



The Town of Hilton Head Island  
**Gullah Geechee Land & Cultural  
Preservation Task Force  
Meeting Minutes  
November 6, 2023, 1:00 p.m.**

**Present from the Task Force:** Chairman Lavon Stevens, John Campbell, Tom Henz; Ibrahim Abdul-Malik, Joyce Wright

**Absent from the Task Force:** Vice Chair Palmer Simmons, Shani Green

**Present from Town Staff:** Missy Luick, *Director of Planning*; Brian Eber, *Development Services Manager*; Alexis Cook, *Principal Planner*; Nicta Barrientos, *Planner-Economic Development*; Karen Knox, *Senior Administrative Assistant*, Lynn Buchman, *Administrative Assistant*

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**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.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**

As noted above.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Stevens asked for a Motion to approve the Agenda. Mr. Henz moved to approve. Ms. Wright seconded. By a show of hands, the Agenda was approved by a vote of 5-0.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Stevens asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes of September 11, 2023. Mr. Henz moved to approve. Ms. Wright seconded. By a show of hands, the Minutes of September 11, 2023 was approved by a vote of 5-0.

**6. Appearance by Citizens**

No comments were received on the Open Town Hall Portal.

The Chairman recognized Linda Piekut from The Heritage Library. Ms. Piekut invited the members of the Task Force to attend a meet and greet at the final meeting of the year of the Heritage Library Heirs Property Team being held on Tuesday, November 14 at 1:00 PM at USC-B, Hilton Head Campus, Conference Room 204. The Chairman noted his appreciation for the work of The Heritage Library.

## 7. Staff Report

### a. General Staff Updates

Missy Luick, Director of Planning, presented a general update on the two large projects they have been implementing – the District Planning Project and the LMO Overhaul Project. She advised that they will be communicating with the Public Planning Committee and getting direction on streamlining the approach for the District Project overall and based on their direction,

She advised that the Principal Planning job position has been posted and is active and encouraged the members to share that job posting so that the position can be filled. She reported other staff positions in Community Planning that are vacant, but she assured the members that recruiting was continuing and the work was being handled by the remaining staff.

### b. Historic Neighborhood Permitting & Design Studio Report

Alexis Cook, Principal Planner, presented a detailed update on the new cases on Marshland Road and Jonesville Road, 33 active design projects, and those in progress. There were no questions from the members.

### c. Home Safety and Repair Program Update

Nicte Barrientos, Planner, reported the number of new applications received, those completed, and those under contract. She indicated that these figures indicated the total from the beginning of the program in July of 2022. Although the applications do not identify the neighborhood in which the home is located, she will inquire about adding that to future reports. She indicated that applications can re-submitted each year for additional work that may be needed.

### d. Sewer Connection Program Update

Nicte Barrientos, Planner, reported the number of new applications received and those in progress and completed. She indicated these figures are from the beginning of the program in July of 2022. A brief discussion of how this program is promoted followed.

Missy Luick, Director of Planning, noted that an update of the Home Safety and Repair Program and Sewer Connection Program would be presented to Town Council at their meeting tomorrow, as funding for both programs is reaching their limits.

## 8. Discussion Items

### a. Proposed 2024 Meeting Calendar Discussion

Ms. Wright moved to approve. Mr. Abdul-Malik seconded. The proposed 2024 Meeting Dates were unanimously approved.

### b. Family Compound/Family Subdivision Process Discussion

Alexis Cook, Principal Planner, presented a detailed overview of the 2023 Family Compound & Family Subdivision Process, which was included in the agenda packet. She reviewed the history of the Gullah Geechee Preservation Project and indicated this would be an open dialogue today and not be the end of this presentation, as this is only 1 of 34 initiatives. She reviewed the application types, the purpose and intent of each, case studies, a general comparison to other application types, and what's working and areas for improvement. Most importantly, she wanted to go over the areas for improvement, as this is the perfect time to marry this discussion with meaningful change as we enter LMO Phase 5. She asked for thoughts on a possible new application type.

Ms. Cook's detailed overview continued, and discussion followed and questions from the members were answered by Ms. Cook and Ms. Luick.

c. **Land Preservation Update**

Luana Graves Sellars presented an update on the efforts to prevent families from losing their property at the delinquent tax sale by informing the family members of the upcoming sale and attempting to redeem the property if sold. She explained the importance of the workshops they conduct, including a wills workshop scheduled for the future. A discussion followed and questions were answered by Ms. Sellars. The Chairman thanked Ms. Sellars for her efforts.

d. **COIN Project**

L. J. Bush informed the members of the project he is currently implementing for students at the local High School entitled COIN – Changing Our Image Now. He explained that the program teaches life skills, interviewing skills, financial skills, and builds relationships through internships with local organizations. The purpose is to enable local students to find local job opportunities and continue their heritage on Hilton Head Island. The Chairman and members thanked Mr. Bush and his family for their continued involvement in the local community.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

**Submitted by:** Lynn Buchman  
Administrative Assistant

**Approved: December 4, 2023**