



Town of Hilton Head Island
**Gullah Geechee Land & Cultural Preservation
Task Force**

June 17, 2019 at 1:00 pm
Council Chambers – Town Hall

MEETING MINUTES

Present From the Committee: Lavon Stevens, Palmer Simmons, Ibrahim Abdul-Malik, Joyce Wright, Todd Theodore, Caroline McVitty

Present from Town Staff: Jayme Lopko, Carolyn Grant, Jennifer Ray, Sheryse DuBose, Taylor Ladd
Sheryse DuBose, Jayme Lopko, Jennifer Ray

1. Call to Order

Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

2. FOIA 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 Minutes

The agenda for today's meeting was approved by consent.

4. Unfinished Business – none

5. New Business

Chairman Stevens opened with encouraging the community to be involved in town matters.

Jennifer Ray introduced Sheryse DuBose as the new Historic Neighborhoods Preservation Administrator, stating her experiences and qualifications for the position. She also expressed the wonderful job Jayme Lopko has done with the Task Force and is in the process of training Sheryse DuBose to take over the responsibilities of the group.

Taylor Ladd discussed "Our Plan," which is the rewrite of the Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Hilton Head. She explained that the plan must be rewritten every ten years, and this plan will cover the years 2020-2040. Ms. Ladd explained that the community engagement for writing the comprehensive plan will consist of nine work groups. The Task Force asked questions concerning the deadline for the plan, how memberships were selected, how often the plan was rewritten, and how much consideration would be given to citizen input. Taylor Ladd explained that the comprehensive plan needs to be rewritten in 2020, and that the last plan rewrite was in 2010. She explained that the memberships were solidified, but the meetings were open to the public to provide input, which will be considered when writing the comprehensive plan. Alex Brown asked about the goal of the comprehensive plan. Taylor Ladd explained that the core values will be present throughout the comprehensive plan rather than having the individual elements separated by chapter.

The Task Force discussed the educational opportunities to be presented for future meetings. They agreed that the educational opportunities that should be revisited are the Center for Heirs' Property and the Heritage Library. Alex Brown discussed moving more towards working on issues already identified, which will open new educational opportunities. The Task Force also discussed the implementation of identifying heirs' property on Hilton Head and working towards raising funds to clear land titles. Michael Cohen Jr. commented concerning noise complaints he has received from his neighbors because he uses his land for agricultural purposes. He explained that farming and hunting are a part of the Gullah Geechee culture and he would like the public to be educated about that fact.

6. Appearance by Citizens on Items Unrelated to Today's Agenda

Chairman Sevens opened the floor to comments from the public on items unrelated to the agenda and none were received.

7. Adjournment

Chairman Stevens adjourned the meeting at 2:50 PM.

Submitted by: Sheryse DuBose

Meeting Date: June 17, 2019

Approved: July 15, 2019