

Oconee River Greenway Authority
MINUTES
31 July 2007

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

Others Present: Jeff Gray – GMC
Vonda Everett – GDOT
Kraig Collins – GDOT
Barry Jarrett – City of Milledgeville Water/Sewer Department
Dr. Heather Langston – ORGA Director
Sherrill Jones – Recorder

Not Present: Dennis Holder, Marion Nelson, Bubba Williams

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

- I. Call to Order** – At approximately 1:35 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 31 July 2007 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority (ORGA) to order and welcomed all who were present.
- II. Introduction of New Board Member, Mr. Troy Clymer** – Chairman Boylan introduced and welcomed new board member, Mr. Troy Clymer, who is replacing Greg Strenkowski, not only as a board member, but also as ORGA Treasurer.
- III. Approval of Minutes for 29 May 2007** – After correcting the spelling of Ms. Everett's name, Mr. Bentley made a motion to approve the 29 May 2007 Minutes. The motion, seconded by Mr. Moon, was unanimously accepted.
- IV. Approval of Minutes for 26 June 2007** – After again correcting the spelling of Ms. Everett's name as well as Mr. Clymer's name, and in Section V.A., changing the date for the DNR Grant Application to 2005, Mr. Edwards made a motion to approve the 26 June 2007 Minutes. This motion was seconded by Mr. Bentley and unanimously accepted.

NOTE: Dr. Langston also indicated that while Section IV. B., Update on McMillan Island, of the 26 June 2007 Minutes is correct based on information presented during that meeting, she has since learned that a Section 10 waterway is NOT a navigable waterway; consequently there is no longer an issue of a navigable waterway around McMillan Island.

- V. Treasurer's Report** – Written materials reflected a Checking and Savings total of \$50,154.55, and a total of \$215,560.33 in other assets for the period ending 31 July 2007.
- VI. Old Business**
 - A. Phase I: Construction Status** –

1. Slideshow - Dr. Langston presented digital slides displaying the most recent aspects of Phase I construction. These included the retention pond, areas of standing water, the parking lot, progress on the DNR Extension Loop, and a view of Fishing Creek from the DNR Extension Loop.

While reviewing the slide showing standing water, it was noted that the original plan for this area was for water to drain into the retention pond; however, the ground with the standing water is presently lower than the retention pond. Chairman Boylan asked Dr. Langston to arrange a meeting with Dan Hammock to discuss the issue of standing water and whether or not fill-dirt will be needed.

2. Soil Donation for Dump Site – Dr. Langston reported that Marion Nelson secured arrangements for the donation of 50 loads of dirt. If additional dirt is needed, the donor will sell it to ORGA for the same fee he charges the county. Chairman Boylan asked Dr. Langston to request the county to assume the cost for transporting the dirt to the construction site. Dr. Langston noted that she will follow-up with Mr. Nelson as he made the arrangement.

3. Pavement Issues – Dr. Langston reported that under the current design plan the parking lot is to be built for 25-year durability and the concrete walking trail for 10-year durability. Dan Hammock has recommended an alternate concrete pavement design which would result in reducing the cost of paving by approximately one-third. Ms. Everett questioned whether this change would meet the "minimum standard" allowed by GDOT. Dr. Langston will coordinate with Ms. Everett to determine whether or not the proposed modification is acceptable to GDOT. Mr. Edwards made motion to accept the design change, pending Jim Hardin's confirmation of the change and GDOT's approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bentley and unanimously approved.

4. Fishing Platforms – Dr. Langston reported that work on the fishing platforms will begin once exact locations are determined. Mr. Edwards will work with Mr. Hammock to determine these locations. Dr. Langston also reported that existing plans do not include railings. Money saved by modifying the pavement design (see section 3, above) could be allocated for railings. Mr. Gray commented that railings might be problematic in terms of flooding. Chairman Boylan asked Dr. Langston to investigate the possibility of railings, flooding issues, and ADA issues before the next board meeting.

B. Property Appraisal and Purchase issues –

1. Thirumal – Dr. Langston reported that the appraisal of the Thirumal property should be completed by the end of the week.

2. Garner – Ms. Everett reported that she doesn't have a firm answer on whether or not the Foundation (ORGF) can purchase property and then legitimately "give" it to the authority. She will try to have an answer by the August meeting.

C. Phase II Status report – Dr. Langston noted that she has spoken with TRC and now that ORGA has the notice to proceed, the various surveys/reports will be forthcoming. She further noted that Phase II is on track at this point in time.

D. Board Member to replace Guy Thompson – Chairman Boylan reported that Mr. Holder is currently serving as not only Chairman of the Wilkinson County Commissioners, but also as County Manager, and that he is having difficulty determining a replacement for Guy Thompson. As a result, Chairman Boylan recommended that Mr. Thompson’s position on the board be left vacant until ORGA becomes more involved with Wilkinson County. Those present concurred with this recommendation.

E. Update Sewer – Mayor Bentley introduced Barry Jarrett, Water/Sewer Director for the City of Milledgeville. Mr. Jarrett reported that the broken sewer caps have been repaired; however, he wanted the ORGA board to be aware that there will be times when odors will be apparent as openings to release sewer pressure are required. Chairman Boylan asked if the caps could be reduced in size. Mr. Jarrett responded that cost prohibits lowering the manhole caps as this time. He stated that the city could possibly try to camouflage the caps. Mayor Bentley indicated that he will ask the city council to include the cost for lowering the caps in the next budget year. Chairman Boylan suggested that Dr. Langston ask Mr. Hammock if the trail could be built to avoid the caps, thus eliminating the need to lower them. This would also distance the trail from offending odors.

F. Update Water Line - Mayor Bentley reported that the city has agreed to do the trenching for the water line and the electrical lines for Georgia Power, and that the city will also run the cable for Georgia Power. Chairman Boylan asked Dr. Langston to communicate with Greg Tyson of Georgia Power to resolve a possible conflict regarding electrical charges/fees.

G. Update 2005 DNR Grant Application – Dr. Langston reported that she and Marion Nelson met in Atlanta with Noel Holcomb, and that they were assured the DNR Grant application is secure.

VII. New Business

A. Finances – Chairman Boylan directed Board members to a financial spreadsheet in their packets, noting that areas of concern were highlighted. These included: addition of alternate #7; acquisition of the Murali (Thimural) property; Phase II PE; and the Greene Street extension (not enough funds to put in sidewalks, bicycle lanes, street lights.) Mayor Bentley commented that the city is working on locating fund sources to improve the Greene Street extension plan. Chairman Boylan also pointed out that the exact cost for Phase II construction is not known, and while \$2 million+ should be available, this will most likely not be enough; consequently, ORGA will need to seek additional federal funding. He asked Dr. Langston to draft a letter to John Barrow requesting federal dollars for Phase II. He then commended Dr. Langston for her work to create the financial spreadsheet.

1. Update

2. Resolution for Credit Card –Mr. Bentley made a motion to accept the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Oconee River Greenway Authority desires to accomplish its goal to construct a greenway along the Oconee River to provide economic development, environmental conservation, education, historic preservation and recreation and whereas the Oconee River Greenway Authority seeks to accept and use monies for operating expenses:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE OCONEE RIVER GREENWAY AUTHORITY:

That the Oconee River Greenway Authority hereby consents to the agreement with Century Bank and Trust to accept a credit card with a limit of \$5,000.00.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Edwards and unanimously approved.

B. Update Oconee River Greenway Foundation – No report.

VIII. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 28, 2007 at 1:30 PM in the conference room of the Old Capital Building.

IX. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrill Jones, Recorder