairman Boylan introduced and welcomed Mr. Joe Yeager DNR designee to replace Lee Moon on the ORGA Board.
- III. Approval of 27 January 2009 Minutes** - After a review of the 27 January 2009 Minutes, Mr. Nelson made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Williams, to approve. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted.
- IV. Treasurer's Report** – In the absence of Mr. Clymer, Dr. Langston reported a current net income balance of \$305,253.17 and a total liabilities & equity balance of \$1,404,816.77.
- V. Old Business:**
 - A. Phase II Status** – Dr. Langston reported the following:
 - Both the Air and Noise Reports have been approved.
 - The Archaeology Report has been reviewed by GDOT and DNR (Historic Preservation Division), and after minor revisions the final report will be submitted by March 30th.
 - Drawings for Phase II Preliminary Plans for the Greenway have been reviewed by the GDOT Project Manager, the GDOT area Engineer, and GDOT Utility. Minor editorial revisions/corrections have been requested. Walden Ashworth & Associates will make the requested changes and submit plans to the city of Milledgeville and to the Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Committee. After receiving and addressing any concerns from these groups, final plans will be ready. Chairman Boylan asked Dr. Langston to obtain an updated copy of the Phase II Plans from Jim Hardin, so that she, Mr. Edwards and Mr. Nelson may confirm that the plans are acceptable.
 - The right-of-way waiver request has not yet been approved. Vonda Everett is investigating the status of this request.

B. Greene Street Extension Status – In the absence of Russell Thompson, Milledgeville City Planner, Mayor Bentley reported that the city is still waiting on approval of the Concept Report for the Greene Street Extension. Chairman Boylan asked that Mr. Thompson contact him if approval has not been given within the next two weeks. Chairman Boylan further reported that he left the recent meeting with GDOT Commissioner Gena Abrams feeling reasonably optimistic regarding the future of the Greene Street Extension. He asked Dr. Langston to determine whether or not \$300,000 of GDOT funds designated for the Greenway may be used for the Greene Street Extension. Mayor Bentley noted that his office is currently making a list of projects for which national Stimulus Plan funds may be used and that he will insure the Greene Street Extension is included.

C. Financial Spreadsheet Update – Dr. Langston reported the February 2009 financial update reflects no changes from January 2009.

| February 2009 | | | | | Total Budgeted | Total Expended | Remaining |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Source | Available Funds | Greene St. | Phase II, PE | Phase II, CST | | | |
| SPLOST (FY09) | 415,358.52 | 94,747.63 | 42,637.33 | 276,000.00 | 413,385.96 | 0.00 | 415,358.52 |
| GDOT (7629) | 2,000,000.00 | | 170,549.34 | 1,104,000.00 | 1,274,549.34 | 11,355.86 | 1,263,193.48 |
| Woodruff 2004 | 68,580.70 | 5,252.37 | | | 5,252.37 | 5,252.37 | 63,328.33 |
| Total Budgeted | | 100,000.00 | 213,186.67 | 1,380,000.00 | | | |
| Total Expended | | 5,252.37 | 11,355.86 | | | | |
| Remaining | | 94,747.63 | 201,830.81 | 1,380,000.00 | | | |

- 1 – Amounts highlighted in blue are budgeted amounts.
- 2 – Remaining Woodruff funds (red) will be spent on educational signage.

The FY2010 Budget needs to be submitted to the county by 20 March; therefore, Dr. Langston will disseminate a proposed budget for approval via email.

D. DNR Grant Modification – Dr. Langston has received verbal approval (Bryan Alexander) for the boardwalk proposal from McMillan Island to Greene Street. She also reported that the Foundation (ORGF) has agreed to provide matching funds for this project. Mr. Nelson made a motion to accept \$25,000 from ORGF to use as matching funds for the DNR Grant. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Dr. Langston noted that Mr. Yeager has agreed to assist with this project and is currently working on the required paperwork.

E. Proposal from Micro Technology Consultants, Inc. - Dr. Langston met with Joel Stringer of Micro Technology Consultants, Inc. regarding the cost of security cameras for the Greenway. She anticipates a proposal within the week and will send a summary via email to board members.

F. Maintenance Issues –

1. Trees – Dr. Langston reported that 70 trees, donated by T-Bone nursery, were recently planted by Lake Country Master Gardeners. The Master Gardeners will maintain their designated area. Mr. Edwards indicated the other trees could be watered on an as needed basis. Dr. Langston expressed concern about city water usage; consequently, Mayor Bentley volunteered to alert the Water Department.

2. Water Line – Dr. Langston reported that lids for several of the above ground water access boxes are broken; consequently, she recommends the removal of some of the access boxes. The city of Milledgeville has accepted ownership and responsibility for maintenance. She spoke with Jack Graham about the problem and he directed her to contact Barry Jarrett. Mayor Bentley volunteered to consult with Mr. Jarrett as well.

3. Mowing – Dr. Langston noted there seems to be confusion regarding city/county mowing based on incorrect information. Mayor Bentley and Mr. Williams agreed to clarify the situation with Mr. Wood (city manager) and Mrs. Minton (county manager).

G. Sign Committee – Mr. Nelson recommended installation of a message board instead of a temporary sign. He provided a photocopy example of a two-sided, weatherproof, graffiti-resistant board on which trail maps, rules, pertinent notices, /messages could be displayed. Mr. Edwards made a motion to accept the proposal for a large sign as described above. Mr. Williams seconded the motion; however, no vote was taken as the cost estimate presented by Mr. Nelson was for a medium size board. As a result, the motion was tabled, pending the determination of the exact cost. Once the cost is ascertained, a telephone vote will be taken.

VI. New Business

A. Acquisition of Wilkinson County Property from Lockerly – Chairman Boylan reported meeting with the Lockerly Arboretum Foundation Board to discuss the acquisition of river property (approximately 80 acres) owned by that Foundation. It is a landlocked piece of property accessible via the river or through property owned by Robbie Attaway. The Foundation Board seemed interested in donating the property to ORGA; however, no official action was taken. Chairman Boylan reminded the board (ORGA) that if ORGA receives the property, it will need to determine how the property will be used. Mr. Nelson recommended that it be made accessible to boaters and campers and be improved only for primitive use. It could be touted as an intermediate stop along the river route from Milledgeville to Ball's Ferry in Wilkinson County. Mr. Edwards noted that the property contains a Corps of Engineers' approved easement, and suggested that a group from Baldwin & Wilkinson counties explore the property via land access through the Attaway property in March. Chairman Boylan asked Dr. Langston to organize this trip. Mr. Nelson volunteered to contact DNR to explore the possibility of taking a group down the river to Ball's Ferry, with a stop at the Lockerly property, in

April. Chairman Boylan will follow-up with Dudley Rowe (Lockerly Board Chairman) regarding property acquisition.

B. Flood Notification – Dr. Langston spoke to Georgia Power representative Greg Tyson regarding flood notification. She was told to coordinate notification through Smokey Veal. Mr. Veal suggests having a county 911-operator contact Dr. Langston as soon as the first floodgate is opened. It was agreed that both the sign (No Entry, Park Closed, Flood Conditions) and chain for prohibiting access to the park be housed at the Milledgeville Fire Station. Once Dr. Langston is contacted by a 911-operator, Milledgeville police will be notified so that all trails can be checked.

C. FY2008 Audit Report – Dr. Langston shared the FY2008 Audit Report and addressed the following:

- Overpayment of Executive Director's Salary (\$1,200) – This error originated with the accountant. To correct the mistake the Executive Director will be underpaid by \$1,200 during FY2010.
- Segregation of Duties – The CPA (David Grant) will now sign all reconciliation statements.
- Travel Expenses – This mistake occurred before the FY2007 audit. Since then, the appropriate travel expense report has been completed and properly signed each time expenses have been incurred.

In looking ahead, Dr. Langston expressed the need for an administrative assistant, and will address this issue in more detail during a future meeting.

Under the advisement of Mr. Gray, the Board recommended that Dr. Langston decline participation in the Comprehensive Lost Control Program. She will, however, meet with with personnel from the Department of Administrative Services during a scheduled visit to GMC.

VII. The next ORGA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31, 2009 at 1:30 PM in the conference room of the Ennis Building.

VIII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrill Jones, Recorder