



The Town of Hilton Head Island
**Gullah Geechee Land & Cultural
Preservation Task Force
Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2021, 9:00 a.m.**

Present from the Task Force: Chairman Lavon Stevens, Vice Chairman Palmer E. Simmons (joined the meeting at 9:15 a.m.), Ibrahim Abdul-Malik, Shani Green, John Campbell

Absent from the Task Force: Theresa White, Mark O'Neil, Martha Davis, Tom Henz

Present from Town Council: Tamara Becker

Present from Town Staff: Chris Yates, Interim Community Development Director; Sheryse DuBose, Historic Neighborhoods Preservation Administrator; Anne Cyran, Senior Planner; Teresa Haley, Senior Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

3. Roll Call – See as noted above.

4. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Stevens asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Abdul-Malik moved to approve. Vice Chairman Simmons seconded. By way of roll call, the motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. Meeting of September 7, 2021

Chairman Stevens asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2021, regular meeting. Mr. Abdul-Malik moved to approve. Vice Chairman Simmons seconded. By show of hands, the motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

6. Citizen Comments

Public comments concerning agenda items were to be submitted electronically via the Town's Open Town Hall portal. The portal closed at 4:30 p.m., Friday, October 1, 2021, prior to the scheduled meeting. There were no comments.

Citizens were provided the option to sign up for public comment participation by phone

during the meeting. The public comment period closed at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 1, 2021, prior to the scheduled meeting. There were no requests.

7. Discussion Items

a. Street Name Review

Dr. DuBose referenced the presentation conducted by Fire Rescue at the August Task Force meeting regarding the addressing process in historic neighborhoods. She reviewed the process utilized when naming new roads. It was requested that the Task Force provide a list of names that reflect the character of the historic neighborhoods for the homeowners to choose from. Dr. DuBose reminded the Task Force members that the family that owns the property has first choice in selecting a name. The list would just assist if they did not have one to submit. She noted the Task Force reviewed a partial list of names at the September meeting and after receiving community input, the list included in this packet is the one being submitted.

Dr. DuBose reminded them after approval, the list would be submitted to Beaufort County for final vetting. She added that this would be an open process and names could be added after the initial submittal. Task Force members discussed the list and the communication process. Following discussion, Mr. Abdul-Malik moved to approve the list with the following changes: delete Freedman's Way and remove suffixes from all names. Mr. Campbell seconded. By way of roll call, the motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

b. Seasonal and Temporary Signs Update

Dr. DuBose reported that Staff is ready to move forward with Seasonal and Temporary Signs noting it was introduced as a proposed LMO amendment to the Public Planning Committee meetings held in June and July. She informed the Task Force the Committee had questions regarding the number of signs allowed to be posted at once. She added to mitigate that concern, Staff is asking the Task Force for a list of specific businesses that would need the signage. She noted there are no requests at this time and the assistance of the Task Force in identification of such businesses would be welcome. Dr. DuBose provided clarification regarding seasonal and temporary noting each would have to be identified along with the length of time the sign would be utilized, and the applicant would be aware of the time length through the application process.

8. Staff Report

Mr. Campbell excused himself from the meeting at this time (9:51 a.m.) stating he had a prior commitment.

Dr. DuBose briefed the Task Force regarding the recommendation to hold educational meetings and workshops for the Gullah Community. She reported that Staff held a community education program regarding Family Compounds and Family Subdivisions on Thursday, September 30 at the Rowing and Sailing Center at Squire Pope Community Park. She reported there were approximately 30 people in attendance and there will be an additional community education program regarding Family Compounds and Family Subdivisions on October 20 at 4:00 p.m. Dr. DuBose stated going forward there will be various community education programs held quarterly.

Dr. DuBose informed the Task Force the Town signed an agreement with Hilton Head Public Service District to install two fire hydrants in FY2022 located at Orage Lane and on Evelina Road.

Dr. Dubose reported the auction for delinquent taxes is being held today, October 4, 2021, noting Ms. White is present at the auction as an observer. She stated the Task Force did a good job of informing property owners of taxes that were due. She said when the list was pulled on Friday, there were only two properties remaining on the list. She stated she was informed that at the end of that day, one of the properties would be taken care of. She expressed her hopes were that in the end there were no properties from Hilton Head Island on the list. Chairman Stevens confirmed he was informed there were no properties from Hilton Head Island listed at the tax sale today.

Dr. DuBose stated there were some responses regarding changing the Task Force meeting time to 4:00 p.m. She added there were other times suggested as well. She explained the change would have to take place beginning with the 2022 meeting schedule.

Vice Chairman Simmons excused himself from the meeting at this time (9:55 a.m.) stating he had a prior commitment.

Chairman Stevens made an inquiry regarding off-site meetings in addition to the regular schedule. Dr. DuBose explained the difficulty in holding public meetings outside of Town Hall.

Chairman Stevens reminded the Task Force the need to contribute suggested locations for the Gullah Market.

Chairman Stevens inquired about a place to refer citizens to when they are looking for information regarding the Gullah Community and suggested the need for some sort of library. Dr. DuBose explained that there is a part of the Town website dedicated to that effort and stated she would send the link to the entire Task Force.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Submitted by: Vicki Pfannenschmidt, Secretary

Approved: December 6, 2021