

Minutes
Greenville County Historic and Natural Resources Trust
8/29/2022 5:30 – 7:00 PM via Zoom

Chair Carlton Owen called the meeting of the Greenville County Historic and Natural Resources Trust to order and welcomed members present. He also reviewed the agenda.

Secretary Pam Shucker called the roll.

Members present: Carlton Owen (17), Nanette latesta (18), Pam Shucker (19), Alex Reynolds (20), Dave Hargett (21), Joe Pulliam (22), Doug Harper (24), Kenneth Baxter (25), Bryant Harrison (26), Dennis DeFrancisco (27).

Members Absent: Tripp Taylor (23) and Matt Thomas (28).

Minutes from the last meeting, June 27, 2022, had been emailed prior to the meeting. They were approved unanimously. Motion to approve: Doug Harper, Second: Bryant Harrison.

No public present, so the meeting continued.

Chair Owen reviewed the state of the projects approved by the Trust in Cycles 1 & 2. All projects from Cycle 1 have been closed with the exception of Project #8, which the owner withdrew. The Eligible Entity requested the Trust hold designated funding for the project should it be re-submitted at a later date, but Owen informed them that the Trust did not have the authority to do so. The project would have to be re-submitted during another cycle.

Projects in Cycle 2 will soon be closed. The plan is that #10 will close on 9/8 and #12 on 9/6. Thus, by mid-September, all projects in Cycles 1 and 2 will be completed.

Doug Harper addressed concerns that comments, suggestions, and engagement with Greenville County Council should be with one voice, that of the Chair. Confusion over GCHNRT purpose and projects resulted from an email exchange by several members with Council. After thorough discussion, Mr. Baxter called for the question.

Mr. Harper moved that the Trust engage with Greenville County Council only through the Chair with the Communications Committee Chair and Board Chair being primarily responsible for engaging with the public via the media. And further, that members be encouraged to maintain contact with their individual Council member. With second by Mr. Reynolds, the motion carried unanimously. This will now be included in the Trust's Policies and Procedures.

With no members of the public present, Chair Owen asked that the Grants Committee address the Board without going into Executive Session.

Joe Pulliam, Chair of the Grants Committee, explained the recommendation of the Grants Committee for Cycle 3. On a recommendation from the Executive Committee and with unanimous support from the Grants Committee, with one abstention by Mr. Harper, Mr. Pulliam moved for an expenditure of \$400,000 for Application #13, the only project considered in the Cycle. Greenville County Council limits GCHNRT to \$200,000 expenditure per project without seeking full support of Council. This project offers a once in a lifetime opportunity for all of Greenville County. The expenditure will not require additional funds from Council.

With no need for a second as the motion came from a Standing committee, and after thorough discussion, with one abstention by Mr. Harper, the vote was unanimous in support of the recommendation.

Communications Committee Chair Alex Reynolds said he had no report other than the completion of the Piedmont Historic Mill Village project with unveiling at a recent reception hosted by the Piedmont Historical Preservation Society and well attended by the Trust Board. The website is working well with application notifications and updates available for the public.

Chair Owen reported that he had met with three incoming Council members to explain the purpose of the Trust and he planned to meet with the fourth, Benton Blunt (19), this week along with District representative Pam Shucker.

Chair Owen concluded the meeting with financial statistics on the projects GCHNRT has accomplished in its first year and grant cycles 1 & 2. By mid-September GCHNRT will have helped preserve 418.25 acres with an expenditure of \$453,500 protecting lands valued at more than \$3.6 million. For each County taxpayer dollar invested, the Trust has seen a match of >\$8.

Mr. Reynolds moved for adjournment; second by Mr. Pulliam. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Shucker, Secretary