



Oconee Rivers Greenway Commission (ORG) Meeting Minutes

Date: May 21, 2024, In-Person/WebEx Meeting

Commission Members Present in-Person: Ross Hinkle, Susie Haggard, Bryan Varin, Kristen Linthicum, John Schelhas, Jennifer Gay.

On-line:

Commission Members Absent: Ed Maioriello, Lexy Doherty, Alison McCullick.

Ex-officio Members and Visitors Attending: Rose West (ACC Leisure Services), Stephanie Greene (ACC Sustainability Office), Wick Prichard (ACC Planning Department), Katie Goodrum (Vision Zero), Scott Long, (Bike Athens), Mark Beatty (Northeast Georgia Regional Commission).

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 3:12. No quorum until late in the meeting.

Public Comments: Acknowledged letter of input from Clark Lett regarding pedestrian safety on Atlanta Highway at Middle Oconee Bridge.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes made by Kristin, 2nd by Bryan. The commission unanimously approved the minutes once quorum was achieved.

Chair Report – Hinkle for Barrow

Regarding letter about Middle Oconee Bridge along Atlanta highway. Question whether that is a GDOT bridge or ACC; whether safe streets applies.

Budget for purchases this fiscal year:

Trail Ambassador supplies. \$2000

Bike Athens—buy two extra tool sets. \$500

Brochures \$2500

Greenway sign: no cost yet, need to find out what's needed. Rose will email an idea about how much it costs.

Susie stepped down as chair of planning committee meeting. Need to hire someone to work on plan. They would have to take a purchase card; bids required if over \$2499.

Vice Chair Report – Hinkle

See above.

Treasurer/Budget Report –

\$10,686.07 in regular account.
One transaction coming back: \$348

Committee Reports

Planning – Vacant

Natural Resources – Doherty

Regarding Nature Guide: Schelhas went on Jane McPherson's walk on history in the School of Social Work and Dudley Park areas, and encouraged integrating history into the Nature Guide. Water would provide a good point of articulation between nature and history,

Communication and Outreach – Open

Staff Reports

Leisure Services – West

Working on getting shirts ordered from ShirtWorks. It was suggested that we need to use new, updated version of the dragonfly logo. Rose will contact trophy shop for nametags, Georgia Press for brochures. Added email address to the web site for public input.

Meetings videos are posted on Oconee Rivers Greenway Commission page on ACCgov web site. Also a link to the calendar, where meetings will be posted and from which agendas can be downloaded.

Bridge repair near UGA E23 lot may happen this summer. Trail will have to closed. Looking into re-route. Question raised about impact on nesting swallows. There will be a second project that will impact mural to be painted.

Also, there is some erosion under the trail in that area. Cones and barriers are up. ACC will send out some internal crews this week to work on it. May take a week or so.

Sanford sewer project is likely to start in about a month. They will access work site via gravel road near loop. A detour is planned. There will be equipment on the trail at certain times.

Clerk of commission working on adding proposed new members to the agenda for voting at the next Mayor and Commission meeting.

Sustainability Office – Greene

May 9, next Wednesday, there will be a celebration of GOS grant at Dudley Park. We are all invited .11 to noon on May 28 at the pavilion at Dudley Park. Refreshments will be served.

Planning – Prichard

No current development coming through the planning department right now.

Transportation and Public Works (TPW) – Sizemore

No report.

Public Utilities – Ogle

No report

Other Ex Officio Reports**Bike Athens – Long**

Fixed pump on East Campus Connector. New Board for Friend of Greenway has been voted in, will vote this week on officers

UOWN – Giri**Firefly Trail – Keene****Oconee Rivers Audubon Society (ORAS) – Maioriello****Northeast Georgia Regional Commission – Beatty**

Go through 499 regional resource nominations for Regionally Important Resources. Will vote on that. Oconee Rivers, lumped all together, is one item. The Greenway will probably be added. If not, it is still included in green infrastructure network.

New Business

Next ORGC meeting: June 18, at 3 pm at 3:00 pm Pound Street.

Adjourn 4:10 pm