



The Town of Hilton Head Island
**Gullah Geechee Land & Cultural
Preservation Task Force
Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2023, 1:00 p.m.**

Present from the Task Force: Chairman Lavon Stevens; Vice Chairman Palmer E. Simmons; John Campbell; Tom Henz; Ibrahim Abdul-Malik

Absent from the Task Force: Shani Green and Joyce Wright

Present from Town Council: Tamara Becker, Alex Brown

Present from Town Staff: Missy Luick, *Assistant Community Development Director*; Taylor Ladd, *Interim Community Planning Manager*; Krishana Perry, *Principal Planner – Historic Neighborhood Preservation*; Karen Knox, *Senior Administrative Assistant*; Brian Glover, *Administrative Assistant*

1. Call to Order

Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. FOIA Compliance

Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Hilton Head Island.

3. Roll Call

As noted above.

4. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Stevens stated he would like to add a Lowcountry Gullah Foundation presentation by Luana Graves Sellars to the Agenda and that it would take place after the 2023 Priority Goals discussion. Mr. Henz moved to approve. Mr. Simmons seconded. By a show of hands, the amended Agenda was approved by a vote of 5-0-0.

5. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Stevens asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of February 6, 2023. Mr. Abdul-Malik moved to approve. Mr. Campbell seconded. By a show of hands, the Minutes of February 6, 2023, were approved by a vote of 5-0-0.

6. Appearance by Citizens

No comments were received on the Open Town Hall Portal.

Mr. Campbell spoke about native Gullah cemeteries and expressed concern about their upkeep.

7. Staff Report

a. District Planning Update

Ms. Luick provided an overview of the updates to the historic neighborhoods district. The project has gone to the Planning Commission for the first review and received directions for improvements. The project will be returning to the Planning Commission in April.

Additionally, Ms. Luick provided an update on the progress of the implementation of LMO amendments.

b. Historic Neighborhood Permitting & Design Studio Report

Ms. Perry provided the updates for Design Studio requests. Fifty-five total requests have been made since October 2021. Since the last meeting, four new requests have been made, and two have been completed, and there are 33 active projects.

c. Home Safety and Repair Program Update

Ms. Perry provided the update. Since the last meeting, five new applications have been submitted, and all have been moved to the next step.

Ms. Luick provided additional details about the contracting and coordination for the projects.

d. Sewer Connection Program Update

Ms. Perry provided the update. Since the last meeting, one new request has been made, and it has been moved to the next step.

e. Town Open Positions Update

Ms. Perry provided the list of open positions in the Town. She welcomed any recommendations for qualified applicants.

The Board asked about the status of interviews for the positions. Ms. Luick stated that interview processes are being conducted.

8. Discussion Items

a. 2023 Priority Goals

Ms. Perry provided a short overview of the goals discussed at the February meeting. The Board discussed some items they would like to prioritize and additional information they would like for future presentations, including Public Service District and Deep Well. Additionally, they asked that they receive updates on items as they are completed. During their discussion, the Board expressed that family compounds/subdivisions, LMO

changes, and cultural education program and resource center are some of the priorities they would like to focus on.

b. Low Country Gullah Foundation presentation by Luana Graves

Ms. Graves provided a presentation on a free Will clinic designed to help Gullah communities. She also provided presentation materials and a flier which will be included in the record.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Submitted by: Brian Glover, Administrative Assistant

Approved: April 3, 2023