

Gullah-Geechee Land and Cultural Preservation Task Force
Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2018 – 1:00 PM
Council Chambers – Town Hall

Task Force Members present: Lavon Stevens, Shani Green, Joyce Wright, Martha Davis, Theresa White

Town Council present: David Bennett

Town Staff present: Jayme Lopko, Jennifer Ray, Carolyn Grant, Shawn Colin, Charles Cousins, Angie Stone, Josh Gruber

- Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.
- The agenda for today's meeting and the minutes from the July 16, 2018 meeting were approved by consent (with the correct meeting date noted).
- Joyce Wright gave an update on the Gullah Resource Center. Ms. Wright, Carolyn Grant, and Jayme Lopko have been working on the content for the website portion of the Resource Center. A draft of content should be ready by October 1st.
- Jayme Lopko updated the Task Force on the status of the heirs' property identification. Ms. Lopko has done some research and is finding that identifying which properties do not have clear title will be more difficult than anticipated. The Task Force, working with Town staff, will have to reach out to Gullah families to identify heirs' property.
- Jayme Lopko updated the Task Force on the status of the RFP. The Town has chosen The Walker Collaborative as the successful consultant. The Town has executed the contract and sent it to The Walker Collaborative for their review and execution. Once the contract is fully executed more information can be shared with the Task Force.
- Josh Gruber, the Town's new Assistant Town Manager, updated the Task Force on the Gullah Liaison Job Description. The Town sent the draft job description to an outside attorney for a legal opinion. Concern has been expressed by the attorney for the Town creating a position that will serve only one segment of our population. Once the legal opinion is received, Mr. Gruber will share the information with the Task Force.
- Chairman Stevens opened the meeting for public comment and the following were received:
 - Tom Barnwell expressed concern for changing requirements in the LMO for information needed on surveys. He had a survey complete and paid for and then was told there was information missing on it. People need to know what is required and understand it so there is no additional cost.
 - Tai Scott inquired about the status of his request. He had not heard anything since the last meeting. Josh Gruber informed him that he has been asked to take a look at his case and that he will contact him.
- Chairman Stevens adjourned the meeting at 2:35 PM.

Submitted by: Jayme Lopko

Meeting date: August 20, 2018

Approved: September 25, 2018