

**Richland County Recreation Commission
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 21, 2011
6:00PM**

Commissioners in Attendance:

J. Marie Green, Chair
G. Todd Weiss, Secretary
Wilbert Lewis
George Martin
Weston A. Furgess, Jr.
C. Todd Latiff

RCRC Staff in Attendance:

James Brown, III
Kenya Bryant
Curt Wilson
Taurus Lewis
Tara Dickerson
Ronnie Kinnett
Connie Reaves
David Stringer
Robert Allen
E. Rutherford
Bob Hickman
Stephon Scott
BJ Belville
Tony Cooper
Brandolyn Blanding
Sandra James
James Brown
Cornelia Watts

Others in Attendance:

James Bridgett, Jr. Consultant/Parliamentarian

1. Call to Order:

Chair J. Marie Green called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda:

Motion to adopt the agenda made by Commissioner Furgess and second by Commissioner Weiss. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Furgess, Weiss, Martin, Lewis and Latiff.

3. Introduction of C. Todd Latiff, New Commissioner:

Chair Green introduced Mr. C. Todd Latiff and administered the Oath of Office and Code of Conduct of the Richland County Recreation Commission followed by signing. On behalf of the Board members, Chair Green welcomed Commissioner Latiff and stated that the Board is looking forward to continuing work together doing great things in the communities and throughout Richland County.

4. Presentation of Plaque:

Chair Green, on behalf of the Richland County Recreation Commission, Staff and Board, presented Rev. Epps with a plaque and his portrait in appreciation for his service. Chair Green stated that Rev. Epps will always be a part of the Commission and an integral part of the \$50 million bond. Mr. Kenya Bryant, Assistant Executive Director, presented Rev. Epps, from the Staff, with a framed news article from the State Newspaper, explaining that it was Rev. Epps and Mr. Bridgett's suggestion to submit an article to the paper about the new projects that would be coming on line.

5. Approval of Minutes: (Action)

Motion to approve minutes from the February 28, 2011 meeting made by Commissioner Furgess and second by Commissioner Weiss. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Furgess, Weiss, Martin, Lewis and Latiff.

6. Public Input:

No Public Input

7. Financial Report: (Information)

Curt Wilson reviewed the monthly cash flow report with projections for the balance of this fiscal year which was included in the Board package. Mr. Wilson reported that we have received our funding from Richland County through March, so we now have received approximately 90% of our total funding for this year and there is only about 10% left to spread over the next three months. Mr. Wilson reported other funding received in February \$121,918 for reimbursements of money already spent; this included \$75,000 in grants for the continued restoration of the Rosenwald School, \$1,200 ABC grant, and several reimbursements for the Crane Creek 21st Century Grant Program. Mr. Wilson stated that it is good to get this money back into the account. Mr. Wilson stated that the first budget draft is complete. Management is working hard to get it closer to what County Council has mandated for funds that we will receive in the next budget year. This week we will be working on the second draft and then final version for presentation to Board. Mr. Wilson reported that LinRick had another successful month in February;

revenue was such that now they are only about 4.7% below where they were last year. Mr. Wilson stated that the rounds were the best in two years and green fees and cart rentals the best in three years, but cash flow is still a concern because they will have to pay their first OPEB portion in April which is a new expense for them.

Commissioner Weiss asked, "We will be taking up the budget in April?"

Mr. Wilson answered, "Yes and it is due to County Council early May."

Chair Green asked, "Do you have an update on how the first meeting with County Council went in regards to the budget?"

Mr. Wilson stated that the information that we got from our group was that they don't want us to ask for any more money than we got this year. Mr. Wilson reported that we went over some facts about the Bond coming on line and we will have additional operating expenses. Mr. Wilson stated that he thinks there is really a good chance that we will get the cap, but nobody knows what the cap is and we haven't heard any more from them.

Chair Green asked if they were receptive and understanding that coming on line with new facilities would justify a need for an increase. Mr. Wilson stated that they told us they felt our pain. Mr. Brown added that they also stated that during the time that they worked with us on the bond, Mr. Livingston stated that they asked the Commission about operational cost and we stated that we will be alright because in the first phase we did not have any new buildings going up and Mr. Wilson spoke up and stated that we did tell them that during the second and third phase when new buildings come on line, we would need operational cost. Mr. Brown added that he has a meeting scheduled tomorrow with Ms. Val Hutchinson about her District.

Chair Green stated that she agrees with Mr. Wilson that we agreed to start with those projects that did not increase the budget at first but you can't expect that once you start building new facilities and the need to have them staffed that it wouldn't increase but she did not remember committing or just settling for that.

Mr. Bridgett stated that he was at all the meetings and he thinks that the Commission agreed to bring on line those projects that would not increase operational cost and the other thing that the Commission agreed to was not to increase the amount in the bond that would add more than \$3.00 tax to a \$100,000 house during the year. Mr. Bridgett stated that someone needs to get the records because if that is what they are saying, then it is not an accurate statement of what was actually agreed upon.

Chair Green stated that she is sure that Mr. Brown and Mr. Wilson can provide whatever documentation that is needed to review. Mr. Wilson stated that Mr. Bryant has provided that documentation. Mr. Bryant stated that he provided Councilman Kelvin Washington with documentation provided by Mr. Wilson outlining cost up until about 2017 and Mr.

Washington is going to talk to the rest of the Council about our needs based on the information.

Commissioner Latiff asked, "Mr. Brown, would it be beneficial for a member of the Commission to attend the meeting or do you think that would be more detrimental than beneficial?" Mr. Brown stated that he felt it would be more detrimental right now since we are in the process of trying to bring County Council and our Commissioners together and once we bring everyone together, we can sit down and discuss some of the issues."

Chair Green asked, "How far along are you in getting that worked out?" Mr. Brown stated that Mr. Bryant is in the process of setting up meetings.

8. Bond Construction Update: (Information)

Mr. Ronnie Kinnett, Property Management, reported that it has been a very busy but prosperous time from a construction standpoint. Mr. Kinnett reviewed the Bond Construction Update included in the Board's package.

Commissioner Weiss asked, "At Kelly Mill, there is no bricks and mortar there is it?" Mr. Kinnett answered, "No Sir, except for maybe a pump house for the irrigation system and a press box."

Commissioner Weiss asked, "What do you mean by design programming?" Mr. Kinnett answered, "Design programming means that they have actually gotten with staff on some of the buildings to look at the flow of the building to see if the current building that we have is adequate."

Chair Green asked, "Mr. Brown were you able to satisfy the constituent in regards to the racquetball court versus the gym at Caughman Road?"

Mr. Brown answered, "I talked with the young lady and what she wants me to do something that I am not capable of doing." Mr. Brown explained that she stated that the racquet ball courts are in good shape but we are having a problem with the gym. Mr. Brown stated that East Columbia is big on basketball, but in the Bond, money is allocated for the racquetball courts and not the basketball courts. Mr. Brown stated that she asked him if he could change it and he advised her that he is unable to make any changes but she can talk with Councilman Norman Jackson and he can take it back to County Council for review and she was satisfied with that information. Mr. Brown added that he has a meeting with her at Caughman Road Park on April 14, 2011 at 7:00p.m.

9. Executive Director Report: (Information)

Mr. James Brown, Executive Director, reported Agency Updates, as listed on the handout to Commissioners.

Mr. Brown reported one contractual matter for Executive Session.

Chair Green asked if the 16 Recreation Enrichment Committees were the same as Advisory Committees and Mr. Brown advised yes.

Chair Green stated that at some point she would like for Mr. Brown to review their policy because there are people serving on more than one committee, for instance some of Eastover members are also serving at Crossroads. Chair Green questioned if Cross Roads had established an enrichment program and Mr. Bryant advised that it is not on the list right now and Mr. Brown stated that when it comes on line then they can only serve on one. Chair Green requested that the policy be reviewed so when Crossroads does come on line there will not be any conflicts.

Mr. Bryant stated that in the bylaws for the Recreation Enrichment Committees it plainly states that you can not serve on two different committees. Chair Green asked that this information be passed on to the Park Directors so that when they have meetings the Advisory Committees are knowledgeable.

Commissioner Lewis stated that he was very pleased to see that the Enrichment Committees were in place and he was interpreting this to be very positive, but we want to make sure that we get input from the communities. Commissioner Lewis explained that he understands that these committees provide an opportunity for citizens input and questioned if there was a process for that information to come to the Board. Mr. Bryant answered yes.

Chair Green emphasized Commissioner Lewis' comment and stated that she remembers an event that brought all the committees together and it is very important that we get their input because they keep their thumbs on the pulse of the communities and they can really keep us abreast of what is going on.

James Brown stated that he would keep them updated.

10. Other Business:

Kenya Bryant, Assistant Executive Director, distributed to the Board an Action Plan for RCRC Commissioners/County Council Communication. Mr. Bryant reported that pursuant to conversation about opening up the lines of communication with County Council, he along with Mr. Brown and Mr. Bridgett have put together a communication plan for the Board's review.

Commissioner Lewis asked how often County Council would get the district updates. Mr. Bryant stated that it would probably be monthly because some of them do not have as much going on in their district as others.

Chair Green stated that she thought it was a good plan and she is willing to go along with it to take corrective action.

Commissioner Lewis stated that he liked what was presented and asked if there was any discussion taking place about similar efforts with our Legislative Delegation.

Mr. Bryant stated that he talked with Mr. James Brown, Executive Director Richland County Delegation, about this and he advised to hold off for a while and he would let me know when it was a good time to start, but he did not give any reasons. Mr. Bryant stated that this is definitely our next step and he would give Mr. Brown another call.

Commissioner Furgess stated that he agrees that the Board should go along with the plan and see what works and we can modify it as we go through it.

Commissioner Latiff stated that he thought the meet and greet is a great step but he thinks the less formal we can make it, the more beneficial it will be. Commissioner Latiff recommended some type of gathering, maybe a meal and everyone paying for their own meal. Commissioner Latiff stated that if we are truly looking to establish a relationship, then he does not think a meeting room is necessarily the way to establish a relationship, the less formal we try to do it, the better.

Chair Green stated that we could work with that and she is sure that Mr. Brown will be able to find a restaurant that could accommodate all.

Mr. Bryant stated that he would contact Councilman Paul Livingston tomorrow to set up the initial meeting and go from there.

Motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a contractual matter made by Commissioner Weiss and second by Commissioner Furgess. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green Weiss, Furgess, Martin, Latiff and Lewis.

11. Executive Session

Motion to come out of Executive Session made by Commissioner Furgess and second by Commissioner Weiss. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Furgess, Weiss, Lewis, Martin and Latiff.

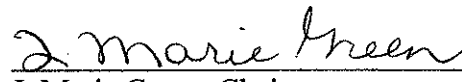
Chair Green stated that no actions were taken in Executive Session.

Motion made by Commissioner Weiss to accept the staff recommendations to sign the necessary contracts supplied through Richland County Water Service in the Hopkins Park area and second by Commissioner Furgess. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Weiss, Furgess, Lewis, Martin and Latiff.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Commissioner Furgess and second by Commissioner Weiss. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Weiss, Furgess, Martin, Latiff and Lewis.

12. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 7:30p.m.



J. Marie Green, Chair

Minutes approved on this 18 of April 2011.