



Oconee Rivers Greenway Commission (ORGC) 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, 2nd 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 27th 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. Problem a ribbon cutting in March.

Hugh Ogle. Sanford stadium sewer replacement project, 2 pipes cross over near cemetery, Will be way around. Will eventually 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 on 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 1ST 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