

Oconee River Greenway Authority
MINUTES
25 July 2006

Members Present: Peter Boylan – Chairman
Dennis Holder, Lee Moon, Marion Nelson, Greg Strenkowski, Guy Thompson

Others Present: Jan Nichols – ORGA Director
Ed Moore – GMC
Jody Yearwood - GMC
Russell Thompson– City of Milledgeville
Heather Holder – Mainstreet
Cindy Allard - GMC
Hannah Marney - UR
Jim Hardin – Walden, Ashworth & Associates
Sherrill Jones – Recorder

Not Present: Richard Bentley, Bo Edwards, Bubba Williams

Location: Conference room in Cone-Sibley Library at GMC.

- I. Call to Order** – At approximately 1:30 PM, Chairman Boylan called the 25 July 2006 meeting of the Oconee River Greenway Authority (ORGA) to order and welcomed all who were present.
- II. Approval of Minutes for 27 June 2006** – Mr. Nelson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Holder for the approval of the 27 June 2006 ORGA Minutes. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted.
- III. Treasurer's Report** - Mr. Strenkowski directed members to review the printed financial statement, ending 30 June 2006, reflecting a Checking Balance of \$40,111.98 and a Money Market Balance of \$419.72. It was noted that the Money Market Balance was significantly less than the previous month's balance as \$10,000 was moved to a six-month CD. Mr. Holder made a motion to accept the financial report. After a second by Mr. Nelson, it was unanimously approved.
Mr. Strenkowski presented a monthly *Projected Income Expense Report* for review. After review those present agreed that this report does not need to reflect capital item costs (grant writing and survey costs). It should simply reflect existing funds, cash available and expenses (budgeted & actual). Mr. Strenkowski will adjust monthly reports accordingly.
- IV. Election of Officers** – After acknowledging the outstanding performance of the current slate of officers, under the leadership of Chairman Boylan, and recognizing the chairman's technical expertise Mr. Nelson made motion to continue with the same

officers. Mr. Holder seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. (*Peter Boylan, Chairman; Richard Bentley, Vice-Chairman; Greg Strenkowski, Treasurer.*)

V. Old Business

A. GSFIC & Contractor Selection Update – Ed Moore reported that the selection committee has received three proposals for Phase I. Richard Sawyer, Director of Procurement Services for Georgia State Financing & Investment Commission, issued a one week extension of the deadline. The proposals will be reviewed after the extension deadline occurs.

B. Approval of Recommendation of Selection Committee for Bank Line of Credit – Cindy Allard reported that BB&T could not offer an unsecured line of credit. First National Bank of the South, Century, Exchange & Magnolia banks have offered to form a consortium in which each bank will provide a \$125,000 line of credit, creating a \$500,000 total. This proposal was emailed to Director Nichols and distributed to Richard Bentley and Ms. Allard, the other members of the Selection Committee. Mr. Nelson made a motion to accept this proposal. Mr. Strenkowski seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Ms. Allard will contact the banks to request a formal proposal for the line of credit, that must be approved by the Attorney General's office and the Georgia State Financing Investment Commission.

C. GSFIC & RFP update for Design/Construction Documents for Remainder of Master Plan – Jim Hardin reported that Walden, Ashworth & Associates is working on a proposal for the remainder of the Master Plan and may need to recuze himself from this discussion. Director Nichols stated the advertisement began on July 14 and the date for the final selection of the Design Engineer firm will be Sept. 7, 2007.

D. Review of Proposals & Approval of Selection for Environmental/Cultural Resource Studies – Director Nichols reported that only two companies responded to the request for Environmental Studies. She asked board members to refer to the proposals in their packets. TRC of Atlanta (\$17,896.14) and Ecological Solutions of Roswell (\$22,200) submitted proposals. Chairman Boylan asked Mr. Nelson to review both proposals to insure that they are adequate and all inclusive. Director Nichols noted that the proposals do not include GA Power property. Mr. Nelson volunteered to contact Georgia Power to get permission to conduct an Environmental Study on their property. TRC and Ecological Solutions will be asked to amend their proposals to include the Georgia Power property.

Russell Thompson reported that the city has submitted the paperwork necessary for the Greene Street project and is waiting for the Order to Proceed. Once the notice is received, work will begin on the development of the design plan and construction documents.

E. Report on meeting with DOT Project Managers – Director Nichols reported that DOT Project Managers Vonda Everett and George Brewer recommended including

GA Power property in the Environmental Studies even though ORGA does not own property (*see D. above*).

F. ORLT & Garner Property Update – In the absence of Mr. Edwards, Mr. Nelson noted that negotiations with the ORLT hinge on acquisition of the Garner Property and that the property purchase hinges on receipt of the Grassman Foundation Grant. Director Nichols reported that this grant application was rejected for lack of significant perceived community support but that the Foundation was encouraged to resubmit.

G. ORGA Webpage (www.oconeegreenway.org) - Jody Yearwood of GMC presented ORGA's new webpage which features a photo slideshow, recent news, an archive page, contact info, history, mission, board members, a minutes link, plans (maps & drawings), and links to other related sites. He asked board members to review the site and offer feedback. Chairman Boylan asked Ms. Marney of *The Union-Recorder* to assist in identifying UR Greenway articles to link to the webpage. It was also suggested that a link to the Oconee River Greenway Foundation be included on the website's homepage in addition to the Links drop down menu and Foundation information included in the FAQ. Jody recommended, due to lack of space at the top of the page, to add a link under the first heading, About ORGA.

H. Oconee River Greenway Foundation Events – Director Nichols reported that the next ORGF fundraiser will be in the form of a Performing Arts GALA at the Goldstein Center (GMC), scheduled for October 13, 2006, but Debbie Williams informed her there may be a conflict and the date may be rescheduled. As plans develop for this event, she will notify board members accordingly.

I. Report on Washington/Laurens County representation – Mr. Holder has talked with Wayne Sheppard (Washington County commissioner until January) regarding membership on the ORGA Board and anticipates a positive response in the near future. Mr. Bentley was not present to report on Laurens County; however, Mr. Holder recommended Clinton Lord as a representative from Laurens County and he will contact Mr. Lord before the next ORGA board meeting. Ms Nichols reminded the board that the legislation requires that the County Commission Chairman or his designee join the board, before community representatives participate as board members.

J. Civic Center/Conference Center – Heather Holder of Milledgeville Mainstreet reported that a committee is working on the acquisition of a *Signature Communities Grant*. This is a joint city/county proposal for state assistance for a three-year period. If awarded, funds may be used for a feasibility study for a hotel/convention center. Chairman Boylan expressed the need for a more coordinated effort among the various stake-holders (ORGA, city, county, Mainstreet, CVB, Chamber of Commerce). He reported that he and President Dorothy Leland (GC&SU) will be hosting a meeting to discuss the Hotel/Civic/Conference Center next week.

VI. New Business

A. Review Master Plan Components – Using a set of overlays created with the assistance of Director Nichols, Chairman Boylan explained the Master Plan for the Greenway. The first overlay reflected Phase I (trail, road, Greene Street). This was followed by an overlay of the DNR Trails that will be funded through a DNR grant (\$100,000) as well as an additional \$50,000 to \$100,000. The remaining overlays included plans for additional trails, an amphitheater and a possible road. Director Nichols will make copies for board members, so that they may study possibilities for the roadway.

B. ORGA/DVD revisions – Director Nichols reported that the current ORGA DVD focuses primarily on Milledgeville and Baldwin County; therefore revisions are needed to reflect a regional impact. She met recently with Guy Thompson to gather material for Wilkinson County and Washington County. She has been invited to visit Dr. Smalley’s home (oldest in Wilkinson County), with the GC&SU professors and students who will take videos for the revised DVD. To complete the DVD, materials will also be needed from Laurens County.

VII. The next ORGA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 29, 2006 at 1:30 PM in the conference room of the Cone-Sibley Library at GMC.

VIII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrill Jones, Recorder