

Oconee River Greenway Authority

MINUTES

25 March 2008

Members Present: Peter Boylan, Chairman; Richard Bentley,
Bo Edwards, Marion Nelson, Lee Moon, Troy Clymer

Others Present: Jeff Gray – GMC
Kraig Collins– GDOT
Heather Langston – ORGA Director
David Grant – ORG Foundation
Sally Holmes – Recorder

Not Present: Bubba Williams, Dennis Holder

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

- I. **Call to Order** – At approximately 1:35 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 25 March 2008 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority (ORGA) to order. He welcomed all who were present.
- II. **Approval of Minutes for 29 January 2008** – After a review of the 26 February 2008 Minutes, Mr. Bentley made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Nelson, to approve. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted.
- III. **Treasurer's Report** – Mr. Clymer reported a current net income of \$617,335.53 and a total liabilities and equity balance of \$1,008,251.00.
- IV. **Old Business**
 - A. **Phase I Status:**
 1. **Construction Update** – Dr. Langston reported that she spoke with Jim Hardin and they will do a final walk through on 26 March at 1PM to determine if all items from the Southern Wilderness punch list have been addressed. General Boylan recommended that the balance of the \$90,000 on the contract be withheld until all items are completed. Chairman Boylan also suggested that GMC cadets begin clean-up in the area immediately. The grass looks good but there are a few bald spots and Gerald Bell is responsible for removal of the privet.
 2. **Grand Opening of Phase I** – Mr. Edwards reported that the Grand Opening of Phase I is scheduled for 03 May 2008. The Foundation is currently making final preparations for the event. There are Captains for each phase of the grand opening event. Phillip Joiner is handling marketing and plans various print and radio spots. Dr. Langston is handling logistics and reported that Georgia Power will be installing a temporary transformer to power the event. Dr. Langston asked Jeff Gray of GMC if there is a possibility of using their portable PA system and platform. Kathy Boylan is coordinating food for the event and Gerald Bell will be setting up his BBQ. Dr. Langston will be seeking approval from the Health Department. David Grant reported on the “Cherokee Lottery” being planned for the event. The lottery will be in the same format as earlier

years which funded the Masonic building downtown. Mr. Grant has already secured some donations and will handle the details for the fundraiser. T-shirts have arrived and are available for \$5.00. The event will also feature various exhibits, re-enactments, music and other entertainment. Mr. Edwards suggested the main events be located around the first observation platform. Permission has been obtained to use the adjoining Washington County EMC property for overflow parking. EMC will not be held liable for any incidents during the use of the property during the event. Possible speakers were identified: Congressman Barrow, Noel Holcomb, Senator Johnny Grant, William Thompson, Mayor Bentley, Bubba Williams. Chairman Boylan and Dr. Langston will issue invitations to potential speakers. The Foundation will send invitations for the Grand Opening.

B. Phase II Status Report

1. Design Contract – Dr. Langston reported that Jim Hardin has completed the lighting and design aspects and the surveys still need to be completed.

2. Property Update – Mayor Bentley reported that he will work through a personal contact to help secure the purchase of the land needed before Phase II can begin construction. Dr. Langston repeated a caution from Vonda Everett regarding language used during any talks about potential purchase of land. Chairman Boylan described the GMC property could be secured if the property currently being pursued cannot be acquired. There was also discussion of making Washington County EMC an offer for their property.

3. Barrack’s Retention Pond – Mr. Gray reported that the GMC retention pond can be moved to allow for the building of the amphitheater. There are no outstanding issues to be resolved and no new pond would have to be added for water runoff.

C. 2004 and 2006 DNR Trails Grant Update – Chairman Boylan reported that he was in receipt of a letter from Angela Alexandra and the \$235,000.00 is safe and there are no problems or issues with the matching funds and that the \$100,000.00 DNR grant is now available. Chairman Boylan faxed a copy of the letter to Noel Holcomb.

D. Financial Spreadsheet Update – Dr. Langston shared an updated financial spreadsheet for review. She reported the only changes are with the Woodruff money due to some missing receipts. She also requested that each board member please respond to her emails to authorize payments.

E. Georgia Power Property Donation - Dr. Langston reported that everything is currently on track with the land donation and needs to be completed by the April meeting.

F. Garner Property Donation – Dr. Langston reported the land donation has been secured.

V. New Business

A. Greene Street – Mayor Bentley reported for Russell Thompson that the information had been sent to Congressman Barrows regarding the \$75,000 shortfall for design. And he is currently seeking ways to make it adhere to requirements. The property needs bike paths and has drainage issues. Phase II cannot continue without Greene Street. Dr. Langston reported that the environmental studies need to be completed and has requested updated maps. She suggested that mapping cost be taken out of the \$100,000.00 that has already been pledged to the Greene Street extension project. Mayor Bentley made a motion to allow Dr. Langston to pay the current invoices up to \$6,000.00 without prior board approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moon and passed unanimously.

B. FY 2007 Audit – Dr. Langston reported the audit showed no specific findings but did make recommendations for future situations. David Grant made several suggestions regarding the handling of financial matters in the Executive Director's office in order to avoid any future potential conflicts.

C. Woodruff Foundation application - Dr. Langston is preparing an informal inquiry letter to the Foundation in anticipation of the grant application which is due September 1, 2008. Chairman Boylan suggests speaking to Russell Hardin with the desires of the board members to meet with Woodruff in order to make an informal presentation before the grant application is submitted.

IV. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, 2008 at 1:30 PM in the conference room of the Old Capital Building.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally J. Holmes