



**Town of Hilton Head Island  
Gullah-Geechee Land & Cultural  
Preservation Task Force Meeting  
Monday, December 4, 2017 - 7:00p.m.**

**Hilton Head Public Service District  
21 Oak Park Drive**

**AGENDA**

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*As a Courtesy to Others Please Turn Off All Cell Phones and Pagers during the Meeting.*

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. 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.
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes** – November 13, 2017 Meeting
- 5. Business**
  - a) Master Sewer Plan & Sewer Installation Update – *Pete Nardi*
  - b) Project SAFE Grant Program – *Nicki Charles & Denise Spencer*
- 6. Appearance by Citizens**
- 7. Adjournment**

*Please note that a quorum of Town Council may result if four or more of their members attend this meeting.*

*Please note that a quorum of Planning Commission may result if five or more of their members attend this meeting.*

## **Gullah-Geechee Land and Cultural Preservation Task Force**

### **Meeting Minutes**

November 13, 2017 - 1:00 PM

Council Chambers – Town Hall

Task Force Members present: Lavon Stevens (Chairman), Palmer E. Simmons, Martha Davis, Joyce Wright, Caroline McVitty, Shani Green, Theresa White

Town Council Members present: David Ames, Marc Grant, John McCann

Community Development Staff present: Jayme Lopko, Emily Sparks

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- Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.
- The agenda for today's meeting and the minutes from the November 6, 2017 meeting were accepted by general consent.
- Chairman Stevens provided an update to the Task Force regarding the presentation that was made to Town Council on behalf of the Task Force.
- Chairman Stevens introduced Emily Sparks, Project Lead for the Town's Vision Project. Ms. Sparks provided information on the recent public engagement workshops that were held and stated that those who were unable to attend these workshops would have the opportunity to participate in a virtual workshop online. Ms. Sparks discussed the involvement of the Gullah community and the preservation of their culture as it relates to the Vision.
- Chairman Stevens opened the meeting for public comment on the Town's Vision Project and the following were received: the Town's vision consultant set four directions and Gullah was not included there until they came to the workshops and consultant was open minded but our community is divided with no unity and gate communities.
- Chairman Stevens introduced Dr. Emory Campbell, President of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. Dr. Campbell informed the Task Force about the story of the corridor that began over 155 years ago when Sherman burned Savannah. Thirty miles from the ocean from Jacksonville, Florida to Charleston was where it started and grew to the north to include areas all the way to Jacksonville, North Carolina. Dr. Campbell went on to describe the history of the area until present day including the formation of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor in 2006. The Corridor is an advocate group with a foundation to collect private monies and an office on John's Island with 2.5 employees.
- Chairman Stevens opened the meeting for public comment and the following were received: Is the Corridor aware of any other municipalities ordinances that suggest progress or think outside the box, the Town liaison position is needed – we are a divided community and this could go down the road to reconciliation within the community, the Town position is a high priority, don't let money for new Town position deter the good work that could be done, how do we make progress and put people in place to make this progress – how do we accomplish things, Town position should be a no-brainer – one employee to do due diligence and what's right, Town government should take care of the entire community not just gated communities, and the Realtor's Association continues to look at providing and educational program for the Gullah community.
- Chairman Stevens reminded the Task Force members that we are still looking for case studies and scenarios. If you have ideas please put them in writing to Jayme Lopko and she will compile them.

- The Task Force will have their next meeting on Monday December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Hilton Head Public Service District. This meeting will have educational pieces dealing with water and sewer service as well as the Project SAFE Program.
- Chairman Stevens adjourned the meeting at 2:41 PM.

Submitted by: Jayme Lopko

Meeting date: November 13, 2017

DRAFT