



The Town of Hilton Head Island
**Gullah Geechee Land & Cultural
Preservation Task Force
Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2021, 9:00 a.m.**

Present from the Task Force: Chairman Lavon Stevens, Vice Chairman Palmer E. Simmons, Ibrahim Abdul-Malik, Martha Davis, John Campbell, Tom Henz (joined the meeting at 9:28 a.m.)

Absent from the Task Force: Shani Green, Theresa White, Mark O'Neil

Present from Town Council: Alex Brown, David Ames, Tamara Becker, Tom Lennox

Present from Town Staff: Chris Yates, Interim Director of Community Development; Sheryse DuBose, Historic Neighborhoods Preservation Administrator; Anne Cyran, Senior Planner; Teresa Haley, Senior Administrative Assistant; Vicki Pfannenschmidt; Temporary Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. FOIA Compliance - Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Hilton Head Island.

3. Roll Call – See as noted above.

4. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Stevens asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Abdul-Malik moved to approve. Mr. Campbell seconded. By way of roll call, the motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. Meeting of August 2, 2021

Chairman Stevens asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2021, regular meeting. Mr. Abdul-Malik moved to approve. Mr. Campbell seconded. By show of hands, the motion passed by a vote of 4-0-1. (Vice Chairman Simmons abstained.)

6. Citizen Comments

Public comments concerning agenda items were to be submitted electronically via the Town's Open Town Hall portal. The portal closed at 4:30 p.m., Friday, September 3, 2021, prior to the scheduled meeting. There were no comments.

Citizens were provided the option to sign up for public comment participation by phone during the meeting. The public comment period closed at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 3, 2021, prior to the scheduled meeting. There were no requests.

7. Discussion Items – Committee Report on Proposed Street Names in Historic Neighborhoods

Dr. Dubose recapped the discussion from the previous meeting noting that a new home built or placed on property requesting an address can be a problem in the Historic Neighborhoods. She explained that roadways for easements need to go through the Planning Commission for approval. She noted that a goal for the Historic Neighborhoods is to develop a list of road names that reflect the history and character of the Native Island Community. Dr. DuBose emphasized that the family has first option to name the street and if they don't the compiled list will be accessed. She then asked the Committee members to present their ideas and proposed names for streets in the Historic Neighborhoods.

Mr. Campbell stated he submitted the following names: Benyere, Come Here, Benne and Batteau. Mr. Malik-Abdul submitted the following list of names: Freedman's Way, Canning Lane, Runaway Trail, Fisherman Row, Family First, Captains Cove, Reunion Road, Water Wader, Preachers Stand, Cast Net Cove, High Praises, Enterprising People, Shout Down, Hunna Way, Praise House, Shrimpers Haven, Saltewater African, Sunday Supp, Tater Bank, Moon Tide, Shade Tree, Spring Tide, Bull Grape, Gill Net, Sweet Tree, Shard Freedom Space, Smokehouse, Treed' Coon, Hunna Chillin', Juke Join Di., Hunters Haven, Sanctified Place, Salterwater Creek, Geechee Ummah; Spring Tide, Bedren House, Creek Rising, Sistren House, Preacherman, Hairdresser Ln., Swampy Lane, Batteau Builder, Bogging Down, Oysterman Reef, Kudda Drive, Farmer's Row, Sweet Grass, Benne, Sea Island, Cootuh, Day Clean, Marsh Tacky, Freedmen, Mullet and Binya. There was no action taken on the proposed names.

Vice Chairman Simmons noted some existing streets are unnamed and a list needs to be compiled for review. Dr. DuBose stated she would work with Fire Rescue to get locations of unnamed streets and provide them to the Task Force.

Chairman Stevens thanked the Committee for their work on the list and noted staff will get the necessary information needed to move forward.

8. Staff Report

Dr. DuBose informed the Task Force that Staff has received detailed training on Family Compound and Family Subdivision Amendments and noted that while staff went through training, there will now be a focus concerning the top priority projects with the establishment of an education program for Town Staff. She said it will include a syllabus that highlights the history and culture of the Native Island populations, the challenges of property usage in the Native Island Community, and the programs that are in place to address these challenges.

Dr. DuBose informed them another area of focus will be the Seasonal and Temporary Signs noting there is concern of how many signs would be permitted at any given time. She requested that the Task Force provide a list of businesses who would need these

types of signs in order to serve those businesses. She stated it would help to have the list when providing a definitive number of signs to the Public Planning Committee.

Dr. DuBose reported the location for the Gullah Market will be heard at the Community Services and Public Safety Committee in October. She added that Staff wants to make certain that in going forward there is a solid business plan.

Dr. DuBose stated Staff has met with the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry (CFL) to discuss recommendations to set up a fund for delinquent taxes and heirs' property. She asked if the Committee felt any toes would be stepped on if Staff works with the CFL to create these funds. Chairman Stevens responded that funding resources are welcome and there would be no offense to Staff working with the CFL.

Dr. DuBose stated the recent tax list was sent to the Task Force and to Low Country Gullah. She noted there are about 20 properties left on the list.

Dr. DuBose referenced the request to move the time of the monthly meeting of the Task Force. She noted that if there was a preference the Task Force would have to vote on it and then Staff would have to confirm if it is possible. (i.e. – scheduling conflicts, etc.)

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Submitted by: Vicki Pfannenschmidt, Secretary

Approved: October 4, 2021