

MINUTES

S.C. Heritage Trust Advisory Board Meeting  
Friday, April 29, 1983  
Drayton Hall, Charleston, SC

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr.  
Mr. Gurdon Tarbox  
Mr. Henry Savage, Jr.  
Dr. Albert C. Goodyear  
(for Dr. Stephenson)  
Ms. Claudette Cureton  
Dr. James A. Timmerman, Jr.  
Dr. Charles E. Lee  
Ms. Christie Fant  
Mr. Ed Burgess  
Mr. Fred Brinkman  
Senator Arthur Ravenel, Jr.  
Mr. Edwin B. Drane

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Stuart Greeter  
Ms. Ethel Jane Bunting  
Dr. Doug Rayner  
Mr. Steve Bennett  
Ms. Frances R. Edmunds  
Ms. Langdon Edmunds  
Mr. John Meffert  
Ms. LaBruce Alexander  
Mr. Thomas Kohlsaat

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Wade T. Batson  
Rep. Daniel E. Winstead  
Mr. Walter Ahearn  
Mr. Pat Walker  
Dr. Robert Lumpkin  
Mr. Rudy Mancke

Chairman Gauthreaux called the April 29th meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board to order at 10:30 AM. The last line on the second page of the minutes was amended to read "Chairman" instead of "Acting Chairman". The minutes were then approved. Chairman Gauthreaux introduced Ms. Frances Edmunds who is Chairman of the Drayton Hall Council, Mr. John Meffert from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Mr. Ed Drane who is the most recent appointee to the Heritage Trust Advisory Board.

Budget Committee

Senator Ravenel reported that the Nongame and Heritage Trust Program hoped to receive \$110,000 in Federal funds this year, and if so, will end up with a \$40,000 surplus. He stated that it is premature to decide exactly how tax checkoff funds should be spent until Federal funding is assured. Tom Kohlsaat passed out a budget for all members to review.

Natural Areas Committee

Steve Bennett reported that the Natural Areas Committee discussed the Carolina Bay project under which four counties had been surveyed to date and ground-truthing was about to be initiated. Survey work of four coastal counties for significant natural areas had begun under the Coastal Energy Impact Program. The counties to be surveyed are Colleton, Horry, Dorchester, and Jasper. The possible future of Sand Island was also discussed.

Cultural Areas Committee

Christie Fant reported that the S.C. Department of Archives and History had funded a study on the Ashley River Historic District in 1977 and the Committee discussed the progress that had been made since then. Maps showing easements that had thus far been obtained were passed out. The Committee recommended revitalization of the Ashley River Road Association to garner local support for the project. Legislation to establish the Ashley River Conservation and Recreation District was also discussed. That legislation may address regulations of uses and activities in the area, but a draft has not been formulated yet.

Mr. Lee also mentioned the study and brochure that had been printed for future distribution.

Dr. Gauthreaux stated that he would like to appoint Mrs. Fant as Chairman to the Cultural Areas Committee. Mr. Lee made that motion, which passed unanimously.

John Meffert reported that the National Trust for Historic Preservation has received firm commitments for easements along 42% of the roadway and contingent commitments along 39% of the roadway. Future progress in obtaining easements is highly dependent on the support of the Ashley River Road Association.

Mr. Lee stated that the Committee decided there is some difficulty in obtaining easements from property owners when the ultimate holder of the easement is in doubt. Dr. Timmerman stated that he felt sure the staff could develop a letter for the Wildlife Commission to sign and suggested that he, Chairman Gauthreaux, Tom Kohlsaas, and some others meet with the new Commission Chairman to explain the program. Dr. Timmerman suggested showing a slide show, that the I&E Division recently developed, at our next meeting and perhaps developing one for the Heritage Trust Program.

Update on Protection Projects

Stuart Greeter stated that three possible protection sites for the endangered bunched arrowhead had been selected and with the help of The Nature Conservancy, one of these areas may be purchased. In the near future, an application will be made for Land and Water Conservation Fund money to help with the purchase of 40 Acre Rock. The Forestry Commission sent Mr. Greeter a letter indicating that the proposed registration agreement for Sugarloaf Mountain meets with their approval and they will contact us after checking with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

LaBruce Alexander informed the Board that The Nature Conservancy had acquired 376 acres on Cat Island which had been turned over to the Wildlife Department and is now a part of the Tom Yawkey Center. Dr. Gauthreaux asked that the staff look into putting this additional acreage under the Heritage Trust.

Dr. Gauthreaux asked members to put the mailed out materials in their notebooks and not discard them.

Dr. Timmerman suggested that staff prepare a news release indicating how much money was obtained under the "Check for Wildlife" program and what it was used for.

#### Paris Mountain State Park

Mr. Brinkman reported that last year the Greenville County Recreation Commission requested that Paris Mountain State Park be deeded to them. There was some local opposition to that action and the county recreation commission withdrew the request. The S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism will be developing a master plan for the park in the near future. Mr. Brinkman asked that the Advisory Board investigate the park for potential natural areas that should be protected under the Heritage Trust Program. The motion reads as follows:

That the South Carolina Heritage Trust Advisory Board endorse the proposal that portions of Paris Mountain State Park be investigated for possible inclusion in the Heritage Trust and that the staffs of the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department and PRT be authorized to proceed with exploratory work on this project.

The motion passed.

#### State Park User Opinion Poll

Mr. Brinkman reported that PRT had completed a State Park User Opinion Poll and handed out copies of the results. Preservation of wildlife, scenic natural areas, and historic sites ranked as the most important goals PRT should be concerned with. Another question on the survey form was how to pay for managing State Parks. Payment of a fee for daytime usage ranked highest. The alternative of closing some parks ranked lowest.

#### User Fees on Wildlife Department Owned Properties

Mr. Greeter reported that the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board is considering charging user fees on Department owned properties, which would include Heritage Preserves. The only feasible way to implement such a program would be to sell one user permit that would cover all Department owned lands for one year. The W&FF Advisory Board met to discuss the issue this month and did not come to any consensus.

Bird Key Management Plan

Mr. Bennett presented the Bird Key Management Plan which had been presented to the Board in draft form at an earlier date. A motion was made to accept the management plan as presented and the motion passed.

Policy Statement Regarding Peatland Energy Development

Mr. Bennett reported that he and Pat Walker had developed a position statement for the Advisory Board to consider and he passed out copies of that statement. The statement recommends that a Peat Mining Task Force be established to study the impacts of peat mining and develop guidelines to minimize environmental impacts. Mr. Bennett recommended that the Advisory Board consider the statement as information at this point and perhaps vote on it at the next meeting. Dr. Timmerman recommended that the Chairman send a letter of intent to John Paris regarding Heritage Trust Program interests in peatlands.

Next HTAB Meeting

The next HTAB meeting was scheduled for 10:00 AM Thursday, July 21st, in Columbia. The following meeting was tentatively scheduled for late October at Brookgreen Gardens.

Ms. Frances Edmunds welcomed the members to Drayton Hall with a brief introduction to the grounds and the Ashley River Road project. The meeting was then adjourned and the members toured Drayton Hall, Middleton Place, and the Ashley River.

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