

S.C. HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD

Tentative Business Meeting Agenda

10:00 a.m. - November 20, 1980

Dutch Plaza, Columbia

- I. Approval of the September 4th Meeting Minutes
- II. Consideration of Registration and Dedication Agreements
 - a) Eastatoe Creek Gorge Dedication
 - b) Discussion of John de la Howe "Museum Tract" registration
- III. Update on Protection Projects
 - a) Chandler Bridge Formation
 - b) Bird Key - Stono
 - c) Protection Projects Status Report
- IV. Discussion of the Heritage Trust Program 5-Year Review
- V. Election of Heritage Trust Advisory Board Chairman

S. C. HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
Thursday, November 20, 1980
Dutch Plaza - Columbia, S. C.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Walter T. Ahearn
representing Mr. Leonard Kilian, Jr.
Dr. Wade T. Batson
Mrs. Ethel Jane Bunting (Vice-Chrm.)
Mr. Ed Burgess
representing Mr. Robert E. Leak
Mr. Philip Edwards
Dr. Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr.
Mr. Charles E. Lee
Mr. David Sennema
Dr. Robert L. Stephenson
Mr. Pat Walker
representing Mr. John Parris
Mr. Ben Williamson (Chairman)
Dr. James A. Timmerman, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Fred P. Brinkman
Mrs. Claudette Cureton
(3 vacant positions)

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Steve Bennett, Heritage Staff
Mr. John Cely, Heritage Staff
Mr. Stuart Greeter, Heritage Staff
Mr. Tom Kohlsaas, Heritage Staff
Mr. Rudy Mancke, Museum Commission
Ms. Jan Mewborn, Heritage Staff
Dr. Doug Rayner, Heritage Staff
Mr. Jim Sorrow
Mr. Roger Stroup

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Williamson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Batson moved for adoption of the September 4, 1980 meeting minutes. The Board approved adoption of the minutes.

CONSIDERATION OF REGISTRATION & DEDICATION AGREEMENTS

Eastatoe Creek Gorge Dedication - Mr. Greeter reported that the rules & regulations had been submitted to the Legislature with the hope of approval next year. Funding has been received from HCRS for a trail system, foot bridge access road and gate to allow for public recreation and fishing. Mrs. Bunting brought up the idea of fees being charged as a means of raising money. It was pointed out the cost of administration would make this uneconomical in this case because of the light use. Mr. Greeter made a correction in the Dedication Agreement as follows: "tropical american species" be changed to "disjunct moss species". After some discussion Dr. Batson moved to approve the Eastatoe Creek Gorge Dedication. The Board approved this action.

Bald eagle nests - Mr. Greeter recommended approval of agreements for 3 active bald eagle nests on the Bear Island Management Area. This land is owned by the Department and the agreement would be between the Department and the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. Mr. Lee moved for the approval of the three registrations, Dr. Gauthreaux seconded the motion, and the Board approved this action.

John de la Howe - There was a question as to whether cutting should be allowed because of a pine bark beetle problem and if this registration was approved John de la Howe School would like to rely on us, the Forestry Commission, and other experts for advice in the future. This is noted in the agreement. Other changes in the registration were that no hunting be allowed for the safety of the children, and in item 3C the term "by the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department" was deleted. Dr. Stephenson moved that we approve the Registration of the John de la Howe "Museum Tract". Mr. Ahearn seconded the motion and the Board approved this action.

UPDATE ON PROTECTION PROJECTS

Chandler Bridge Formation - Westvaco indicated that they would not be willing to donate any property in this area to the Heritage Trust but they may be willing to sell. On receiving a negative answer the staff went back to the Charleston Museum Board and one of the Board members, who is an employee of Westvaco, approached other Westvaco people. Shortly after, we received a letter from Westvaco Development which says that they would surely be willing to reserve an area for scientific research some time in the future but had to consider the drainage in the area and develop a drainage plan. Mr. Greeter recommended the Heritage Trust Advisory Board give the Chairman the authority to write a letter to Westvaco requesting some type of action in the future in order to speed negotiations. On the motion of Mrs. Bunting and second of Dr. Batson the Board voted to give the Chairman such authority.

Bird Key—Stono - At the Board's request, the Chairman wrote to the Attorney General and Senator Wise, requesting that the ownership question be resolved. The Attorney General's office has responded indicating that some time in December they should have an opinion. Mr. Greeter reported that he has been in touch with the Budget and Control Board and they have indicated that they would be willing to dedicate the property to the Heritage Trust if they have an opinion of state ownership. Hopefully by the next meeting we will have a dedication agreement for this area.

Sagittaria fasciculata - (A major endangered plant occurrence at Furman University). Staff will be meeting with Furman University this week. Furman is concerned about the effect which registration of a plant site would have on any sediment control measures they might want to take in the future. According to the Soil Conservation Service, the sediment problem does not originate in the drainage where the Sagittaria grows. Staff will be talking to them about the implications of the registration agreement. Mr. Greeter suggested that the Chairman may want to write letters on behalf of the Board to the president of Furman University requesting he take action. Mr. Lee made the motion that the Chairman be given the prerogative. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Bunting and approved by the Board.

PROTECTION PROJECTS STATUS REPORT

Dr. Gauthreaux noted the following omission: Bird Key—Stono, located in Charleston County, approximately 40 acres at low tide approved by the Board in September 1980 as a project, owner: presently unknown, planned protection: Heritage Preserve, and current status: under investigation.

Dr. Lee reported that the Archives & History Department and the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments have joined in providing money for an overall conservation/recreation plan for the Ashley River Historic District. Archives & History has received the first draft of the report which will eventually be presented to the governing authorities. An architectural/planning firm has contracted to prepare a brief, informative flyer on the project. This should be in hand by the next meeting. Efforts to obtain easements along Ashley River Road are proceeding. Mr. Greeter mentioned that John Meffort, of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is making progress and hopes to have easements on 60% of the roadway by the end of the year, 1980.

DISCUSSION OF HERITAGE TRUST PROGRAM 5-YEAR REVIEW

Discussion of the 5-year review was lead by Dr. Gauthreaux. Dr. Gauthreaux asked all members to respond to the questionnaire which was mailed to them, and expressed his appreciation for those he has received. Commission Chairman Edens has been sent a separate set of questions directed toward the Commission. It is the intent of the 5-year review committee to involve the three components (the Staff, the Commission and the Advisory Board) and have questions somewhat tailor made so that they reflect the important role of each particular component. Dr. Gauthreaux then reviewed the questions with the Board:¹

1) Chapter 17 - Mission goals and Objectives of the Program; Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7:

An organizational chart of the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department (SCWMRD) was distributed and Dr. Gauthreaux asked if Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB) input to the Commission is acceptable as it now stands. The members were also asked how they perceive the Board's role in the reading of the law. Mr. Lee commented that the operation is successful in the protection of natural resources but not working too well with cultural resources because: 1) the primary mission of the Wildlife Commission isn't cultural; 2) Archives and History (A&H) has a Commission stongly committed to protecting cultural resources; and 3) the Heritage Trust (HT) mechanism isn't always applicable to cultural resource protection. Dedication is too rigid and registration too weak. The HT Act is helpful in the protection of areas where important natural and historic elements coincide, such as the Ashley River Road Historic District. For that reason, perhaps the HT endeavor should be placed in the Governor's Office instead of the Wildlife Commission.

Dr. Batson recommended that HTAB be moved up the the Commission level on the organizational chart and the members agreed.

Mr. Lee pointed out that the HT Act would be more helpful if it offered a tax break for preserving historic properties. The legislation should also be amended to protect significant areas from State Government activities that might disturb them.

Mrs. Bunting commented that perhaps A&H would have more input into the Heritage Trust Program (HTP) if they had funding to devise a system of setting priorities as SCWMRD has done with natural areas. If the HTP is weak in the area of cultural resources, it is because the information has not been presented to the Board. With cultural resources, there are other programs designed to handle a great deal of the preservation, but not so with natural areas. Therefore, it is important to put the HTP under SCWMRD.

Dr. Stephenson commented that the HTAB should have a budget committee and a portion of the budget should be utilized by A&H and the Institute of Archaeology (Inst. of Arch.) to evaluate site data and present the information the Board needs. Funds could be used to reorganize site lists and establish protection priorities. The Board should have input as to what the HTP staff is and what their responsibilities are. The Board should take more of a leadership role in policy setting.

Mr. Lee indicated that the problem on the historic side is not idenfication but rather devising strategies for protection.

Mr. Mancke said that the HTP receives valuable assistance by being under SCWMRD. The Board should review their budget, however, and take an active role in obtaining additional funding if it is needed.

¹ The original minutes covering discussion of the 5-Year Review are voluminous and have been condensed for this mailing. If any HTAB member feels his/her opinion is not given fair representation in this condensed version, please add it as a correction to the minutes at the next meeting. The lengthy version is available to any member who requests it.

Dr. Stephenson indicated that a staff person is needed by both the Inst. of Arch. and the A&H to boil down a mass of inventory information to five or six sites which can benefit from the HTP.

Mr. Mancke commented that we don't have a good inventory of the natural history areas of S.C. and we need to expand more effort in that area.

Dr. Gauthreaux asked if we should amend the legislation to a more restrictive mode to reflect what is being accomplished right now or should we expand the program activities to reflect what the Act now states, ie. protection of cultural and natural resources.

Mr. Mancke stated we should concentrate on natural history inventories where we have expertise, deal with any cultural protection projects we have authority to deal with, and not try to get more money from a budget that's been cut 7%.

It was the general agreement of the Board to continue the current policy of concentrating emphasis on natural history and assisting on archaeological and historic sites when needed.

Mr. Kohlsaas pointed out that SCWMRD and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) conceived the HTP and sponsored legislation with the idea of protecting natural areas and diversity. The bill was written with an expanded scope, as an interagency program, to appeal to the legislature. SCWMRD views HTP as an interagency program with all of the agencies contributing resources to get the job done. Most of the program's resources have come from SCWMRD.

Some perceive the role of HT to fend off development projects and some see it as a banner we fly under to get money to do some good. Can the Board represent all the diverse interests and create a unified image needed to lobby for additional funding?

It was suggested that the Board meet more often to set more timely program goals. The membership agreed to meet on a quarterly basis and additional meetings would be called by the Chairman when necessary.

Dr. Gauthreaux pointed out that the budget breakdown will appear in the 5-Year Review document and will be discussed at a future meeting. According to the Act, the Advisory Board is supposed to present the staff's budget to the Commission. We need a budget committee.

Dr. Timmerman stated that SCWMRD must appear before the Budget and Control Board and request funding based on a natural areas expertise, rather than a cultural one. Other agencies must help if we are to add staff in this area or perhaps SCWMRD can help other agencies add such staff. HTAB might be able to help other agencies by endorsing their need for additional staff.

Mr. Williamson - That's where the Board should be recommending policy to the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman - It would be faster and more beneficial for the HTAB to lend support to other agencies when they need something from the legislature.

Mr. Lee - The Board could be helpful but only in close consultation with other agencies.

The discussion then turned to meeting attendance and it was agreed that agency heads should appoint only one alternate to attend meetings.

Mrs. Bunting made a motion that all Board members answer Dr. Gauthreaux's question list and send them in within two weeks.

Dr. Gauthreaux and Dr. Stevenson commented on the need for a budget committee, a cultural resources committee, and a natural resources committee.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD

Ben Williamson's (District #6) and Phil Edwards' (District #5) terms have expired. Vacancies also exist for House and Senate representatives on the Board. A list of persons qualified to serve on the Board was distributed and members were requested to contact Dr. Gauthreaux with additional suggestions or comments.

Dr. Gauthreaux was elected Chairman and Mrs. Bunting was re-elected as Vice Chairman.

Dr. Lee moved that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board with admiration and affection wishes to thank Chairman Williamson for his dedicated and wise service over the past five years. Tom Kohlsaas, on behalf of the HTAB, presented plaques to memorialize the generous and valuable service contributed by Mr. Ben Williamson and Mr. Phil Edwards.

The meeting was adjourned.