

**Gullah-Geechee Land and Cultural Preservation Task Force
Meeting Minutes**

February 19, 2018 - 1:00 PM
Council Chambers – Town Hall

Task Force Members present: Lavon Stevens (Chairman), Ibrahim Abdul-Malik, Shani Green, Palmer Simmons, Todd Theodore, Martha Davis

Community Development Staff present: Jayme Lopko, Jenn McEwen

- Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM.
- The agenda for today's meeting were accepted by general consent.
- Ibrahim Abdul-Malik made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2018 meeting with the following amendment: that a list of the questions and information requested regarding impacts fees be added to the minutes. Todd Theodore seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- Jayme Lopko gave an update on the progress regarding a Resource Center for Gullah information at Town Hall. A physical location is still being considered with locations both within and outside of Town Hall being investigated. The Task Force voiced concern for the physical location being outside of Town Hall and encouraged staff to find a suitable space in the current Town Hall. Ms. Lopko also informed the Task Force on options and restrictions for a digital resource center either on the current Town website or on a new website maintained by an outside organization.
- Jayme Lopko informed the Task Force that the Center for Heirs Property Preservation seminar will be Saturday February 24th from 10-12pm at St. James Baptist Church. Additionally, there will be a free oyster roast following the seminar (from 12-2pm at the Cherry Hill School) that has been sponsored by the Town, NIBCAA, and Volunteers in Medicine.
- Jayme Lopko gave an update on the progress of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Town to hire a consultant. The RFP is being drafted to recruit a consultant team that has experience in writing land regulations, legal review, and cultural preservation specific to the Gullah culture. The project will be a phased approach to identify issues facing the Gullah community and possible solutions to those issues. These issues will be brought forward and a second phase will implement the solutions approved by Town Council. The goal is to release the RFP in February and have a consultant in place sometime in May.
- Chairman Stevens introduced Jenn McEwen, the Town's Culture and Arts Network Director. Ms. McEwen explained her job and the job of the Culture and Arts Advisory Committee including information on the formation of a Cultural District within the Town. A list was shared of the current arts, culture, history, and entertainment organizations and locations on the island. The Task Force will review this list and send any updated information to Ms. McEwen. Ms. McEwen shared that she will be creating an external website for the arts and cultural organizations of the island to promote themselves and their events. The Task Force discussed the content of the website as well as how to categorize Gullah related organizations.
- Chairman Stevens opened the meeting for public comment and the following were received: the list shared does not include all the Gullah cemeteries and some of the church names are incorrect, the resource center needs to be at Town Hall, the consultant for the RFP should be given access to all historical Gullah related documents before starting work, the Task Force should support Ms.

McEwen's efforts, and the cultural district should include information from the Gullah Heritage Tour.

- Chairman Stevens adjourned the meeting at 2:49 PM.

Submitted by: Jayme Lopko
Meeting date: February 19, 2018
Approved: March 5, 2018