

Meeting Notes from DI Plan & Code Committee - April 23, 2017

Facts

Committee Members:

Deborah Smith, Chairperson (DI Council Member)
Darnell Brawner (DI Council Member)
John Schartner (DI Council Member)
Sallie Ann Robinson (DI Council Member)
Beverly Davis* (Public Member)
Sonny Timmerman* (Public Member)
Geof Jenkins (Public Member)
Andy Mason (Public Member)
Martha Hutton (Public Member)
Leanne Coulter (Public Member)

* Daufuskie property owners; Certified planners who are donating pro bono consulting services to this project.

The committee meets approximately every two weeks. The process will be transparent and meetings are open to the public.

2017 Project: Working in consultation with the Beaufort County Council and the Beaufort County Planning Department, the Committee will review the Daufuskie Island Plan, and ultimately make recommendations to the full Daufuskie Island Council relating to updates and revisions. All subsequent actions and recommendations by the Council will then be submitted to the Beaufort County Council for its consideration.

At Sunday's meeting there was consensus on the following:

The Committee approved the "Scope of Work" proposal prepared by the RS&H consulting firm (Beverly Davis, AICP and Senior Planning Group Leader), and expressed appreciation for the pro bono services of Beverly,

two of her RS&H colleagues, and Sonny Timmerman. The projected value of these services is \$60,000.

The Committee also accepted the generous offer for collaborative pro bono services offered by Ecological Planning, another Savannah-based community planning firm. This company may be particularly helpful in matters relating to water resources, storm water management, and environmental elements

It is important to work with all the county officials on this matter, especially given pending staff changes expected in 2018.

It is important that ultimately both the DI Council and the County Council support both the Plan AND the code.

The existing Plan will be used as a starting point for the review. The goal is to maintain the strong portions of the existing Plan, and build on it for a better version.

Ideally, the revised DI Plan will be incorporated in the Southern Beaufort County Regional plan. (<http://www.bcgov.net/departments/Planning-and-Development/planning/documents/Southern%20Beaufort%20County%20Regional%20Plan%20final.pdf>)

The Daufuskie Island Plan needs to meet State planning requirements. (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t06c029.php>)

A major goal is that the revised Plan needs to be easy to understand for both residents and developers. Everyone on all levels know exactly what the plan and code say relating to any development project, in other words, here's what you can do and not do.

The current plan appears to have been written from the perspective of the developer. The revised plan needs to have an equal or greater focus on residents and property owners.

The revised Plan needs to be sustainable.

The revised Plan needs to have economic development components.

The revised Plans must be clear about when a variance is needed and what that process for requesting a variance should be.

Although a comprehensive “top-to-bottom” review is necessary in order to have a credible, sustainable, and effective plan, occasionally there may be opportunities for the Committee to identify and move forward with a tangible project that provides immediate benefits, e.g., An economic development project creating opportunities for trade workers.