



RURAL AND CRITICAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

Thursday, May 10, 2018

2:30 pm

Port Royal Sound Foundation

Classroom

310 Okatie Highway, Okatie, SC 29909

Phone: (843) 255-2140

Members:

Michael Mathews, District 9 (Chair)
Mark Baker, District 8 (Vice-Chair)
Bob Bender, District 4
Susie Fripp-Gordon, District 1
Terry Hill, District 6
Walter Mack, District 3
Gail O' Kane, District 11
Dorothy Scanlin, District 10
Denise Sullivan, District 2
Richard Walls, District 7
Vacant, District 5

Staff:

Anthony Criscitiello, Planning Director
Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME
2. REVIEW OF AGENDA
3. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 12, 2018 ([backup](#))
4. GENERAL DISCUSSION
 - A. Financial Update (Flake/Nagid)
 - B. 2018 Bond Referendum Discussion (Mathews/Holmes)
5. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - A. Contractual Matters Relating to Land Acquisition:
Review of Parcel 2018C (Holmes)
6. FIELD TRIP
 - A. Field trip of Mobley Tract that was bought in partnership with Port Royal Sound Foundation
7. OTHER
 - A. Next Meeting: June 14, 2018, 3:00 P.M. at Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority (BJWSA) Conference Room, 6 Snake Road, Okatie, SC 29909
8. ADJOURNMENT

BEAUFORT COUNTY RURAL AND CRITICAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

The Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board (hereafter known as the Board) was held on April 12, 2018, at the Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority Conference Room at 2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Mike Mathews (Chairman)
Mr. Mark Baker (Vice-Chairman)
Ms. Susie Fripp-Gordon
Mr. Terry Hill
Mr. Walter Mack

Ms. Gail O’Kane
Ms. Dorothy Scanlin
Ms. Denise Sullivan
Mr. Richard Walls

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Bob Bender

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Eric Greenway, Beaufort County Community Development Deputy Director
Ms. Stefanie Nagid, Beaufort County Passive Park Manager
Ms. Barbara Holmes, Beaufort County Open Land Trust

GUESTS PRESENT:

Ms. Alice Howard, Beaufort County Councilwoman
Mr. York Glover, Beaufort County Councilman
Mr. Will Abberger, Trust for Public Lands
Mr. Phil Foot, Beaufort County Director of Public Safety
Ms. Cindy Baysden, Beaufort County Open Land Trust
Ms. Kristen Williams, Beaufort County Open Land Trust
Ms. Kate Schaeffer, Coastal Conservation League
Mr. Tom Gardo, Denarius Group

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Mathews called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Chairman Mathews asked if there were any changes to the Agenda and there were none.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Chairman Mathews asked if there were any changes to the Minutes from the March 8, 2018 Board meeting. Hearing none, Ms. Sullivan made a motion and Ms. O’Kane seconded the motion to accept the Minutes as written from the March 8, 2018 Board meeting. **The motion was carried unanimously to accept the minutes as written from the March 8, 2018, Board meeting** (FOR: Mathews, Baker, Fripp-Gordon, Hill, Mack, O’Kane, Scanlin, Sullivan, Walls absent Bender).

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Introduction of Passive Parks Manager

Chairman Mike Mathews introduced Stefanie Nagid, the new Passive Parks Manager for the Community Development Department. Stefanie gave a brief biography of herself to the Board members.

Financial Update

Ms. Nagid informed the Board members that based on what was received from the bond referendum and what had already been spent that the Board had just over 6 million dollars left for land acquisitions. Chairman Mathews stated that the last time the Board was presented an official financial report was September of 2017 and it detailed that around 13 million was left in the R&C Program. Ms. Nagid explained that she was giving the summary based on the total revenue minus the existing acquisition expenses minus some projects that were part of the 20% park infrastructure portion of the last two bond referendums. The Board requested an updated financial report be emailed to them once it was available from the Finance Department. Chairman Mathews also asked for a breakdown from Ms. Nagid on money spent on park infrastructure to date as well as future planned park expenditures.

Results of Beaufort County Public Opinion Poll

Mr. Will Abberger, with the Trust for Public Lands, presented the results of the public opinion poll that was recently administered within Beaufort County. The poll showed that around 68% of voters were willing to vote yes on supporting continued funding for the Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program with 41% showing a definite yes. There was discussion that as growth and development increase in the county, it is being reflected in the polls. Voters are finding water quality issue most important.

Finalization of Board Resolution for 2018 Bond Referendum

After hearing the results of the public opinion poll and the information from the feasibility study, it was determined by the Board that there was sufficient support to continue funding the Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program. Therefore, the Board would like to make a request to County Council to support another bond referendum.

Ms. O’Kane made a motion; seconded by Vice-Chairman Baker, to recommend to the Natural Resources Committee of County Council to pursue a bond referendum of 50 million dollars with an amount not to exceed 15% going towards park infrastructure **The motion was carried (7 yes, 1 abstain, 1 no) to recommend to the Natural Resources Committee of County Council to pursue a bond referendum of 50 million dollars with an amount not to exceed 15% going towards park infrastructure.** (FOR: Mathews, Fripp-Gordon, Hill, Mack, O’Kane, Scanlin, Walls. AGAINST: Sullivan. ABSTAIN: Baker).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Mathews entertained a motion by Ms. O’Kane, seconded by Mr. Hill, to adjourn the Open Session at 4:20 p.m. and convened Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters associated with property acquisitions. **The motion was carried unanimously to enter into Executive Session** (FOR: Mathews, Baker, Fripp-Gordon, Hill, Mack, O’Kane, Scanlin, Sullivan, Walls).

Chairman Mathews adjourned Executive Session and convened Open Session at 4:44 p.m.

Ms. O’Kane made a motion; seconded by Ms. Scanlin, to recommend to the Natural Resources Committee of County Council to pursue Parcel 2018B under the terms and conditions as recommended by Beaufort County Open Land Trust, as discussed in Executive Session. **The motion was carried unanimously to recommend to the Natural Resources Committee of County Council to pursue 2018B under the terms and conditions as recommended by Beaufort County Open Land Trust, as discussed in Executive Session.** (FOR: Mathews, Baker, Fripp-Gordon, Hill, Mack, O’Kane, Scanlin, Sullivan, Walls).

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairman Mathews entertained a motion at 4:45 p.m. from Gale O’Kane, seconded by Walter Mack, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was approved unanimously** (FOR: Mathews, Baker, Fripp-Gordon, Hill, Mack, O’Kane, Scanlin, Sullivan, Walls).

Submitted by: Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

Approved: _____
Mike Mathews, Chairman,
Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Board

Date: _____