

DI Council Meeting Minutes

May 15th, 2018

Pledge of Allegiance - Led by Leanne Coulter

Roll Call

Present-Chris Sutcliffe, Erin Quinn, Deborah Smith, Leanne Coulter, John Schartner, James Bays

Absent-Sallie Ann Robinson

A majority of the Council being present, there was a duly constituted quorum.

General Announcements

1) By Laws Revision Project Report

Chair Leanne Coulter reported that the committee includes the following: herself, Erin Quinn, Aaron Crosby, and Chris Sutcliffe. They met twice so far and reviewed several sections of the By-Laws, updating with minimal changes made. The committee will continue to review the By-Laws, section-by-section, and they will ask for input and comments from the community when their review is complete.

Council Chair Deborah Smith commented that this is tedious work that is greatly appreciated.

2) Community Happenings

Council Chair Deborah Smith asked if there were any upcoming events and the following events were mentioned:

The Conservancy will present a program on snakes on May 25th. Council member Chris Sutcliffe commented that this program is worth attending as it is interesting and informative.

The primary election will take place on Tuesday, June 12th. Tabor Vaux is not running but there are five candidates who are running for his seat, four Republicans and one Democrat. John Schartner stated that political parties do not tend to play a significant role in the county council elections.

The Daufuskie Day celebration will take place on June 23rd.

The church anniversary celebration will take place on June 24th.

Treasurer's Report

John Schartner reported that the park opening cost more than expected. The total will be reported at the next meeting. The Council is still taking donations for this event.

Committee Updates

Roads Committee

Committee Chair John Schartner reported that all has been quiet on the Prospect Road and Bloody Point road issues.

Cultural and Historical Committee

Chris Sutcliffe reported that attendance at the Francis Jones Community Park opening event topped 100. Everything went smoothly. There was lots of food served, and there was excitement that the Frances Jones Park finally opened. The park is a pleasant place for gatherings. Each community on the island was represented. There were twenty people in attendance who were Gullah family descendants. The park was named for the first teacher at the Mary Fields School, Frances Jones. Mr. Cleveland Bryant attended and spoke of his time at the school and Ms. Ella Mae sang a song to celebrate the event. Paul Jones, Ms. Jones's nephew, attended the event along with Congressman Mark Sanford, state, and county officials and staff, and several candidates. The Council received a thank you note from one legislator that stated that it was evident that people on Daufuskie cared for one another. All agreed that it was a successful event. Additional phase of the park will be planned, with special potential once the dump site is moved.

Resource Development Committee

Chair James Bays reported that with Erin Quinn's help, donation boxes for park playground equipment have been placed at Lucy Belle's, Freeport, Haig Point, School Grounds Coffee Shop, and at ThreeSisters. So far \$40.00 has been collected. Erin Quinn and her children were thanked for creating the boxes and placing them at designated sites.

Also, James Bays reported that with Representative Bradley's help, a \$20,000.00 grant was secured to go toward a playground set and other park costs. James

Bays stated that contributions toward the park continue to be greatly appreciated, including gifts of volunteer time.

Ferry Committee

Ferry Committee Chair Chris Sutcliffe stated that all ferry riders are encouraged to make a reservation when riding the ferry so that the ferry company can determine what size boat will be needed. In addition, all accounts must have a positive balance. The computer in the Maryfields School building can be used to put money into an account or to make ferry reservations.

Old Business

Chair Deborah Smith reported that the Prospect Road closing issue is in a holding pattern. Beaufort County would like the island to come together with the property owner to find a compromise but no more has been heard from the property owner, at this point.

New Business

Deborah Smith, Council Chair, stated that she has been approached about the mailbox situation. There are not enough boxes, and some feel that the set-up, is problematic on several levels,. Deborah Smith stated that the US Postal Service should be asked to financially support a solution for this issue.

Council member Chris Sutcliffe stated that she and her husband noticed an unusual plant on by the park. She researched this plant and found out that it is an invasive called sticky nightshade. She noticed that it doubled in size in a short amount of time and is spreading. She sprayed the plants with Round Up, although she found that there is a specific poison that will work to kill this invasive but the cost is prohibitive for an individual to purchase. She will continue to check to see if the Round Up has worked. Chris also reported finding a specific beetle (Colorado Potato Beetle) on the plant.

Overview of the Daufuskie Island Plan and Code

Deborah Smith, Chair of the Council's Committee on the Daufuskie Island Plan and Code, explained that a state-mandated review of Daufuskie's comprehensive land use plan and code has been underway for approximately one year. This community-based process has been spearheaded on a pro bono basis by Daufuskie property owners and certified planners Beverly Davis and her company, RS&H, and Sonny Timmerman, with Complete Communities. The

Council's Committee on the Daufuskie Island Plan and Code has served as the official "Project Advisory Committee."

Beverly Davis presented an overview of the final draft of the Daufuskie Island Plan and Code Update. The presentation outlined the planning process, the required plan elements, and a summary of each chapter included in the plan. Beverly also provided an overview of the update to the code, along with examples of how the code was simplified in the update and highlighted the focus on consistency within Beaufort County code, as well as within the code document. A comparison of the existing code and the updated code was also provided. (The new code is approximately 25 percent the length of the current code.)

Beverly introduced other staff members, Rachel Hatcher and Vishanya Forbes, with RS&H, who were present and provided support during the planning process. She also explained that Mr. Timmerman, with Complete Communities, led the update of the code, and she recognized Ecological Planning Group staff, Ed DiTomasso and Courtney Reich, who provided mapping and GIS support for the development of the existing conditions, but were not able to attend the meeting.

Comments were made by both Council members and public members about the quality of the year-long review process, with thanks provided to all the consultants who provided to the Daufuskie community this substantial service without charge.

Ms. Smith presented the following resolution to the Council and moved for its passage:

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT AND TRANSMIT THE DAUFUSKIE ISLAND MASTER PLAN UPDATE AND THE DAUFUSKIE ISLAND PLAN CODE UPDATE

WHEREAS, the Daufuskie Island Council and the Daufuskie Island Council's Committee on the Daufuskie Island Plan and Code have completed the update to the existing Daufuskie Island Plan and Code; and

WHEREAS, the documents were prepared according to the requirements found in the South Carolina Local Government Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act and consistent with the Beaufort County Comprehensive Plan and Community Development Code; BE IT THEREFORE

RESOLVED, that the Daufuskie Island Council does accept and hereby transmit the updated Daufuskie Island Master Plan and Daufuskie Island Code to Beaufort County for review and adoption.

Mr. Bays seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the motion was passed without a dissenting vote. This resolution will be included with the approved plan and code update, and the final package will now be sent to the Beaufort County. The county will undertake a review of the Daufuskie recommendations, and that process is expected to go into at least September.

[NOTE: Ms. Davis' presentation and all related documents will be posted on the Council's website: <https://www.daufuskiecouncil.com/daufuskie-plan-review>]

Public Forum

Chair Deborah Smith stated that the comments should be politely stated, limited to three minutes, and that the public could either state their name and have their name put in the minutes or just be identified as a member of the public.

Ed Latuska, Melrose property owner for ten years and homeowner for five years, voiced his concerns about the water issue and the high rates. He stated that the last increase was 110% and was a “legal form of robbery.” He stated that he thought that this increase was meant to increase the value of the Daufuskie Island Utility Company when the company is sold. Mr. Latuska asked the Council to contact Congressman Sanford to get something done. Deborah Smith stated that this is a state, not federal matter. Chris Sutcliffe stated that there is an official coalition of Melrose, Haig Point, and Bloody Point set-up to fight this issue. Individuals are paying as much as \$1800.00 a quarter. Council member John Schartner stated that he was told that there are not enough people to charge to pay for the costly equipment. It was also stated that the company before this water company went bankrupt. Council member Chris Sutcliffe stated that she would research the names of coalition group working on this issue. It was suggested that the Council could facilitate a meeting between the state officials and the group working on this issue. Mr. Latuska stated that he would appreciate any efforts made on this issue.

Tanya Crabtree stated that she was concerned that people would be turned away from riding the ferry because the ferry company is so slow to post money

received that account balances may look like they are in the negative but may not be. James Bays also stated that he experienced a similar problem with a lag in posting of money into his account. Another community member stated that the wrong amount showed up when he had just put \$200.00 in his account. Vicky Price also stated that her and her husband's accounts were showing incorrect amounts and were eventually rectified after several conversations back and forth with the ferry company. James Bays stated that Chris Sutcliffe is good at follow through, and Chris stated that she would follow-up on the concerns.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm after Chair Deborah Smith thanked the public for their participation.