

Minutes  
Greenville County Historic and Natural Resources Trust  
11/17/21

The Greenville County Historic and Natural Resources Board (Trust) met on November 17, 2021 in Council Chambers of Greenville County Square. The meeting began at 4:05 PM.

Members present: Carlton Owen (17), Pam Shucker (19), Alex Reynolds (20), Dave Hargett (21), Joe Pulliam (22), Tripp Taylor (23), Doug Harper (24), Bryant Harrison (26), Dennis DeFrancisco (27), and Matt Thomas (28).

Members absent: Brent Odom (18) resigned as he moved outside district, Kenneth Baxter (25).

Guests present: Meredith Papapieris, Greenville County; Nicole Wood, Greenville County; Anne Peden, Greenville Historic Preservation Commission.

The Chairman asked the Board Secretary to Call the Role. A quorum being present Chair Doug Harper began the meeting.

Chair Harper called the meeting to order. After introductions he thanked the Communications and Grants Committees. He praised these committees for work accomplished in the short amount of time the Trust has been in existence. He noted that another milestone was being reached today with the consideration of our first Grant Applications.

To remind the Board of its purpose, Chair Harper read the "Whereas" Preamble to the Establishing Ordinance No. 5247.

Minutes of the 9/18/21 meeting having been previously mailed to members, were approved by motion from Bryant Harrison, second by Alex Reynolds.

Harper opened the floor for Public Comments. There were none as no one signed up to speak.

Harper called for Old Business. There was none.

Next, the Chairman explained the need to go into Executive Session to hear and discuss the recommendations from the Grants Committee since the nature of real estate transactions are confidential until finalized and closed.

Carlton Owen moved, "I move to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property."

Bryant Harrison seconded the motion.

Before voting on the motion, Chair Harper reminded the Board, "If the motion to go into executive session is approved, I will ask visitors to leave the meeting and stop the recording device, so the Board may discuss this subject in Executive Session only. No votes may be taken in Executive Session."

The motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman asked all visitors to leave and secured the room. He then called on Carlton Owen, the Vice-Chairman and Grants Committee Chair to lead the discussion on the Grant Applications under review.

Vice-Chair and Grants Committee Chair, Carlton Owen, reminded the Board that the pending grants discussed would not be approved until the site visits were completed and due diligence of each property completed.

Owen said there are four projects to consider because today Application ID 9 had withdrawn itself from consideration.

Projects before the Board are:

Application ID 5: District 17, Natural Resource Grant \$150,000

Application ID 6: District 17 Natural Resource Grant, \$100,000

Application ID 7: District 26 Historic Site Grant, \$40,000

Application ID 8: District 17 Natural Resource Grant, \$150,000

Chair Harper recused himself from any discussion on Applications 5 & 6 due to his membership on the Board of Naturaland Trust.

The Board asked questions and discussed each grant application individually.

Upon completion of discussions, the Board voted to return to Public Session. The Chairman then invited the public to return to the Chambers and read the following statement out loud and into the record:

"The Greenville County Historic and Natural Resources Trust Board went into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property and no action was taken."

The Chairman opened the floor to New Business.

The New Business before the Board is to receive and vote on approval, rejection or modification of the pending Grant Applications as recommended to the Board by the Grants Committee.

Much discussion followed concerning the methods of evaluation used by the Grants Committee and to consider the merits of each project.

Each project was voted on individually as follows:

Application ID 5, \$150,000 Unanimously approved pending final due diligence

Application ID 6, \$100,000 Unanimously approved pending final due diligence

Application ID 7, \$40,000 Unanimously approved pending final due diligence

After discussion, Matthew Thomas moved to table project #8 until the next meeting. Dave Hargett seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 6 yes and 4 no votes.

Project #8 was tabled until next meeting.

Vice-Chair Owen announced he is arranging site visits for 11/29 and 11/30. He identified Board members who planned to go. He will arrange further details of time and transportation.

Chair Harper charged the Grants Committee to set a minimum ranking number for future project evaluations.

Harrison asked if there was a method to notify the projects of decisions. Owen responded that he would notify each as he arranges site visits.

Chair Harper asked for a Communications report.

Committee Chair Reynolds reported the Committee met on 11/10/21 and planned to re-meet again after tonight's meeting. He and Owen will compose a letter that members can use to discuss the projects with each of their respective County Council members. Reynolds has launched the GCHNRT website and will continue to keep it up to date. Harper thanked Reynolds for his diligent posting on the website.

Anne Peden requested to attend the site visits and was invited to do so by Owen.

Chair Harper reported that he and Vice-Chair Owen will return to the Board with a report on the next steps in awarding Grants, the Grant Agreement, and the process which will be modeled after the SC Conservation Bank.

There being no further business the Chair asked for a Motion to Adjourn.

Reynolds moved to adjourn the meeting. Taylor seconded. With a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Shucker, Secretary