

WATER COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 22, 2017
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pete Frisina, Chairman
Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Lee Pope, Water System Director
Chip Conner
Commissioner Steve Brown
James Preau, Vice Chairman

ABSENT:

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Dennis Davenport, County Attorney
Michael Diaz, CH2M

STAFF PRESENT:

Russell Ray

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Frisina at 8:00 A.M. This meeting took place at Starr's Mill. Several members of the public were in attendance.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 8, 2017.

Lee Pope made the motion and Chip Connor seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on February 8, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

II. DISCUSSION OF STARR'S MILL CLEANUP.

Steve Rapson announced the group would go around the property to view the site. Commissioner Steve Brown commented something needs to be done with the stream bed and all the vines. The Board of Commissioner passed a resolution to ask DOT about the bridge replacement, for it to be architecturally significant and to blend in with the property. He stated Sam Wellborn is the new DOT Board Member. Lee Pope commented the plan is to do general cleanup, nothing radical.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Daniele Mattesco from Troop 71 stated he wanted to talk about his Eagle Scout project. He said he would like to place benches around the property, and make garbage can covers. Mr. Rapson commented that he is coordinating with Lee Pope.

Tony Parrott commented the County has streambank buffers; he suggested Vanessa Birrell be involved. Mr. Rapson said she will be; and Mr Pope said she has already been involved. Mr. Parrott said restoration and that type of thing is more of a calling. He went on to say that the County has previously taken the parks with the Water System and put them under Parks and Recreation. He recommended doing the same thing with Starr's Mill. Then all the parks are under the same location; let Parks and Recreation handle that site also.

IV. TOUR OF STARR'S MILL PROPERTY.

Mr. Rapson explained that once we decide what we are going to do, we will have a GIS overview of the site, areas will be identified, whether it is clearing the area completely, or lemming the trees to a certain height and those type of things. This will be indicated on a map and that will be presented at the next Committee meeting. The map will basically reflect the walk around they are about to do, a recap. Mr. Pope stated today is more of a discussion about what we are getting ready to do in Phase 1. Commissioner Brown stated it would be helpful for survey markers to be placed for anyone such as the Board of Commissioners coming to look at the site can see where the boundaries are.

Mr. Rapson said we are talking about taking some trees down and leaving some trees up, they will be flagged with ribbon or marked with paint. Then anybody can see the trees that will be taken down.

The Committee and the members of the public then toured the grounds. Steve Rapson pointed out areas that need to be addressed. He discussed the size trees that can be removed, issues on the Highway 85 side of the site, kayaks coming in, an observation deck with railings and Southern Conservation Trust's plans from The Ridge down to Starr's Mill. Mr. Rapson commented the overreaching plan for this park is for it to be passive; we are not contemplating anything staying in the Mill overnight. Possibly open the Mill once a week for three or four hours; open it just for viewing. A time frame will be developed for the initial cleanup. There was a question as to what happens to the debris once it is cleaned up. Vanessa Birrell will be consulted for her advice on the proper disposal of the debris.

V. ADJOURNMENT.

Steve Rapson made a motion to adjourn the Water Committee February 22, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Steve Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously. There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 8:35 A.M.

Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 8th day of March, 2017.

Lisa Speegle