



Town of Hilton Head Island
Public Planning Committee Special Meeting

Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.
Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers

MEETING MINUTES

Present from the Committee: Chairman David Ames, Tamara Becker, Tom Lennox, Glenn Stanford

Absent from the Committee: Bill Harkins

Present from Town Council: None

Present from Town Staff: Shawn Colin, Director of Community Development; Anne Cyran, Senior Planner; Carolyn Grant, Communications Director; Brian Hulbert, Staff Attorney; Teri Lewis, Deputy Director of Community Development; Jayme Lopko, Senior Planner; Jennifer Ray, Deputy Director of Community Development; Teresa Haley, Senior Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

Chairman Ames called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Freedom of Information Act Compliance – Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting February 28, 2019
- b. Special Meeting April 1, 2019
- c. Special Meeting April 10, 2019

Mr. Lennox moved to approve the minutes of the February 28, April 1, and April 10 meetings. Ms. Becker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Unfinished Business

- a. Palmetto Breeze Trolley updates on ridership figures, current marketing efforts, assessment of performance and budget request for 2020

Ms. Mary Lou Franzoni, Executive Director of Palmetto Breeze, presented an update on trolley ridership and performance for the 2019 season, as well as the budget request for 2020.

The Committee made comments and inquiries regarding: the local funding matches and contributions per year; the Intergovernmental Committee should reach out to Bluffton regarding ridership into Bluffton from outlying counties; other funding sources through contracts; comparison of capacity on routes coming in from other counties; access to annual report and audit; reason for low funding amount from the State; popular trolley stop locations; marketing and communication; the average user of the trolley; providing an experience for riders; the Town's annual funding contributions; and anticipation of operation and program to reach mature level. The Committee comments will be provided to Ms. Franzoni in an effort to match the two programs by Palmetto Breeze and the Town.

5. New Business

a. Discussion of proposed amendments to the Sea Turtle Lighting Ordinance

Ms. Cyran presented the most significant proposed changes as described in the Staff Memo. Staff recommends the Public Planning Committee provide feedback on the proposed changes to the Sea Turtle Protection ordinance. If the Committee directs Staff to move forward, Staff will review the proposed changes with the affected property owners and make any needed changes. Staff will present the revised ordinance to the Committee at an upcoming meeting with a recommendation to forward the final draft ordinance to Town Council for approval.

The Committee made comments and inquiries regarding: general support to protect the sea turtles; financial impacts to property owners and possible alternatives; red cover accessories for mobile devices are available; responsibility to rental property owners; enforcement procedures; new construction versus existing construction requirements; providing more time to comply with changes; options for covering existing first floor windows; balancing human impact and nature; and the possibility to ban garden shovels in this ordinance.

Chairman Ames asked for public comments and the following were received: concerns for property owner rights and financial impacts; enforce the current ordinance; alterations to windows will void manufacturer warranty; turn off your lights to avoid any expenses; alternatives to high cost modifications include turning off your lights during the designated times, change light bulbs to the appropriate color, and add blinds or curtains; and concerns for the timeline to comply with new alterations.

The Committee made additional comments and inquiries regarding: meeting with stakeholders again to find balance of the various needs; tracking the locations of holes and tents left on the beach; enforcing the current ordinance; amending the ordinance at least to address the first floor of structures; balancing human impact and the natural world; and finding way to circumvent voiding window warranties.

The Committee directed Staff to perform a second round of meetings with stakeholders. Then draft an ordinance that best addresses the various needs of the stakeholders and the community. Staff will report back at a future Committee meeting.

b. Discussion of Small Cell Wireless Facilities regulations

Ms. Cyran presented the item. Staff recommends the Public Planning Committee provide feedback on the proposed ordinance regulating Small Wireless Facilities (SWFs). If the Committee directs Staff to move forward, a final draft ordinance will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting with a recommendation to forward the ordinance to Town Council for approval. Ms. Cyran introduced Mr. Jack Mitchell with AT&T to address specific questions about the matter.

The Committee made comments and inquiries regarding: benefits to improving coverage on the Island; support for pre-approved designs; the regulations would be added to the LMO; and supporting collaborative efforts with communities and providers.

Chairman Ames asked for public comments and the following were received: support for moving forward with this effort.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Submitted by: Teresa Haley, Secretary

Approved: June 27, 2019