

**DI Council Meeting
June 21, 2016
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Steve Hill at 6:30 pm.

Attendance:

Steve Hill
Janet Adams
John Schartner
Tina Fine
Deborah Smith
Charlie Small (arrived late with Councilman Tabor Vaux)

Absent:

Chuck Hunter
Dave Hutton
Len Pojednic

With a majority of the Council in attendance, a quorum was present.

An update was give on Council Member Dave Hutton's medical progress, with the good news shared that he would be coming back to the island later that evening.

Steve introduced Ms. Sarah Kimbell, district staff to Congressman Mark Sanford. Ms. Kimbell had spent the previous hour meeting with constituents and listening to concerns about federal issues, including difficulties caused by the CBRA map and social security problems. Appreciation was expressed by the Council for Ms. Kimbell's presence on Daufuskie, and she received a round of applause from the community members in attendance.

Updates

Public Ferry Contract: County Meeting on June 20th

Deborah Smith reported that on June 20th the Beaufort County Public Facilities Committee voted 4-2 to support the bid submitted by the Haig Point Ferry Company (in partnership with the Melrose Resort) for the Daufuskie public ferry services contract for the upcoming fiscal year. J&W Corporation withdrew that company's bid prior to the committee's vote, and declined to extend its current contract an additional 60 days while the Council and staff sorted out the competing bids.

County council members had specifically mentioned the large number of "individualized and heart-felt emails" from Daufuskie residents on the issue, and Tammy Helmuth gave

a compelling presentation to the committee. A prevailing theme throughout the committee's discussion was a recognition that the County had not been providing sufficient funds for the level of services desired by the Daufuskie community, and that in the future both the RFP for the program and the funding level needed to be revised accordingly. The County Council and staff will be working to identify additional funding to make possible a higher level of services for the upcoming fiscal year.

DI Council Members Hunter, Smith, Adams and Fine attended this committee meeting.

Near the conclusion of this report, DI Council Member Small arrived with County Council Member Tabor Vaux. Mr. Vaux was given a resounding welcome by the Council and community members, and he was thanked for his support of a higher level of services and funding for public ferry services. Councilman Vaux provided insights about the county deliberations relating to the public ferry services contract, and commended the Daufuskie community for communicating with him and other council members about this matter. Mr. Vaux said that he had received almost 40 "high quality" emails. He expressed confidence that additional funding would be provided for the upcoming fiscal year's contract, most likely through the use of reserve funds.

Charlie Small commended both Tammy Helmuth and Councilman Vaux for their critical roles in the committee proceedings. Steve Hill said that Captain Richard Inglis, from the Haig Point Ferry Company, was committed to an open process as the company finalized contract provisions with the county. The company will be looking for opportunities to communicate with community members through focus groups and informational meetings.

CBRA Legislation

Deborah Smith reported that the Council is partnering with the Melrose Property Owners Association and others to develop a legislative strategy to support the passage of Congressman Sanford's legislation to remove Daufuskie Island from the CBRA map. The effort will continue a broader outreach to key Members of Congress, including South Carolina's U.S. Senators.

Doorway to Daufuskie Funding

John Schartner reported that there was residual funding from the HH/Bluffton Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Council "Doorway to Daufuskie" project, and that \$1500 would be made available for maintenance of the Historic Map kiosks installed the previous months. Tina Fine reported that she was working with the Leadership Council on the collection of those funds and the parameters for their distribution.

Webb Tract Development

Steve Hill read a letter from Aaron Crosby that outlined the status of the Webb Tract project, described as an “outdoor family recreational experience.” Aaron stated that it is the intention of the developer to provide a detailed update to the Council in September.

Daufuskie Day

Irvin Simmons, President of the Daufuskie Island Foundation, was in attendance and gave a brief overview of the annual Daufuskie Day, scheduled for Saturday, June 25th and said that preparations are well in hand for this year’s 40th celebration. The location will be at the county dock, with boaters beginning to arrive at around 10:30 am and departing by approximately 4:00 pm. Steve Hill reported that arrangements had been made for “porta-potties” to be delivered to the island in time for this event.

Directing comments to Tabor Vaux, he recommended greater county participation in the county co-op to ensure a more consistent level of services.

Daufuskie Island Plan

Co-Chairs of the DI Plan Committee Deborah Smith and Janet Adams reported that activities continue regarding a review of the Daufuskie Island Plan. A meeting with County Planning Department Director revealed that the Planning Department would like to see the DI Council play a greater role in evaluating development proposals in terms of consistency with the Plan. Deborah and Janet once again urged community members to consider volunteering for involvement with this committee.

Island Emergency Preparedness

Community member Geoff Brunning reported that he will be chairing an initiative to develop an island emergency preparedness plan. The effort includes significant involvement by the DI Fire Department, which has formed a committee on this issue. The intent is to prepare a plan for every possible emergency that could occur on the island, such as hurricanes, earthquakes (SC is ranked #5 of all states for the number of earthquakes that occur), tornadoes, terrorist activities, and an islandwide fire. Development of this plan may take up to 2 years.

Geoff also reported that the SC Department of Natural Resources has agreed to implement a “No Wake” zone stretching from the Freeport Marina area to the end of Mike Loftus’ dock.

Cart Safety Initiative

Janet Adams presented a proposal to increase cart safety on the island, with a particular emphasis on carts used by island visitors. Janet suggested that the Council produce a sticker to be affixed on the inside of each rental cart roof with rules for use, including a prohibition of alcohol on the cart, no driving by children, and no riding on the beach. An outreach would be made to all cart providers on the island to ask for their cooperation for the project. There was great enthusiasm among both council members

and the community members about this proposal, and Janet will move forth with its development.

Turtle Nest Update

Janet Adams reported on the Daufuskie Island Turtle Team activities, and said there has been a significantly greater level of turtle nesting activity than last year. So far, there have been 48 nests identified by team members, with 5 “false crawls.” With two more months yet to go for the nesting season, the number of these nests is very encouraging.

Appreciation was expressed to Janet and other members of the Turtle Team for their dedication to this worthwhile wildlife effort.

Community Comments

Concern was expressed about the increase in discarded trash on the island. The public was urged to stop and pick-up such discarded items, and there was a discussion about ways that this unfortunate practice can be curtailed, including the installation of trash containers and more county assistance in managing those containers.

Appreciation by a community member was expressed to the DI Council for the members’ support of the public ferry services and other important island matters.

Councilman Vaux and Sarah Kimbell were thanked for their time and interest in Daufuskie matters, and appreciation was expressed for their presence at the Council meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Council Member Charlie Small adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.