



The Town of Hilton Head Island  
**Gullah Geechee Land & Cultural  
Preservation Task Force  
Meeting Minutes  
April 3, 2023, 1:00 p.m.**

**Present from the Task Force:** Chairman Lavon Stevens; Vice Chairman Palmer E. Simmons; John Campbell; Tom Henz; Ibrahim Abdul-Malik

**Absent from the Task Force:** Joyce Wright; Shani Green

**Present from Town Council:** Alex Brown, Tamara Becker

**Present from Town Staff:** Missy Luick, *Assistant Community Development Director*; Taylor Ladd, *Interim Community Planning Manager*; Krishana Perry, *Principal Planner – Historic Neighborhood Preservation*; Ashley Goodrich, *Principal Planner*; Nigte Barrientos, *Assistant Planner – Economic Development*; Karen Knox, *Senior Administrative Assistant*; Brian Glover, *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. Vice Chair Simmons seconded. By a show of hands, the agenda was approved by a vote of 5-0-0.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Stevens asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of March 6, 2023. Mr. Henz moved to approve. Mr. Campbell seconded. By a show of hands, the Minutes of March 6, 2023, was approved by a vote of 5-0-0.

**6. Appearance by Citizens**

No comments were received on the Open Town Hall Portal. No citizens spoke at the meeting.

## **7. Staff Report**

### **a. District Planning Update**

Ms. Luick stated that the project will be presented to the Public Planning Commission at their next meeting for review. The project update will include draft districts and a draft growth framework map. She will provide a further update during the next meeting.

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

Ms. Perry provided the report. She provided a brief overview of the process for projects which apply to the design studio. Four new requests have been submitted since the last meeting, two ongoing projects have been completed and a case study will be included in the next meeting. Following her presentation, she answered several questions from the Task Force and the public. The topic was opened to the public.

Andre White asked about the estimated completion time and the level of detail included from the town. He also asked if staff help residents figure out which applications to pursue, which could help inquiries get through the design studio and application processes faster.

Chairman Stevens asked Ms. Luick to provide an update on the LMO changes and their effects on future projects. Ms. Luick provided the updates and answered questions from the Task Force.

### **c. Home Safety and Repair Program Update**

Ms. Barrientos provided the report. One hundred and six have been received, and seventy-six have been approved. Forty-five sites have visits to be scheduled. Fifteen applications need additional information. One new submission has been made since the last meeting. Ms. Barrientos also provided an update on the approved contractors for the program and updates that 10 houses have been assigned to the contractor to begin work and 3 have been provided to another contractor to begin work.

### **d. Sewer Connection Program Update**

Ms. Barrientos provided the report. Twenty-five have been approved. Eighteen have letters of approval. Fourteen of these have been completed. The remaining four are underway.

### **e. Town Open Positions Update**

Ms. Perry gave the report. The list of open positions was provided within the packet. Four of the open positions have been filled since the last meeting. After providing her report, she answered several questions from the Task Force.

## **8. Discussion Items**

### **a. Delinquent Tax and Heir's Property**

Luana Graves Sellers of the Lowcountry Gullah Foundation provided an update on the free will clinic on April 15<sup>th</sup>. All signup slots were filled, and they will schedule a second event in the future. She provided additional details about the process and answered several questions from the Task Force.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

**Submitted by:** Brian Glover, Administrative Assistant

**Approved:** May 1, 2023