

Oconee River Greenway Authority

MINUTES

28 July 2009

Members Present: Peter Boylan, Chairman; Richard Bentley, Troy Clymer, Bo Edwards, and Joe Yeager

Others Present: Jeff Gray – GMC
Eric Mosley - GFC
Heather Langston – ORGA Executive Director
Shannon New-Diaz - ORGF
Sherrill Jones – Recorder

Not Present: Marion Nelson, Dennis Holder, Bubba Williams

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

- I. **Call to Order** – At approximately 1:33 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 28 July 2009 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority (ORGA) to order. Mr. Eric Mosley of the Georgia Forestry Commission was introduced and recommended to replace Mr. Troy Clymer, who is leaving. Mr. Bentley made a motion to appoint Mr. Mosley to the ORGA Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Edwards and unanimously approved. Mr. Edwards subsequently made a motion to approve Mr. Mosley as Secretary/Treasurer of the Board. Mr. Bentley seconded the motion and it, too, was unanimously approved.
- II. **Approval of 26 May 2009 Minutes** - After a review of the 26 May 2009 Minutes, Mr. Bentley made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Edwards, to approve with the following correction on page 2, Section D, under Old Business: *change “Greene Street” to “Fishing Creek”*. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted.
- III. **Treasurer’s Report** – Mr. Clymer reported a current net income balance of \$437,151.36 and a total liabilities & equity balance of \$1,531,579.23. Once again, negatives under Liabilities & Equities were noted, with Dr. Langston explaining that these are a result of an accumulation of accounting errors since 2002.
- IV. **Old Business:**
 - A. **Phase II Status**
 1. **PE** – Dr. Langston reported the Air Report has been approved. GDOT has returned the Archaeology for the third time for revisions. Mr. Bentley suggested contacting GDOT Board member Bobby Parham. Chairman Boylan asked Mr. Bentley and Dr. Langston to meet with Mr. Parham to present a list of areas to be resolved. He further suggested they follow-up with Mr. Parham within five days of meeting with him.
 2. **ROW** – Dr. Langston reported that ROW revision requests are currently in the works.
 3. **Construction Plans** - Current construction plans for Phase II were on the table for board members to review; however, Dr. Langston cautioned board members about

suggesting changes as any changes or modifications would cost both time and money. She estimated ground breaking will be at least six months out.

B. Greene Street Extension Update – Mr. Bentley reported that he has emailed Congressman Barrow's office requesting an update on the Greene Street Extension; however, he has not received a response. Consequently, there is basically no change since the May Board meeting. Chairman Boylan has received a letter from Jim Marshall regarding support for grant funding and Mr. Bentley has personally made a grant funding request to John Barrow. Mr. Bentley will follow-up through city attorney Jimmy Jordan.

C. Financial Spreadsheet Update – Dr. Langston presented a financial update for July 2009 (see below). Reimbursements from both GDOT & SPLOST were noted. She also reported that another request for SPLOST funding from the county has been made, and that Funding for Phase II is secure.

July 2009							
	Available Funds	Greene St.	Phase II, PE	Phase II, CST	Total Budgeted	Total Expended	Remaining
Source							
SPLOST (FY09)	415,358.52	94,747.63	42,637.33	276,000.00	413,385.96	7,002.76	408,355.76
GDOT (7629)	2,000,000.00		170,549.34	1,104,000.00	1,274,549.34	129,242.19	1,145,125.15
Woodruff 2004	65,580.70	5,252.37			5,252.37	5,252.37	63,328.33
		5,252.37					
Total Budgeted		100,000.00	213,186.67	1,380,000.00			
Total Expended		5,252.37	136,426.95				
Remaining		94,747.63	76,759.72	1,380,000.00			

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

D. 2004 DNR Grant Modification – Dr. Langston reported that the requested amendment change to the 2004 DNR Grant has been approved, and that paperwork has been signed to include a time extension. Construction on the bridge from McMillan Island to Fishing Creek should begin by next month.

E. Lease of Wilkinson County Property from Lockerly – Mr. Edwards presented the Lease Agreement, created by Joe Mangum, for the Lockerly property. Copies were available for board members to review. Dr. Langston would like to submit the agreement to the Attorney General's office as soon as possible; therefore, she asked board members to read and respond to her as she needs their approval before submitting it. Mr. Edwards stated that he has read it and approves.

Chairman Boylan suggested that a sketch map, to include the location of the Lockerly property, be created and circulated to the media and the public. Mr. Edwards noted that the map presented by Dennis Holder during the May should fulfill this purpose. This map, with recommended changes/additions, is being created by the RDC. Chairman Boylan asked Dr. Langston to contact Mr. Holder to insure the inclusion of the Lockerly Property on this map. He also asked that Dr. Langston, Mr. Holder and Mr. Edwards design a sign to be posted for the property. Mr. Yeager suggested consideration of a "concessionaire's agreement with related fee" for groups leading kayakers and campers down river. Dr. Langston asked Mr. Yeager to supply a sample agreement. Chairman Boylan asked that Dr. Langston explore this possibility with Oconee Outfitter's owner, Dave Groseclose.

F. ORGA By-Laws – Dr. Langston presented revised By-Laws with three changes:

- Article IV – *Purpose* – This section was broadened to reflect language in HB #596.

The corporate purpose and the general nature of the business of the Authority shall be the acquisition or establishment of projects involving greenspace which borders, or is contiguous to greenspace which borders, the Oconee River or any impounded waters thereof in any county or counties within the jurisdiction of the authority consistent with but not limited to one or more of the goals specified in paragraph (3) of Code Section 36-22-2, their maintenance and protection; and their development or restoration. The authority's purpose shall also be to engage in such other activities as it deems appropriate to promote us of any project by means of promoting tourism and educational, entertainment, recreational, athletic, or other events within the state and the state by persons using or visiting any project. (12-3-403)

- Article V, Section 2 – *Composition of the Board* – This section was revised to include language of HB #596.

The Board members of the Authority shall consist of the Commissioner of Natural Resources or the designee thereof, the director of the State Forestry Commission or the designee thereof, the Mayor of Milledgeville, the president of Georgia Military College, and the chairperson of the governing body of each county which is in the geographic jurisdiction of the authority or the designee thereof, and two residents of each county which is in the geographic jurisdiction of the authority who have training or experience in biology, botany, or environmental science and who shall be appointed by the chairperson of the governing authority of such county.

- Article V, Section 4 – *Quorum and Vote Requirements* – The wording was changed from “3/5 board members” to “a gathering of the majority of board members”.

A gathering of the majority Board members holding office at any given time shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting. No action may be taken by the Board without the affirmative vote of three of the five Board members. No vacancy on the Board shall impair the right of the quorum to exercise all rights and perform all duties of the Authority.

Mr. Bentley made a motion to approve the changes identified above as well as the replacement of the previously approved amendment to Article IX, Section 2 – *Depositories and Signatures* (6/27/2006). The motion was seconded by Mr. Edwards and unanimously approved.

All contracts, deeds and other instruments shall be signed on behalf of the Authority by the Chairperson after such agreements have been approved by the Authority; provided, however, that the Executive Director, in consultation with the Chairperson, shall be authorized to determine services necessary for the operation of the Authority and to make expenditures of up to \$2000 (TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS) per transaction, on behalf of the Authority. Expenditures made by the Executive Director pursuant to this Article shall be reported as provided in Article VII of these by-laws. Unless authorized or ratified by the Authority, or unless expressly provided for in these by-laws, no member, officer, agent or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the Authority or to render it liable for any debts or obligations.

Dr. Langston reminded board members that each needs to complete a financial disclosure statement for the last fiscal year. This may be done online or a completed form may be brought to the next board meeting.

G. Phase III Funding Status – Dr. Langston has submitted a federal grant request for \$2.2mil (80% of total) for trails south of Fishing Creek, a bridge across Fishing Creek and a parking lot, as well as an Amphitheater. The application included letters of support from Mayor Bentley, Senator Grant, Commissioner Williams, Representative Barrow, and Senator Chambliss.

H. Baldwin High School Class of 1969 Memorial Ceremony – Saturday, 1 August, 2009, 10:30 AM at the Greenway – The BHS Class of 1969 will provide funding to purchase both a US Flag and a Georgia State Flag for the Greenway, as well as funding for entryway sign. The exact dollar figure will be announced at the ceremony on 1 August. Senator Grant and Mayor Bentley are scheduled to make introductory speeches which will be followed by an acceptance speech from General Boylan. In the event of rain, the ceremony will be held in the Legislative Chamber of the Old Capital Building. Refreshments will also be served.

V. New Business

A. Election of Officers – Mr. Bentley made a motion that officers for the coming year remain the same. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

FY 2010 Officers:

Chairman– Peter Boylan

Vice-Chairman – Richard Bentley

Secretary/Treasurer – Eric Mosley

B. Maintenance

1. Graffiti – Dr. Langston reported that during the July 4th weekend graffiti was sprayed on boulders in the river. A pressure washer can be used to remove the graffiti. GDOT will be asked to do the cleanup.

2. Old Access Road – Dr. Langston reported that posts installed to prevent motorized access continue to be removed. Mr. Nelson has recommended the use of boulders; however, Mr. Haines of GDOT has suggested an alternate plan, which Dr. Langston will email to board members.

3. Pedestrian Bridge – Mr. Gray reported that erosion has caused one of the posts supporting the pedestrian bridge to give way. He suggested replacement of the leg with an A-Frame structure. Chairman Boylan asked him to coordinate with Dr. Langston and bring a recommendation to the next board meeting.

C. ARF Pet Walk – September 19th – Dr. Langston reported that an ARF Pet Walk along the Greenway is scheduled for September 19th. The event will include vendors and related activities.

D. ORGF – Shannon New-Diaz reported that ORGF has not met in several months, therefore there was no report. Chairman Boylan asked Mrs. New-Diaz to meet with him re: restructuring the organization. Dr. Langston and Mrs. New-Diaz are currently revising the ORGF By-Laws.

VI. The next ORGA meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, 25 August 2009 at 1:30 PM in the President's Conference Room of the Old State Capital.**

VII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrill Jones, Recorder