

Minutes of Daufuskie Island Council Ferry Committee Meeting

Mary Fields School

7:30 PM, Dec. 20, 2018

Attending: Chris Sutcliffe, Capt. Richard Inglis, Deborah Smith, Erin Quinn, Leanne Coulter

Capt. Inglis gave a history of parking spaces, beginning with 30 spaces which remained at the same number until Hurricane Matthew. When the ferry moved to Bluffton, the number of spaces was increased to 35 and then to 45 spaces. When the current contractor got the contract, parking was \$30. The price was raised on Jan 1st, 2018, to \$50. For those who paid in advance, prior to 12/31/2017, the price was \$30 and included 2 free tickets.

Parking at the Fruit Stand is \$30 per month. There are 10 spaces contracted for at the gas station. This is not a popular place for residents to park. Concerns were voiced by residents who worry that leaving their cars parked in so visible a location, near such a busy road, can increase the chance of the car being damaged or stolen. The request was made that the gas station parking spaces be used first for visitors to keep as many spaces as possible at Buckingham Landing for Island residents.

The ferry company has seen an increase of 124% in the number of passengers in 2018 over 2017.

The County at Buckingham Landing was purchased by the County when it became evident that docking space elsewhere was nonexistent. The County has responsibility for the maintenance of the larger building, while the Ferry Company is responsible for keeping up the restrooms.

The POA at Buckingham Landing is not a fan of the Ferry being there. That entity opposed the restaurant, as well.

The question of the waiting list was also addressed. Capt. Inglis informed us that he considers the usage of the ferries when he determines who gets the next available space.

The gentleman who raised the question at the last Council Meeting about the length of time he had been on the waiting list had previously spoken with Capt. Inglis and found that a clerical error had caused him to be dropped from the waiting list. Capt. Inglis offered sincere apologies for the error.

The Ferry Company is working with Palmetto Breeze to arrange a shuttle which would travel the route from the free parking spaces at the County Building to the ferry landing for visitor parking during high season. This would also work to free up parking spaces at Buckingham Landing for Island Residents.

A question regarding why we must pay for parking at Buckingham Landing was raised. Captain Inglis pointed out that the County also owns the Airport in Hilton Head – and parking fees are charged there as well. The County rents the property to the Ferry Company, and the Ferry Company must recoup the charges.

The suggestion was made that a 'focus' group be formed to help work out a solution for the parking problem. There were suggestions of improving signage and painting lines between the spaces to ensure that as many vehicles as possible can be accommodated in the lot.

Capt. Inglis also said that charging for parking at Melrose Landing is under consideration.

Another Ferry Committee is planned in January at which Capt. Inglis will continue this conversation.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Submitted by Chris Sutcliffe