



Town of Hilton Head Island
GULLAH GEECHEE HISTORIC
NEIGHBORHOODS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 11:00 a.m.
MINUTES

Present from Committee: Shirley Peterson, *Chair*; Pastor Louis Johnson, *Vice-Chair*; Terry Brubaker, *Secretary*; Alex Brown, *Treasurer* and David Ames, *Committee Member*

Present from Town Council: Alan Perry, *Mayor* and Glenn Stanford, *Council Member*

Present from Town Staff: Marc Orlando, *Town Manager*; Josh Gruber, *Deputy Town Manager*; Angie Stone, *Assistant Town Manager*; John Troyer, *Finance Director*; Lisa Stauffer, *Human Resources Director*; Carolyn Grant, *Communications Director*; Krishana Perry, *Principal Planner-Historic Neighborhood Preservation*; Nicté Barrientos, *Assistant Planner-Economic Development*; Cindaia Ervin, *Assistant Town Clerk*

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

2. FOIA Compliance

Ms. Ervin confirmed compliance with the SC Freedom of Information Act.

3. Swearing in of Appointed Members

- a. Terry Brubaker - Josh Gruber, Deputy Town Manager
- b. Pastor Louis Johnson - Josh Gruber, Deputy Town Manager
- c. Shirley Peterson - Josh Gruber, Deputy Town Manager

Josh Gruber, Deputy Town Manager, swore in the three newly appointed members to the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation. Mr. Gruber thanked them for their willingness to serve the Community and the hard work they will do.

4. Special Orders

- a. Election of Officers

Mr. Brown made a motion to appoint Shirley Peterson as Chair. Mr. Brubaker seconded. After discussion by the Committee, the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Brown made a motion to appoint Pastor Louis Johnson as Vice Chair. Mr. Brubaker seconded. After discussion by the Committee, the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Brown made a motion to appoint Terry Brubaker as Secretary. Mrs. Peterson seconded. After discussion by the Committee, the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Ames made a motion to appoint Alex Brown as Treasurer. Pastor Johnson seconded. After discussion by the Committee, the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

5. Appearance by Citizens

At the time of the agenda item, Appearance by Citizens, there were no citizens that signed up to speak before Committee nor were there any comments submitted via the Town's Open Town Hall Portal.

6. New Business

a. General Discussion and Overview of Corporation and Community Objectives

Marc Orlando, Town Manager, spoke with the Committee about the Corporation's Objectives, Board Member duties and the Board structure. Mr. Orlando welcomed the Board Members and shared how thrilled he is to work with such a diverse group of local individuals that will bring an undeniable wealth of knowledge and expertise to the corporation. He also provided them with an update about the process thus far for the Executive Director search with the number of potential applicants that have applied and where the job listing has been advertised. Lastly, Mr. Orlando informed the Board of Directors of his and Staffs commitment to advise them and his intent to work closely to assist in achieving the goal of finding the appropriate Executive Director for the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation.

b. Review & Ratification of the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Corporation's By-Laws

Josh Gruber, Deputy Town Manager, reviewed and explained the Corporation's By-Laws to the Board. At the time there were few questions and comments of what Mr. Gruber presented. Mr. Ames moved to make a motion to approve and ratify the by-laws of the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation. Mrs. Peterson seconded. The motion was approved by vote of 5-0-0.

c. Consideration of the Proposed Calendar Year 2023 Meeting Dates, Times, and Locations

Marc Orlando, Town Manager, introduced Cindaia Ervin, Assistant Town Clerk, to the Committee. She reviewed the proposed 2023 calendar year 2023 meeting dates. During that time the Board Members wanted to add quarterly community meetings in the evenings to provide working Citizens a chance to participate should they desire. Mrs. Ervin stated that they could table the vote to allow for an adjustment to the calendar and it be discussed at the Committees next meeting. Lastly, Mrs. Ervin provided the Board Members with a brief presentation of how businesses on Hilton Head in the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods used to thrive with doctors, lawyers, farmers, caregivers, nurses, barbers, and those of many other trades. That Hilton Head she presented was before Mrs. Ervins' time and her views were that with the direction of the Board and the hiring of the Executive Director, the Historic Neighborhoods can and will get back to that thriving community Hilton Head once had. The Committee was thrilled and exceptionally happy to be apart of such a historical time and future for not only the Town but most importantly the Gullah Geechee Community of Hilton Head.

7. Executive Session

a. Discussion of Employment, Appointment Compensation, Promotion, Demotion, Discipline or Release of an Employee, or a Person Regulated by a Public Body

(Pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-70 [a][1])
Related to:

1. Appointment of the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation Executive Director

At 11:30 am, Mrs. Peterson stated that there was a need for an Executive Session to discuss the appointment of the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation Executive Director. Mr. Ames moved to enter into Executive Session for the reasons stated by Chair Member Peterson. Pastor Johnson seconded. The motion was approved by vote of 5-0-0.

8. Possible Action by the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation Community Concerning Matters Discussed in Executive Session

At 12:18 pm, the Committee returned from executive session and Mrs. Peterson stated there was no action as a result of the Executive Session.

9. Adjournment

Mrs. Peterson adjourned the meeting at 12:18 pm.

APPROVED: August 16, 2023