

MINUTES
Heritage Trust Advisory Board
Friday, October 28, 1983
Education Center, Brookgreen Gardens

Members Present

Dr. Sid Gauthreaux (Chairman)
Mr. Walt Ahearn
Mr. Pat Walker
Dr. Jim Timmerman
Mr. Fred Brinkman
Dr. Bob Lumpkin
Mr. Gurdon Tarbox
Mr. Henry Savage
Mr. Tom Kohlsaat (Representing
Dr. Batson)

← Dr. Robt. Stephenson

Other Attendees

Mr. Stuart Greeter
Ms. LaBruce Alexander
Mr. Mike Foley
Mr. Phil Wilkinson

Members Absent

Mr. Ed Drane
Mrs. Claudette Cureton
Rep. Daniel Winstead
Sen. Arthur Ravenel
Ms. Christie Fant
Mr. Ed Burgess
Mr. Rudy Mancke

Dr. Gauthreaux called the Heritage Trust Advisory Board meeting to order at 10:20 AM on Friday, October 28, at Brookgreen Gardens. A motion was passed that Dr. Gauthreaux be elected as Chairman, since his term had expired. The minutes were adopted with no amendments. The Chairman called for a moment of silence for John Clonts and suggested a letter of condolence from HTAB to John's wife.

Budget Committee

Dr. Timmerman passed out the Legislative Proposal as approved by the Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission. Tom Kohlsaat passed out the current budget for the Heritage Trust Program. Dr. Timmerman reported that Federal endangered species funding would be reinstated at last year's level. He is also working to get all Heritage Trust employees on State appropriations so more checkoff money can be used for acquisitions. He recommends developing one attractive acquisition project to help publicize the "Check for Wildlife". Tom Kohlsaat described the work being carried out under the current Heritage Trust Program budget.

A motion was passed to spend up to \$35,000 on two acquisition projects:
1) Oxypolis canbyi and 2) Shealy's Pond.

A motion was passed to adopt the Heritage Trust Program budget as proposed.

Natural Areas Committee

Mr. Tarbox reported that the Santee Lime Sinks and the Clemson Forest were proposed as potential protection projects and a motion was passed to approve those projects. Mr. Brinkman reported that PRT is attempting to purchase the lime sinks with money from the Recreation Land Trust Fund. PRT will also be purchasing additional land in the Dargan Tract of the Mountain Bridge project and plans to trade land with the YMCA.

A motion was passed that the Natural Areas Committee develop a plan to inventory the flora and fauna of the State and address funding and priorities.

Various suggestions were then made with regard to publicizing the "Check for Wildlife".

Gurdon Tarbox suggested preparing a position paper on the local economic impact of tax free land held by conservation organizations. Dr. Timmerman suggested contacting Dr. Laurent for assistance.

Cultural Areas Committee

Dr. Stephenson reported that the Ashley River Road has been nominated for the National Register and that nomination should be approved in November. A committee met to discuss a protection strategy for Ashley River Road and to reestablish the Ashley River Property Owners Association. Political representatives are being contacted concerning the Highway 61 expressway. Mr. John Meffert anticipates the receipt of a number of easements along the roadway in May of next year.

A motion was passed accepting all committee reports.

Protection Project Update

Ms. Alexander reported that The Nature Conservancy had closed on the Canby's Cowbane site and the property along Flat Creek Dike. Nine of eleven owners of Forty Acre Rock had signed off on a deed transfer. The Conservancy has also submitted options on two parcels of property along Shealy's Pond.

Mr. Greeter gave some background information on the Ashmore Tract and a motion was passed that the Board recommend that the Wildlife Commission approve the Ashmore Tract as a Wildlife Department Acquisition project. The registration agreement for the Wood Stork rookery was approved in principle. A brief update of the Landsford Canal protection project was given and Mr. Savage suggested looking into the canal ruins along the Wateree River.

Phil Wilkinson presented a slide show and described the Brown Pelican nesting situation in the southeast. South Carolina has two pelican rookeries that are equivalent to approximately 2/3 of the 33 rookeries in Florida. Seventy-five percent of the suitable nesting habitat on Bird Key-Stono has been lost to erosion.

Other Business

Pat Walker reported that a Peatland Study Committee has been formed and will meet next week. The Land Resources Conservation Commission will receive the first application for peat mining next month.

Mr. Savage inquired about Healing Springs and Mr. Greeter noted the difficulty in determining recharge area. Dr. Timmerman suggested contacting the Water Resources Commission or the Land Resources Conservation Commission.

Mr. Greeter noted that HTAB members who are not State employees are entitled to a \$35 per diem, \$.23 per mile travel, and \$12 per day meal allowance. Members should contact Mr. Greeter if they wish to submit a Travel Support Document.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date was set for February 2, 1984 in Columbia.

The meeting was adjourned.