

BEAUFORT COUNTY RURAL AND CRITICAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

The regular meeting of the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board (hereafter known as the Board) was held on Thursday, May 8, 2008 in the Conference Room at Beaufort County Finance Office at 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Steve Riley (Chair)
Ms. Selena Brown
Ms. Gloria Cartwright (Vice-Chair)
Ms. Dorothy Giddens
Mr. Malcolm Goodridge
Mr. Ed Pappas
Mr. Jacob Preston
Mr. Ray Tudor
Mr. Joseph Vercellotti

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Pete Dawson
Mr. York Glover

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Skeet Von Harten, Vice-Chair, County Council

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Saleem Khattak, Public Services Director
Mr. Tony Criscitiello, Planning Director
Ms. Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner
Mr. Frederick Lewis, Mr. Glenn Stanford - Trust for Public Land (TPL)

GUEST PRESENT:

Charley Marshall
Andrea Malloy – Coastal Conservation League

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Steve Riley called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Chairman Riley asked if there were any changes to the Agenda and there were three items that were added to the general discussion section: discussion about approaching the Chambers of Commerce for the purpose of informing them on the function and purpose of the Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Program, Mr. Charlie Marshall's presentation, discussion about Friends of the Parks by Glenn Stanford.

Chairman Riley asked if there were any changes to the Minutes from the March 13, 2008 Board meeting. Hearing none, Mr. Goodrich made a motion and Mr. Tudor seconded the motion to accept the Minutes from the March 13, 2008 Board meeting. **Motion carried.**

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Fred Lewis informed the board and guests present that he will be moving to the TPL office in Raleigh, NC next week. Everyone thanked him for his hard work and dedication and expressed that he would be missed. Mr. Glenn Stanford said that he would be taking on some of Fred's projects and the rest will be picked up by Mr. Raleigh West and Mr. Slade Gleaton out of the Charleston TPL office.

Mr. Charlie Marshall, representing Mr. Brandon Harter (owner of Lowcountry Property, LLC) presented a piece of property next to Binden Plantation for the Board to consider for purchase. The property contains two high ground pieces, both of which equal 5.74 acres. These two pieces are connected with a 22 acre marsh for a total of 27 acres. The property is located along Hwy 21/17 and Alternate Hwy 21/17 near Point South. The appraisal submitted was \$713,000 and Mr. Marshall said that he would contribute \$25,000 to the process.

Mr. Glenn Stanford began his discussion about Friends of the Parks by saying that the County has acquired a lot of land through this program, yet only two parks are currently open to the public. He realizes that the County is suffering a budget deficit, however, it has been mentioned to him that another board is not a good idea. Instead, Mr. Stanford has been contacted by Dr. Chris Marsh, head of the Lowcountry Institute, about having the Master Naturalists help out with these acquired lands. The Master Naturalists would do such things as environmental surveys, inventory of plants and animals, clean up of property, and possibly adopt a park on a volunteer basis. Mr. Ed Pappas raised the issue of possible funding for this endeavor. Mr. Stanford stated that the program has received some gifts back to the program and that he may go back to these owners and ask if that money can be used for stewardship of these passive parks.

Mr. Skeet VonHarten stated that he had talked with Mr. Gary Kubic about approaching the Chambers of Commerce. He said that since this board was created by County Council, if you want to collect any fees for the program, you must do it under properly

created rules. In light of this, Mr. Ed Pappas suggested that for the next bond referendum, we include a maintenance section. Mr. Glenn Stanford agreed along with the rest of the board members. While on that subject, Mr. Pappas also suggested that we develop a timeline of when we need to begin planning for the next bond referendum. Chairman Steve Riley stated that we probably need to start by October 2009.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Riley entertained a motion by Mr. Tudor, seconded by Mr. Goodrich, to adjourn the Open Session at 3:43 p.m. and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters associated with property acquisitions. **The vote was unanimous to enter into Executive Session.**

The Board re-entered Open Session at 4:10 p.m.

No discussions were brought to motion.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairman Riley entertained a motion at 4:11 p.m. from Mr. Tudor, seconded by Mr. Pappas, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Submitted by: Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

Approved:

Steve Riley, Chairman, Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land
Preservation Board

Date: _____