

## **DI Council Meeting February 21, 2017**

### **MINUTES**

Vice Chair Chuck Hunter called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The following Council Members were in attendance:

Chuck Hunter  
Maureen Devine  
Sallie Ann Robinson  
John Schartner  
Darnell Brawner  
Deborah Smith  
Steve Hill

Absent: Charlie Small and Len Pojednic

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

#### 2017 Election Results

Steve Hill reported that Sallie Ann Robinson and Maureen Devine were elected to the Council, and John Schartner was re-elected. The Council thanked the candidates who ran for election, and for their willingness to serve the community.

Sallie Ann and Maureen both expressed their enthusiasm at joining the Council.

Steve also thanked the members of the Election Committee for their diligent efforts to ensure a fair, well-run election process: Leanne Coulter, Pam Cobb, and Darnell Brawner.

#### Update: FEMA Recovery Effort

Chuck Hunter

FEMA trucks have made a first past through most areas of the island. The effort is getting close to being done. There are issues with grading on the

road. There is just one road grader from the county and it is stretched thin with the impact of the FEMA trucks.

Resident Question: What is the status of burning? Piles of ash are growing

Answer: The island needs approval for more sites; Forms to create more have been submitted to FEMA.

In addition, hoping to get permission to deal with stumps.

Question from a resident from Church Road: This road is in really bad shape, What's going to happen?

Answer: Asphalt will be ground into the road, then graded.

Question: Will the asphalt chunks be ground?

Answer: Yes, the commitment is to restore the road to its previous condition.

Question: Between Amber Lane and Haig Point, it's not feasible to drive a cart because the ditch will collapse.

Follow-up Comment: She left question on the Council's website and didn't get an answer

Answer: We will take a look at that and try to address.

Question: Can we volunteer to get ash?

Answer: Yes, go down to the site and talk to Scott. He's needs location coordinates.

Update: Community Park/Rest Rooms - Chuck Hunter:

Chuck said everything is ready to go regarding the restrooms and trails for the Francis Jones Park, but they need the burn site to settle down. The state's Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism is giving us extra time until that happens. Still working on solutions for the Marshside Mama's bathrooms and hopes to have something out on that very soon.

## Daufuskie Ferry Service Status - Steve Hill

Steve introduced Captain Richard Inglis who thanked the Ferry Committee who helped put together a revised schedule. The re-launched Friday night run occurred last week, and it went well. There will be a meeting with Palmetto Breeze representative, Paula Tilly, and she will be conducting an “audit” of parking area. Be careful on Melrose Landing in the dark, although temporary lighting has been installed and has been helpful.

Steve Hill noted that residents parking cars on the Hilton Side need to be careful because in the past Palmetto Breeze representatives have caught expired stickers.

Resident Question: We have a number for our space, but someone is parked there.

Answer: We have a designated area, although maybe not as well designed as we'd like. Maintaining designated spaces will be difficult.

Resident Question: I am a part-time resident; what do we do about parking?

Answer: Get a card from the boat crew for your car's dashboard.

Resident Question: How about other people who park?

Answer: There should be enough spaces; long term parkers are encouraged to park farther away; so that short term parkers can park close to the boat

Buckingham boat landing company is asking that cars not be parked on the grass and on the road.

Resident Question: Do we need to get stickers from Paula Tilly?

Response: We will know more after the meeting with Palmetto Breeze representatives.

Resident Question: I just paid for a PB sticker, and it was \$60 for 2 months. Where does that money go?

Answer: Now that parking has been re-established, PB has gone back to charging \$30 a month.

Doug Egly stated that a \$30 charge has been re-instituted and they are working on a fee structure for others. Everyone else will have to pay for fee; and are working on amount.

Comment: (name of person making this statement was not recorded)  
Received an email from PB saying they were auditing and asking for proof of documentation for cards.

Richard Inglis: Note that there is no signage yet. Please keep passengers and cargo off the dock until crew says it's ok to come down. Signage will happen soon.

Resident Comment: Very pleasant service; helpful staff...thank you!!

### Nighttime Golf Cart Use

Per a state law regulating golf cart operation on public roads, the county has not yet promulgated regulations, including nighttime use. However, it is required that a vehicle has functioning lights and complies with other Rules of the Roads requirements.

### Announcements

Deborah Smith: The Daufuskie Island Plan and Code Committee will meeting on Saturday, March 4th at 11:00 am at the Mary Field School. All Committee meetings are open to the public and the community is invited to attend.

### Palmetto Breeze

Steve Hill: PB cards usually processed at the PB office in Bluffton; the Council has considered asking BP staff to visit Daufuskie to process these cards, and asked those in attendance if that would be helpful. A number of people responded in the affirmative.

Resident Comment: Paula Tilly (PB staff) is doing the best that she can, but as a long term resident and PB card holder (10 years), the resident had

called 2 weeks ago to pay, and went to the office. Was told that she had to call Monica Spells with the county for documentation of island residence. Monica Spells could not find her in the system. Asking for help from the Council...Very frustrating situation.

Steve Hill said he would try to help and would report back.

### Webb Tract

Chuck Hunter: The last information received by the Council is that Roger Freedman is still looking for financing.

### Bloody Point

Steve Hill: Per Patrick Ford, there is a pending sales contract with a Savannah group of investors with a 105 day due diligence period.

### Open Forum

Resident Question: Re golf carts, can Council get someone from the county to come over for permitting golf carts?

Response: We will look into it.

### Sallie Ann Robinson

We are still seeing the children of island visitors driving golf carts. Why?

Aaron Crosby suggest stopping cart and politely telling the parents that there is a \$200 fine.

Deborah Smith suggested this and other cart infractions be reported to the cart provider if there is identifying information on the cart, including the cart number.

Resident Question/Comment: There is excessively soft sand at the public beach access area by the Sandy Lane villas, and vehicles are getting stuck. Can filler be put in? Sand in basin is too soft. Also, there are many tracks showing that vehicles are going onto the beach in spite of a sign that says vehicles are not allowed on the beach.

Council Response: We share the community concerns, and we'll try to come up with a solution.

Resident Comment: In addition to the problem with children driving carts, an even bigger problem is the practice of driving carts while intoxicated. Almost every cart-related accident...and especially those resulting in death or serious injury...has involved alcohol. The Council agreed that this is a very serious issue, and merited additional consideration and effort to address this problem.

Maureen Devine asked what has been the practice as it concerns people who are driving under the influence. Deb Smith suggested that folks should call the owners of the carts when it involves rentals. Maureen asked how you would know where to find the info and Deb replied everyone posts it differently on their carts but most have some sort of identifying company name and cart number.

Resident Comment: The feeding of FEMA workers for a special meal was very successful and we would like to see at least two additional such events. Stay tuned for more details, including a request for residents to bring dishes for such events.

Maureen Devine: Repeated her desire that efforts be taken to apprehend people who have been drinking and driving carts.

Resident Comment: Referenced a serious incident at Marshside Mamas involving workers involved with the island cleanup. Chuck Hunter that he had taken action with the supervisor of these workers.

Resident Comment/Question: Concern was expressed during the election about the attendance of Council Members, and questioned what the rules are.

Chuck Hunter said that Deborah Smith was spearheading a review of the By-laws and the Council would be reviewing and potentially revising various sections, including the attendance requirements.

Resident Question to Aaron Crosby: Weren't you involved in the original by-laws creation? What was the thinking about that section?

Aaron responded that when the formation group created by by-laws, the members decided that a 75 percent attendance rate of all regular meetings was appropriate. There was recognition that property owners who were not full-time residents should have the right to run for the Council, but the group wanted to ensure that Council members needed to have a sufficient presence to service the island community, hence the 75 percent rate. He also said they included the term “physically present” to make sure they were actually on the island.

Resident Comment: One possibility might be to create some type of adjunct position for people who wanted to help but were not able to qualify for a Council position because of the attendance requirement.

Resident Question: Since the by-laws affect the operation of the Council, would the meeting to review them take place at a public meeting?

Steve Hill: No, because the by-laws are the Council’s governing document it is appropriate for the Council to meet by itself to discuss them.

Resident Comment: Her corporate board struggles with the same issue and sees technology as a way to remedy the problem. Modern technology has the capacity to let people participate electronically, and perhaps that option should be allowed.

Resident Comment: Agreed with previous comment and suggested that when Council conducts a review of the By-Laws the members should consider utilizing such technology.

Resident Comment: Important to keep in mind that all island development proposals under consideration by the Council affect the Historic District, and not private communities. In order to be in a position to make decisions that especially impact the HD community, it’s important for Council members to hear people’s concerns and views. Wants the council members to be here and be on top of what’s going on.

Resident Comment/Question about Webb Tract development: Concern that the community hasn’t been involved or properly informed. Was told at the August meeting with developer that there would be many subsequent

meetings, but there have been no more meetings. It's been said that the Council has met with the developer and has more information.

Chuck Hunter: Yes, we were told by the developer that he would initiate more meetings, but we can't control his decision not to do that. Agreed that transparency is very helpful and any information the Council has received about the proposal we have passed on. "We have passed on all facts"

Resident Question: What are the Council committees?

Steve Hill: We will be holding post-election organizational meeting and will be establishing 2017 committees. We will share that information with the Community.

Resident Comment: In order to understand the concerns of the island residents, the elective representatives on the island should be here. Cited the Prospect Road situation. When in another state, the representative really can't understand how people feel. Also, no one contacted the HD residents in the vicinity of Prospect Road to ask how they felt.

Chuck Hunter: It is not the job of the Council Members to contact people to ascertain views. The community elected the members to use their best judgment on issues.

Deborah Smith: It is a good development that Council elections are now competitive, and the recent election is a good example with 6 qualified candidates running for 3 seats. Remembers when it was difficult to convince people to run for the open seats.

Sallie Ann Robinson: Communication is really important and there needs to be good dialogue between islanders and the community. She found it surprising several constituents of Gullah descent were not aware there was a Council meeting tonight. She was concerned that for those who do not have access to NextDoor Daufuskie are left out of the communication loop. A couple of people in the audience volunteered that there are several places the meetings are posted including in a prominent place at the Post Office.

She went onto say that one of her missions while on the DI Council is to get more of the residents of Gullah descent involved in island issues and encourage them to attend Council meetings.

Resident Comment: Keep in mind that just as being off-island can make it difficult to know the views of the islanders, if you're in a private community and don't seek views of HD people, you also won't understand their concerns.

Resident Comment: Commented about Charlie Small's stated intent not to run again as Chairman and expressed appreciation for his past service.

Resident Comment: Perhaps with the hurricane and subsequent FEMA activities, there could be an opportunity for lower flood insurance rates.

There being no further comments nor business, Chuck Hunter moved to adjourn the meeting and there was no objection. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.