



## **Oconee Rivers Greenway Commission (ORG) Meeting Minutes**

**Date: January 16, 2024, In-Person/WebEx Meeting**

**Commission Members Present in-Person:** \*Charlie Barrow, \*Ross Hinkle, \*Susie Haggard, \*Ed Maioriello, \*Lexy Doherty, Bryan Varin, \*Kristen Linthicum, Ben Liverman, \*John Schelhas, \*Jennifer Gay,

**On-line:** Alison McCullick

### **Commission Members Absent:**

**Ex-officio Members and Visitors Attending:** Alex Bond (ACC Leisure Services), \*Rose West (ACC Leisure Services), Diane Windham (Upper Oconee Watershed Network), \*Stephanie Greene (ACC Sustainability Office), \*Wick Prichard (ACC Planning Department), Daniel Sizemore (Transportation and Public Works), \*Nat Kuykendall (past chair), xxxx. Bike athens

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 3:07. A quorum was established.

**Public Comments:** No public comments to report.

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the July minutes made by Haggard, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linthicum. The commission unanimously approved the minutes.

### **Chair Report – Barrow**

Four applications in before the deadline. Executive committee will interview the newxt weeks, hope to vote next meeting.

### **Vice Chair Report – Hinkle**

Beech Haven park planning. User group field trip on the 27<sup>th</sup> to begin process of planning.

Nature guide—spring or fall activity.

Hasn't talked to nature center about 3D representation to display.

### **Treasurer/Budget Report –**

Haven't spent anything since December

12041.32 in ACC  
15,411 former BoA  
Petty cash 180

## **Committee Reports**

### **Planning – Haggard**

Delivered whole stack of brochures to historic Brumby house.

Nothing on network plan yet.

Do we need UGA permission to put brochures on campus. Different permissions for different places. Department chairs own bulletin boards. Miller learning center, Stem building. Ramsey. Museum of Art. Visitor Center. REI—large version of map (stickers). Poster size. Half Moon has one.

### **Natural Resources – Vacant**

Lexy is interested. Would leave open outreach committee.  
No report.

### **Communication and Outreach – Doherty**

No report.

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Leisure Services – West**

Christine Stratton new trails and open space coordinator.

Upcoming: continue to do once a month trail talks. Every other month on greenway. Several 5Ks coming up. Getting certified 5K routes there. Story stroll with library. Ticket to Ride in March. Walks through Athens industrial path will happen, too. Marathon in January will touch Greenway. Susie has volunteered to lead an OILLI course on Carr's Creek section in April 17 (9:30 or 10). Hikers special interest group. Will do another section if not open yet.

Shared photos of flooding that Christine and her staff took.

No other timeline updates Carr's creek. Problu a ribbon cutting in March.

Hugh Ogle. Sanford statiums water replacement project, 2 pipes cross over near cemetery, Will be way around. Will officially start in April/may. Will be large trucks and big excavator going down trail. SCNC work—put forth to mayor and commission. On agenda for tonight.

Ben Burton project. Loop bridges both being replaced. Will last for about three years. Will there be place for planned greenway section from Benn Burton to Beech Haven. Stephanie—may be wider sidewalk along Mitchell Bridge.

### **Sustainability Office – Greene**

Monitoring flood. Appreciate updates on trash traps. New one in Dudley Park—will have to be reset, one side pulled out. Water needs to go down further to pull it out. Trail cams picture of water rising.

3 swift towers up along firefly trail.

2 barred owl boxes up and both screech owl boxes up.

### **Planning – Prichard**

Nothing from planning. Tree council: Trees along Bailey street connection along Ag Research.

Lots around Sandy Creek Nature Center/Commerce, A couple of those lots will be office and business storage places. Limits on personal storage places—in certain commercial general zoning areas.

### **Transportation and Public Works (TPW) – Sizemore**

#### **Public Utilities -- West for Hugh**

No report

#### **Other Ex Officio Reports**

##### **Bike Athens – Long**

ALMOST READY TO RE-OEPNING OFFICALLY. FEB 1<sup>ST</sup> GRAND OPENING. FIX YUOUR BIKE NIGHT.

##### **UOWN – Windham/BRUNO**

##### **Firefly Trail – Keen**

##### **Oconee Rivers Audubon Society (ORAS) – Maioriello**

No report

##### **Northeast Georgia Regional Commission**

Not present

### **New Business**

**Next ORGC meeting:** at 3 pm at Memorial Park.

Down two UGA. Allison: has one person will forward soon, working on the other.

Connected community and RAISE grants. ORGC can't put in grant for RAISE themselves, could work with leisure services. Would be a planning grant. Could get advance approval—suggestion. Leisure services department would have to get paperwork together for mayor and commission.

Rose: Stuff that needs to be on ORGC web page—when we're having meeting, Agenda setting and this meeting, and subcommittee meetings need to be on website. 3 days in advance. Agendas must be up, too. Also must approve agenda for meeting at beginning of meeting.

**Adjourn. 3:58**