

**Gullah Geechee Land and Cultural Preservation Task Force**  
**Meeting Minutes**

December 17, 2018 – 1:00 PM  
Council Chambers – Town Hall

Task Force Members present: Lavon Stevens, Shani Green, Joyce Wright, Todd Theodore, Palmer Simmons, Caroline McVitty, Ibrahim Abdul-Malik, Martha Davis

Town Council present: None

Town Staff present: Jennifer Ray, Shawn Colin, Josh Gruber

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- Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.
- The agenda for today's meeting and the minutes from the November 5, 2018 and November 16, 2018 meetings were approved by consent.
- Joyce Wright gave an update on the online Gullah Resource Center. Jennifer Ray went over what the webpage will look like and what it would contain. A draft of the content will be reviewed this week and the webpage should go live at the first of the year.
- Chairman Stevens introduced the topic of identification of heirs' properties on the island. The Task Force discussed whether this is a task that they want to pursue and the benefits of having this information. The Task Force also discussed having educational opportunities and resources locally to address heirs' property issues.
- Jennifer Ray gave an update on the progress and upcoming schedule of the Gullah Geechee Culture Preservation Project.
- Chairman Stevens discussed options for the 2019 meeting schedule for the Task Force. After discussion the Task Force asked that staff draft a 2019 schedule that continues to meet at the same frequency, time, and location for the first 6 months of 2019. Special meetings can be scheduled when the consultants come to the island.
- Shawn Colin gave an update on the Historic Neighborhoods Preservation Administrator position. Mr. Colin stated that the Town received 49 applications for the position and Town staff has narrowed this down to the seven. Chairman Lavon Stevens and Joyce Wright will be included in the on-site interviews with top candidates.
- Jennifer Ray informed the Task Force about the Beaufort County Property Tax Workshop on Saturday January 26<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 12pm at the Hilton Head Public Library.
- Chairman Stevens opened the meeting for public comment on items unrelated to today's agenda and the following was received:
  - Josh Gruber provided a general report to the Task Force about the recent Town Council Retreat.
- Chairman Stevens adjourned the meeting at 2:33 PM.

Submitted by: Jayme Lopko

Meeting date: December 17, 2018

Approved: March 4, 2019