

Gullah-Geechee Land and Cultural Preservation Task Force
Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2017 - 12:00 PM
Council Chambers, Town Hall

Task Force Members present: Lavon Stevens (Chairman), Caroline McVitty, Todd Theodore, Joyce Wright, Palmer E. Simmons, Theresa White, Ibrahim Abdul-Malik, Shani Greene

Town Council present: Marc Grant

Community Development Staff present: Jayme Lopko

- Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.
- The agenda for today's meeting and the meeting notes from the August 7, 2017 meeting were accepted by general consent.
- Chairman Stevens requested feedback from members of the Task Force who attended the tour last week and the following was received: recommended Town Council take the tour, noted the importance of identifying cemeteries and issues surrounding them, surprised at the large tracks of land still in one family, and noted importance of talking to these families as tour did not reveal all the issues they may be facing.
- The members of the Task Force discussed the spreadsheets being used to identify properties still in native Gullah families or heirs properties. The Task Force felt it would pretty easy to cut it down by about half in the first go around as there are large areas that are not native any longer. The group established a deadline of two weeks to try to have the lists completed with a progress check at the next meeting.
- The Task Force discussed having a workshop out in the community to gather feedback on issues and to share information and provide education. Once the identification of properties is completed the group will schedule a meeting in the community to share what they have found and will also invite the Center for Heirs Property to provide an educational workshop on the island.
- The Task Force discussed setting goals as part of their scope of work: short term, midterm, and long term. Ideas should be brought to the next meeting for discussion.
- The Task Force set their next two meetings for Wednesday August 23rd at 9am and Tuesday August 29th at 9am, both in Council Chambers.
- Chairman Stevens opened the meeting for public comment and the following were received: the Task Force and Council should be open to the scope changing throughout the process, let the public comment on the scope, and the native community lacks trust in the Town at this point – the Task Force will have to set clear goals of what they are going to do to help build trust.
- Chairman Stevens adjourned the meeting at 1:15 PM.

Submitted by: Jayme Lopko

Meeting date: August 14, 2017