

**THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND  
MAYOR'S TASK FORCE FOR THE FUTURE  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Minutes of the March 8, 2010 meeting

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: Hilton Head Public Service District, Community Meeting Room

*Members Present:* Dave Ames, *Chairman*; James N. Richardson, Jr., *Vice Chairman*; Mark Baker; Tom Barnwell; Steve Birdwell; Peter Kristian; Elizabeth Lamkin; Gail Quick; Bud Shay; Kumar Viswanathan; Joe Harden; *Committee Members*; Drew Laughlin, *Council Liaison*; Steve Riley, *Town Manager*.

*Members Absent:* Bud Shay, John R. Richardson, Jr., Marc Frey, David Tigges.

*Others Present:* Bill Ferguson, *Council member*; Ann Ca

*Staff Present:* Shawn Colin, *Senior Planner*; Sue Blake, *Executive Assistant to the Town Manager*.

*Media Present:* Laura Nahmias, *Island Packet*

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**I CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ames called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**II FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT COMPLIANCE**

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

**III APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **Regular Committee meeting of February 22, 2010**

Peter Kristian moved to approve and Kumar Viswanathan seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**IV REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

- **Tourism Subcommittee**

Steve Birdwell had no report at this time. Their next meeting was set for March 11<sup>th</sup>.

- **Retirement Subcommittee**

Peter Kristian advised they have been working with Dr. Salazar to finalize a citizen's survey. It was expected the survey would be ready to distribute in the next few days.

- **Business Subcommittee**

Kumar Viswanathan reported that they were still exploring ideas to make the Island more business-friendly but in keeping with the core values.

## V

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Solicit input from residents and others with interest in the future of the island about where they would like to see the island in 10-20 years and what they see as the major issues to be addressed to get there.**

Chairman Dave Ames said that the purpose of this meeting was to gain input from the residents and anyone else who was interested in contributing ideas about where the Island ought to be going. He strongly believed that the success of this project depended on community input and community support. He encouraged anyone who was interested in participating in any way, to provide their contact information on the sign up sheet provided at this meeting.

He introduced Aline Carillon, the facilitator for this meeting. Ms. Carillon had taped large blank sheets of paper on the walls around the room; each of them was labeled with a different title: “Legacy,” “Learning,” “Involvement,” “Sense of Place” and “Community Prosperity.” She asked everyone in the room to spend a few minutes visualizing what Hilton Head Island would look like twenty years from now as the place you could live, a place that you could attract people to come visit and that you could encourage people to engage in a business here. Aline Carillon asked that each person write down the major elements of their dream as they apply to the five core values listed around the room on the post-it notes provided. After they had written down their ideas, the audience was asked to apply the post-it note to the corresponding chart on the wall. After that, people were asked to break up into even groups for each theme and spend some time reading all of the post-it notes and re-arrange the notes into common themes. When this was done, each group appointed a spokesperson to present the elements of the value on their chart and how they were organized. Recaps of these charts are attached.

After that, Aline Carillon facilitated a wide-ranging discussion among all of the attendees soliciting their opinions and ideas about the major issues facing Hilton Head Island today and a vision for the future of the Island. She noted that based on their discussions, there seemed to be a general consensus that the Task Force had correctly identified the core value themes as being Legacy, Learning, Involvement, Sense of Place and Community Prosperity.

## **VII ADJOURNMENT**

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

# COMMUNITY PROSPERITY

## **Business Development:**

Few empty storefronts  
Vigorous business community  
Flourishing storefronts  
Elimination of outdated commercial properties  
Mall property redeveloped with new ideas  
A Town center  
A thriving business community with all types of “clean” firms/businesses  
Economic prosperity  
Small-business friendly  
Proactive, targeted marketing plan  
No commercial development on Island  
Developing ways to educate and retain our own young people

## **Transportation:**

Easier access (airport/transportation)  
Airport connections from Savannah other than to Atlanta  
Airport connection to/from Savannah without having to go to Atlanta  
Bicycle friendly  
Shops and markets to preclude the need to travel across the bridge

## **Overall Business Environment:**

Exciting, rewarding business & employment opportunities  
New job-generating businesses (tech incentives)  
Larger business component  
Economic Independence  
Technology unsurpassed  
Economic diversity  
More balanced community  
Balanced economy  
Need new business  
Major economic benefit to Island from increased year-round visitors  
More business development opportunities led by Town  
Improved resident housing; rental housing; hotels  
Community redevelopment plan  
Development of a five-star hotel  
Resident focus

## **Culture:**

Native culture and history  
Full participation of native islanders in all island activities and governance  
A place where all generations can live and play and work  
Centered  
Expand historical/cultural events and facilities  
Arts and culture

**Misc.:**

Governance transparency  
Income generation from off-island  
Up-to-date telecommunications  
Infrastructure in place to allow each parcel to reach its potential  
Drainage island-wide  
Education becomes the focus of improvement for our county school systems  
Highest quality medical facilities

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## INVOLVEMENT

**Facilitate Involvement:**

Use technology to coordinate volunteers (blogs)

**People on the Island:**

Populated by stimulating people  
Cultural diversity  
Viable presence of the Native Islander population in all aspects of the Island (financial, social, etc.)  
Promotes extended family

**Community Outreach:**

Volunteerism is alive and well  
Coordination of philanthropic & volunteerism to maximize impact  
Volunteer tourism  
Caring community  
Outstanding customer service in every business location  
Thriving churches

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## LEARNING

**History:**

Flourishing opportunities in arts/culture/history and intellectual pursuits  
A town rich in history

**Culture:**

Arts/Culture/Intellectual Stimulation  
Energy in Learning  
A thriving arts community  
Rich in Culture (supportive activities and events)  
National year round destination for the arts and culture  
Affordable entertainment

**Religion:**

Religion

**Basic Education:**

Educated, skilled workforce

Excellence in academics

Technology

Higher education/learning

Bring learning

Public education – quality expectations

Premier education availability

Great public schools; nationally recognized

Youth development within the community

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## LEGACY

**Cultural:**

Recognition of contribution by Native Islanders in the present; past

Honor history & diversity of the area

Use history to attract visitors

**Environment:**

We work within the natural environment; we don't overwhelm it

Unsurpassed environmental beauty and serenity

Natural beauty

More nature trails; connect everywhere

Beautiful clean beaches

“Green” community

Greenery

Leveraging unique natural surroundings

Environmentally friendly

Clean and \_\_\_\_\_(illegible) waterways

Environmentally responsible; “green”

Esthetically attractive

Green Island/Blue Water/Beautiful beaches

Beautiful and accessible beach

Beach maintained “as is” & beachfront

Beaches/natural environment

Quality vs. quantity

Low density

Beach always as clean as it is now

Beaches

Natural assets sensitively conserved

Maintain ecology

Retain tree cover/natural setting

Maintain tree canopy

Natural environment/trees, vegetation  
Maintain low signage & lush landscaping

**Economic/Financial:**

Youthful – attract next generation  
No “cookie-cutter” business environment  
Critical thinking & realistic goals to build on strengths  
Great shopping  
Comprehensive plan vision realized  
Self-sustainable economy  
Vibrant economy  
Haven for green industry  
Sustained tourism

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**SENSE OF PLACE**

**Infrastructure:**

Spirit retained along with CV themes  
Equality of services available to all residents  
Improved lighting and signage to assist visitors in finding their way  
No above-ground power lines  
Sewer island-wide  
Hi-tech (wi-fi; optic fiber)

**Medical:**

Adequate medical resources  
The best medical care (retirees)  
Medical support

**Town Government/Public Policy:**

The LMO: user-friendly for developments  
A customer-friendly Town  
The Town enters into business partnerships with local businesses  
A business-friendly community  
Paradise: a place where the native people can live respected & affordable. Obstacle: Town government

**Town Center:**

Pedestrian walkways; bicycle pathways; trolleys; limited autos  
Pedestrian-friendly Coligny Beach area  
Walkable areas: live, work, play  
Brand new walkable outdoor mall (replace old mall)  
Public spaces – walkable interactive assembly  
Very walkable plaza  
More outdoor casual dining

Great village centers

Town center

A city center hub with \_\_\_\_\_ (illegible) Island: government buildings (town hall; beaufort offices); restaurants; theaters; shops

Creation of a “downtown” Hilton Head area

Walkable downtown or central business district with parks, etc.

Attractive, low-key business and shopping areas

Wonderful Town Center – gathering place

**Transportation:**

Easy and reliable public transportation for all to enjoy and use

Island-wide transportation

Transportation

Good system of public transportation

Easier traffic flow

**Lifestyle:**

Slow-paced

Safe & serene atmosphere

Warm/slow

Relaxed lifestyle

Families

Maintain low lighting

Active lifestyles

Nantucket

St. John

Island is still recognizable

**Accommodations:**

Affordable housing availability

Homes

Upgraded accommodations (outside)

Updated current architectural pockets (Fresh Market; Pineland Station)

Improved-current architecture “classic”

Updated accommodations

**Recreation:**

More parks like Coligny area

Open spaces

Outdoor recreation: boating, fishing, golf, tennis

Recreation

Great parks for public gathering

More and better access to our beaches and waters

More access points for boats (public landings)

Community center for town gatherings/activities

Bike safety

Accessible by bike paths

Continued expansion of bike paths

Arts, History, Culture Center  
More bike paths  
Different biking needs  
State of the art multi-use athletic complexes  
Premier resort facilities throughout the Island  
Improve and expand diverse fitness/wellness amenities

**Safety:**

Perception of safety  
Safe communities, Island  
Social integrated  
Clearer signage for visitors  
Strong sense of safety and security

**Community:**

Education Center (Aspen Institute)  
Unity of community  
Active, involved citizens in planning & redevelopment  
Better design of urban interface: schools, shops, neighborhoods, etc....  
Community pride; great reputation  
An open community where we are not separated by a series of gates where communities function as quasi-towns.  
Friendly. Welcoming.  
Smiling faces  
Fresh appeal  
Extended family feeling in the community

Regional awareness: Bluffton-Beaufort-Savannah= access.

Para-mutual wagering on the marsh tacky derby