

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
Venue Committee Meeting
August 18, 2016
9:00a.m. – Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers

Committee Members Present: Chairman Cindy Creamer, Vice Chairman Jane Joseph, Karen Attaway, Gil Campbell, Dan Castro, Charlie Clark, Juliann Foster, Florry Gibbes, Terry Herron, Bob Lee, Tim Ridge, Suzanne Thompson

Committee Members Absent: Lili Coleman, Rex Garniewicz, Gregg Russell

Town Council Present: Kim Likins, Tom Lennox

Town Staff Present: Jill Foster, Deputy Director of Community Development; Jayme Lopko, Senior Planner; Tom Fultz, Director of Administrative Services; Melissa Cope, Systems Analyst; Teresa Haley, Administrative Assistant

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

The Venue Committee **approved** the agenda by general consent.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 3, 2016

The Venue Committee **approved** the minutes of the August 3, 2016 meeting as presented by general consent.

5. New Business

a) Speaker: Presentation/Discussion – Eric Esquivel, Latino Festival

For an unknown reason, Mr. Esquivel was unable to attend today's meeting.

b) Review of Art & Coffee gathering

Chairman Creamer indicated that the first Arts & Coffee gathering attendance exceeded expectations. Chairman Creamer asked for suggestions on how to better improve the gatherings. The Committee discussed the confusion with Chairman Creamer, Vice Chairman Joseph, Councilwoman Likins, and Mr. Daniel Brock of Rawle Murdy trying to moderate and answer questions at the same time. The Committee suggested having one moderator, particularly for the Q&A segment. It would be ideal for Mr. Brock to be that moderator. Then, Chairman Creamer, Vice Chairman Joseph and Councilwoman Likins could all speak to their specific area.

6. Unfinished Business

a) Review any updated plan information from Task Teams

Team 1 presented statements regarding their findings in survey responses. The majority of responses are positive, some neutral, and some negative. Responses included concerns for the Arts Center and

the affordability of rental costs of a new facility. Most organizations expressed a willingness to help raise money. The Committee discussed the potential rental cost difference for nonprofit and for profit organizations.

Team 2 has received a first draft of survey questions from Dr. Salazar and his team. A second draft should be available soon for the Committee to review and provide feedback. The Committee discussed the timeline for the survey process and an ideal timeframe of completion.

Team 3 presented in-depth findings regarding towns and cities with venues, local hotels engaged in convention business, location, and financing considerations. All towns and cities with venues that were examined have strong public support and make a significant economic contribution to their communities. Local hotels engaged in the convention business support the idea of a multi-functional venue that meets various criteria. Research regarding location and financing options indicate that a consultant will need to analyze these categories. The Committee discussed and inquired as to various aspects of Team 3's findings.

b) Update on progress on consultant RFQ

Chairman Creamer stated that the selection team will meet on August 24 to select three consultants to interview. Vice Chairman Joseph stated that the interviews will try to be scheduled during September 12-16. The selection team's determination of a consultant will be reviewed by the full Committee. The Committee will then recommend to Town Council the consultant to initiate contract negotiations. Town Council will need to approve the contract for the consultant. This process will take until mid-November. Vice Chairman Joseph emphasized that the consultant's scope of work will be clearly defined. The consultant will use the Task Teams' work products and provide guidance, not a decision. The Committee is to make a recommendation and Town Council makes a decision.

7. Administrative Details

a) Schedule Review

Vice Chairman Joseph presented a schedule review of the Task Teams' work in connection with the work of Dr. Salazar and the RFQ consultant.

b) Other

Chairman Creamer announced that she recently appeared on WHHI-TV. Chairman Creamer and Vice Chairman Joseph are scheduled to speak at Hilton Head Rotary Club in September and Vanlandingham Rotary Club in October. Vice Chairman Joseph recently met with the editors of the Island Packet. Another Arts & Coffee gathering is in the process of being scheduled.

8. Appearance by Citizens

One member of the public thanked the Committee for their hard work and expressed the importance of continuing communication to the community. One member of the public expressed concern for what happens to existing facilities if all arts organizations would use a new facility. One member of the public expressed concern for whether corporate sponsorship exists on the island.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55a.m.

Submitted By:

Approved By: September 9, 2016

Teresa Haley
Administrative Assistant

Cindy Creamer
Chairman