

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

April 22, 2019 – 1:00 PM  
Council Chambers – Town Hall

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

Town Staff present: Jayme Lopko, Teri Lewis, Angie Stone

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- Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.
- Chairman Stevens asked to move Appearance by Citizens on Items Unrelated to Today's Agenda to before New Business and the agenda for today's meeting was approved as amended by consent.
- The minutes from the April 1, 2019 meeting were approved by consent.
- Chairman Stevens opened the floor to comments from the public on items unrelated to the agenda and the following were received:
  - Skip Hoagland presented information to the Task Force regarding the use of tax dollars related to the Hilton Head Bluffton Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Hoagland encourage the Task Force members to discuss the need for this funding to be directed to Gullah related organizations or events.
  - Tai Scott invited Task Force members to a special Town Council meeting on Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am where an appeal of his Town business license denials will be heard.
- Chairman Stevens discussed the next steps in the process for the Gullah Geechee Culture Preservation Project. The Task Force will break up into two work groups to discuss each recommendation in preparation for action by the Task Force at the next meeting. The recommendations will be broken down into short, mid, and long term goals and placed in a summary format to forward to Town Council.
- Jayme Lopko identified the changes that were made to the report since the last meeting.
- Palmer Simmons made a motion to accept this document as a complete document from the consultant. Todd Theodore seconded the motion and the motion passed 7-0-1 with Shani Green abstaining from the vote.
- Chairman Stevens announced that the Town has hired someone to fill the Historic Neighborhoods Preservation Administrator position. She will start in early June.
- Chairman Stevens allowed another member of the public to address the Task Force on the following:
  - Stella Lee Anderson asked for clarification on what was Phase 1 and Phase 2 for the consultant project. She also asked if the Task Force will have a role in the Hwy. 278 widening project.
- Chairman Stevens adjourned the meeting at 2:10 PM.

Submitted by: Jayme Lopko  
Meeting date: April 22, 2019  
Approved: May 6, 2019