



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, John Schelhas, Jennifer Gay.

On-line:

Commission Members Absent: Alison McCullick, Ben Liverman.

Ex-officio Members and Visitors Attending: Rose West (ACC Leisure Services), Stephanie Greene (ACC Sustainability Office), Wick Prichard (ACC Planning Department), Nat Kuykendall (past chair), Scott Long, 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, second by Linthicum. The commission unanimously approved the minutes.

Chair Report – Barrow

Barrow reported that four new commissioner applications were submitted before the deadline. The executive committee will interview the candidates the next weeks, and we hope to vote at the next meeting.

Vice Chair Report – Hinkle

Hinkle provided an update on Beech Haven Park planning, and noted that there will be a user group field trip on the 27th to begin process of planning.

Work on the nature guide will resume in spring or fall.

Hinkle hasn't talked to nature center about displaying a 3D representation of the Greenway/watershed.

Treasurer/Budget Report – Barrow

We haven't spent anything since December.

Current funds:

\$12,041.32 in ACC

\$15,411 former BoA account

\$180 Petty cash

Committee Reports

Planning – Haggard

Haggard delivered stack of brochures to historic Brumby house.

There has been no movement on revising the network plan.

There was a discussion about greenway brochures on campus. The question was raised as to whether we need UGA permission to put brochures on campus. There may be different permissions for different places. Department chairs own bulletin boards. Possible places for brochures: Miller Learning Center, Stem building. Ramsey. Museum of Art. Visitor Center.

There is a poster sized version of map at Half Moon, and maybe at REI. Charlie will check on REI.

Natural Resources – Vacant

Lexy is interested in the chair position, which would leave the outreach committee chair open.

No report.

Communication and Outreach – Doherty

No report.

Staff Reports

Leisure Services – West

Christine Stratton was introduced as the new trails and open space coordinator.

Upcoming: Will continue to do once a month trail talks; every other month is on the Greenway. There are several 5Ks coming up. Certified 5K routes are being laid out on the Greenway. Story stroll with library. Ticket to Ride in March. Walks through Athens industrial path will happen, too. The marathon in January will touch Greenway. Susie has volunteered to lead an OLLI Hikers Special Interest Group outing on Carr's Creek section in April 17 (9:30 or 10). If this section is not yet open, she will do another section of the Greenway.

Shared photos of flooding that Christine and her staff took.

No other timeline updates. Regarding Carr's creek, there will probably be a ribbon cutting in March.

Talked with Hugh Ogle. Sanford stadium sewer replacement project, which involves two pipes that will cross over Greenway near the cemetery. There will be a path around the construction, which will probably start in April or May. There will be large trucks and big excavator going down trail. SCNC work is being put forth to mayor and commission; on agenda for tonight. Ben Burton project. Loop bridges are both being replaced. Project will last for about three years. Will there be room under the bridge for planned greenway section from Benn Burton to Beech Haven.

Stephanie—may be wider sidewalk along Mitchell Bridge.

Sustainability Office – Greene

The have been monitoring the flood and damage. Greene appreciates the updates on trash traps. The new one in Dudley Park will have to be reset, as one side pulled out. The water needs to go down further to pull it out.

3 swift towers are up along firefly trail.

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

Planning – Prichard

Nothing from planning. Tree council discussed trees along Bailey Street connection along Ag Research.

Regarding the lots around Sandy Creek Nature Center/Commerce: A couple of those lots will be office and business storage places. There are limits on personal storage places depending on zoning.

Transportation and Public Works (TPW) – Sizemore

No report

Public Utilities -- West for Hugh

West talked with Hugh Ogle. Regarding the Sanford stadium sewer replacement project, which involves two pipes that will cross over Greenway near the cemetery. There will be a path around the construction, which will probably start in April or May. There will be large trucks and big excavator going down trail. SCNC work is being put forth to mayor and commission; on the agenda for tonight. Ben Burton project: Two loop bridges are being replaced. Project will last for about three years. Will there be room under the bridge for planned greenway section from Benn Burton to Beech Haven. Stephanie—may be wider sidewalk along Mitchell Bridge.

Other Ex Officio Reports

Bike Athens – Long

Bike Athens new facility is almost ready to re-open officially. February 1st grand opening with a Fix Your Bike night.

UOWN – Giri

Not present

Firefly Trail – Keene

Not present

Oconee Rivers Audubon Society (ORAS) – Maioriello

No report

Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

Not present

New Business

UGA has two commissioner positions empty. Allison has one person that will move forward soon, working on the other.

Connected Community and RAISE grants: ORGC can't put in grant for RAISE themselves, but could work with leisure services. The intention is for it to be a planning grant. We need to get advance approval. Leisure Services Department would have to get paperwork together for mayor and commission.

Rose: There are some things that need to be on ORGC web page: When we're having meeting, Agenda setting meeting and this meeting, and subcommittee meetings need to be on website three days in advance. Agendas must be posted, too. Also, we must approve agenda for meeting at beginning of meeting.

Next ORGC meeting: at 3 pm at Memorial Park.

Adjourn. 3:58