

**Heritage Trust Advisory Board  
Pleasant Ridge Park  
4232 Hwy 11, Marietta, SC 29661  
Thursday, May 11, 2023 – 11:00AM**

**Members Present**

Brad Sauls (for Eric Emerson)  
Campbell Coxe  
Clark Thompson (for Harry Lightsey)  
Julia Krebs  
Julien Springs  
Ken Rentiers  
Rob Keck  
Sonny King  
Terry Hurley (for Duane Parrish)  
Tom Patton (for Scott Philips)

**Members Absent**

Amy Bartow-Melia  
Emily Cope (for Robert Boyles)  
Jonathan Leader  
Kevin Hunter

**Others Present**

Austen Attaway  
Barry Kesler  
Bill Craver  
Billy Dukes  
Csilla Czako  
Dawn Beaver  
Eric Ungberg  
Gerald Lee  
Jimmy Chao  
Joe Lemeris  
Jordan Baker  
Keith Bradley  
Ken Prosser  
Lorianne Riggin  
Megan James  
Mike Spinelli  
Pat Cloninger  
Roger Hux  
Sam Tessell  
Scott Park  
Sean Taylor  
Susan Keck  
Ty Houck  
Van Whitehead  
Wayne Adams  
Willie Simmons

**Call to Order**

Chairman Coxe called the meeting to order.

**Welcome and Introduction**

Chairman Coxe gave a quick welcome to the Board and thanked everyone for attending.

**Roll Call of Attendance**

Jordan Baker gave a roll call and asked participants to reply “here” when called.

### **Public Comment Period**

Chairman Coxe asked if anyone wanted to speak during this time. No comments were made.

### **Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2023**

Chairman Coxe noted that the minutes from the previous meeting had been sent to the Board Members. *Mr. Keck made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve the minutes from the February 9, 2023, meeting as submitted. Dr. King seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

### **Approval of Minutes from March 13, 2023**

Chairman Coxe noted that the minutes from a previous conference call had been sent to the Board Members. *Mr. Springs made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve the minutes from the March 13, 2023, conference call as submitted. Dr. King seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

### **Items for Board Information**

#### **A. Falls Park Conservation Easement Project: *Scott Park, Upstate Forever***

Mr. Mike Spinelli, City of Greenville, Assistant City Attorney, spoke first about the Falls Park and the Conservation Easement. Mr. Spinelli mentioned that Falls Park is one of the premier parks in the upstate area with many residents and tourist coming to visit. About 12.7 acres of the easement allows for several recreation activities in the area. The area has continuing maintenance on the property, protecting the conservation there, as well as hoping to restore the tree canopy in the area. Some of the other maintenance is keep the view sheds for public access cleared for tourist to access the park. One perk about Falls Park is that it's in downtown Greenville, making it more reachable and enjoyable for the public.

#### **B. McPherson Park Conservation Easement Project: *Scott Park, Upstate Forever***

Mr. Scott Park from Upstate Forever spoke about McPherson Park and the Conservation Easement. Mr. Park mentioned that there are 19.5 acres on this property and that there are a lot of historical sites within the property. Upstate Forever is looking to help preserve and maintain the park by maintaining all that come in wanting to participate in outdoor recreation and activities. Mr. Park believes that this location would be great for the public to visit with its natural beauty and the location is also easy for public access.

#### **C. Proposed Amended and Restated Conservation Easement – Patriots Point: *William Craver, Craver Law Firm PA***

Mr. Wayne Adams, Vice Chairman of Patriots Point, came to speak to the Board to address the proposal for Patriots Point. Patriots Point is located in Mount Pleasant, SC, right across from the Charleston Harbor. Patriots Point is a top attraction that brings in tourists from all over the country. While it is mainly known for harboring many military ships, it is also known for honoring veterans and providing education about veterans and a history of battles in and out of South Carolina. There are currently two WWII ships on

site, the USS Yorktown Aircraft Carrier and USS Laffey Destroyer. Mr. Adams mentioned that while it is great having those ships to share and educate the public with, the maintenance and care of those ships is a never-ending process. Due to the salt water, there is a lot of erosion on both ships, and this is causing them to start sinking. They did have a study done to estimate the cost of repairs on the ships and, while the cost of repairs is expensive and expected, they have come up with a plan on how to hopefully cover some of the cost and take advantage of the property they already own. Mr. Will Craver with Craver Law Firm mentioned that Patriots Annex will have 61 acres which includes mixed retail, hotel, and lots of other tourism. This new development means that they will need to move some things around on the property. Patriots Point is asking DNR for their help with water drainage and moving things around.

**D. Poinsett Bridge Rehabilitation:** *Jimmy Chao, Chao and Associates, Inc*

Jimmy Chao and Gerald Lee from Chao and Associates, Inc spoke to the Board about Poinsett Bridge and the ongoing rehabilitation. Mr. Chao and Mr. Lee both spoke about how their main goal is trying to preserve the bridge to its original look, but by doing so we must understand the history of the bridge. The bridge was originally built in 1820, was named after Joel Poinsett who oversaw the construction, and is located on Poinsett Heritage Preserve in Greenville County. Poinsett Bridge was thought to be the original route from Charleston, SC to Asheville, NC. The bridge is designed non-traditionally with a gothic arch. There are no original blueprints of the bridge which makes rebuilding it a challenge, but a lot of the original features are still there and visible today. In 1988 the bridge was added to the historical record. There has been some noted vandalism by people trying to steal some rocks and spray paint found on the rocks, but they are able to clean the paint off. The bulk of the bridge is all smooth stone, but the archway is made with a rougher stone. They believe most of the stone came from the area nearby and near the quarry. One thing that Mr. Chao noted that is unique is the archway; it is missing a stone, but the arch still stays intact. The archway is believed to be held by the compression of the stones; inside the bridge the rocks are all contained creating a rock wall to hold everything up. Because of this, if one side falls the whole bridge could also fall. A big focus on rebuilding the bridge is updating the safety quality of the bridge to today's standards. Mr. Chao showed the board the new blueprint plan for the bridge, showing all the improvements but still maintaining the original look. Another focus of the rehabilitation is enhancing the visitor experience with site improvements for parking. The parking lot is very small, so their team is creating a better layout of the parking lot and providing more gates, signs, sidewalks around the area, and Handicap parking. There is also hope for a viewing deck on the site for visitors to observe the area surrounding the bridge and Heritage Preserve. This project is projected to take up to six to nine months, but there is no rush because Chao Associates is trying to keep the bridge historically accurate.

### **Potential Conflict of Interest Statement**

Chairman Coxe read the “Potential Conflict of Interest Statement” before going into Executive Session. No statements were made.

### **Items for Board Action**

#### **A. Stumphouse Mountain Heritage Preserve – City of Walhalla Temporary Access License**

*Dr. King made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board grant approval of the short-term license agreement as presented to allow the City of Walhalla to access an existing road that boards Stumphouse Mountain Heritage Preserve and to deliver equipment and construction materials to the City of Walhalla Property. Mr. Springs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

#### **B. Proposed Palmetto Trail at Wateree River Heritage Preserve**

*Dr. King made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve the 10-year license agreement as presented to allow the Palmetto Conservation Foundation to design, construct and maintain a walking/hiking trail at Wateree River Heritage Preserve and Wildlife Management Area. Dr. Krebs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

#### **C. Property Acquisition: Increase in Due Diligence Funding for approximately 286.9 acres in Greenville County**

*Mr. Springs made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board recommend that the SCDNR Board approve the expenditure of an additional \$40,000 of Heritage Trust funds, thus a total of \$60,000, for due diligence activities for the potential property acquisition of 286.9 acres in Greenville County. Dr. King seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

### **Motion to Enter Executive Session**

*Dr. King made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session pursuant to S.C. Code Section 30-4-70(A)(2) to discuss a property acquisition related to Action Items D and E. Mr. Springs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

### **Motion to Close Executive Session and Return to Public Session**

*Dr. King made a motion that the Board return to open session, and let the record reflect that no action was taken in Executive Session. Dr. Krebs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

### **Motions on Action Items**

#### **D. Potential Property Acquisition in Hampton County**

*Dr. King made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board concur with the SCDNR’s Board’s action on March 24, 2023, granting preliminary approval to investigate the potential acquisition of approximately 1,672 acres known as Slater Phase II in Hampton County that would be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed into corpus of the SC Heritage Trust. Dr. Krebs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

**E. Potential Property Acquisition in Greenville County**

*Dr. Krebs made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation from SCDNR staff, recommend the SCDNR Board grant preliminary approval to investigate the potential property acquisition of approximately 206 acres in Greenville County that would be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and place into the corpus of the SC Heritage Trust, and the expenditure of up to \$20,000 in Heritage Trust funds to conduct due diligence activities. Mr. Springs second the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

**Updates and Comments**

Mr. Rentiers mentioned to the Board that there will be in-person and virtual training for Heritage Trust Advisory Board members before the August meeting to go over guidelines. Mr. Rentiers also mentioned to the Board that Keith Bradley was just recognized as Employee of the Year for Land, Water, and Conservation at SCDNR and thanked him for all the wonderful work he has done this year.

**Time and Place of the Next Board Meeting**

The next meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board will be on Thursday, August 10, 2023. The location of the meeting will be determined by a later date.

**Adjournment**

*Having no further business to discuss, Dr. King made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board be adjourned. Mr. Springs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Jordan Baker  
Administrative Assistant  
SC Department of Natural Resources  
Land, Water, and Conservation Division*