

**DI Council Meeting  
November 28, 2017  
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hunter at 6:00 pm.

The following members were present:

James Bays  
Darnell Brawner  
Maureen Devine  
Steve Hill  
Chuck Hunter  
Sallie Ann Robinson  
John Schartner  
Charlie Small  
Deborah Smith

All Council members being present, there was a duly constituted quorum.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by meeting participants.

**Special Presentation**

Consultants Beverly Davis and Sonny Timmerman gave a presentation providing a status report on the community-based review and update of the Daufuskie Island Plan and Code. (The complete presentation can be viewed at <https://www.daufuskiemunicipal.com/daufuskie-plan-review>)

Highlights of the presentation included:

The Council's Daufuskie Island Plan and Code Committee serves as the Project Advisory Committee.

The community survey has been completed and the results analyzed. Existing conditions of the island have been established through the

assistance of Ecological Planning Group, and the vision statement has been finalized. The draft character areas were developed following the October community workshop including characteristics, issues, and strategies.

The project is running about a month behind schedule because of the hurricane, but we will be making up that time.

Over 350 people participated in the survey. Survey results were very similar throughout the island regardless of where people live, and especially the island characteristics that are most valued by people. Common themes were the respondents desire to preserve the community character of the island through balancing growth with the existing character, a sustainable economy that is compatible with the existing character, and the preservation of community assets including the environment and natural beauty. The most valued characteristics of the island are its geographic location (no bridge), its quietness, and the slower pace of life.

89 percent of the survey respondents approved of the draft vision statement. The project advisory committee made one small change with the draft vision statement and approved this version at its October 2nd meeting:

*"Daufuskie is a pristine sea island with extraordinary natural, cultural and historic resources. Our vision is to support balanced, mindful growth that provides a sustainable economy, while preserving our unique and diverse community character, rural sense of place, and secluded island lifestyle. While recognizing property owners' rights to reasonable use of their land, we will minimize the threat to our natural environment, cultural and historic resources, and ensure the preservation of Daufuskie Island's natural beauty."*

The identification of the island's existing conditions included: Existing Land Use Breakdown, Parcel Development Patterns, Environmental Features, Special Flood Hazard Areas, Community Features, and Current Zoning Classifications.

Ms. Davis also explained the importance of developing "Character Areas" for use as a planning tool to address specific issues and develop

strategies unique to each character area. The Character Areas will also serve as a guide for land use, zoning and public investment.

At the October 2nd community workshop, the attendees broke into groups to identify the island's character areas, their characteristics, issues, and draft strategies.

The results of the workshop were presented at the November 27th Committee/Project Advisory Committee meeting. The Committee decided to make the draft character areas map and strategies available online and in hard copy for 10 days so that anyone on the island can provide input, and then the Committee/Project Advisory Committee will meet before Christmas to consider the additional input and move the recommendations forward.

Ms. Davis noted that an issue was raised at the November 27th meeting relating to the status of the Mid Island Historic District in terms of inclusion in the Daufuskie Island Plan, and that they will be conducting research into this issue.

Ms. Smith noted that the draft character areas map and draft strategies will be posted online by 9:00 am the following day and hard copies would be posted at the Mary Fields School on a bulletin board located between Daufuskie Blues and the School Grounds Coffee Shop. All community members are urged to review these materials and to provide comments to Project Advisory Committee Members, Ms. Davis or Mr. Timmerman or any Council member within 10 days. Comments can also be provided to any member of the Committee, or any Council member. (Contact information can be found at <https://www.daufuskiecouncil.com/committees> and <https://www.daufuskiecouncil.com/about>)

Ms. Devine asked Ms. Davis to ~~define~~ clarify what was meant by the term "stakeholder" which has been referenced during this review process. Ms. Davis replied that it referred to existing groups on the island, for example, the DI Conservancy, which has already had representatives participating in the process; business owners, which we have been contacting, and as another example, the Community Farm. Ms. Devine asked if individuals were considered stakeholders, and Ms. Davis responded "no." However, Ms. Davis added that individuals are part of the community process that the Committee has been working with. Mr.

Timmerman added that this is a community-driven process that by state law is required to be undertaken. The goal is to make the plan what this community....”all of us” ...want it to be.

## **Police Reports**

Mr. Hill reported that he had filed a Freedom of Information Request with Beaufort County Sheriff’s office and obtained all the police reports for Daufuskie between October 2016 and the end of September 2017. Mr. Hill provided the following summary: There were 29 reports in 12 months: 1 personal injury (a BC sheriff office employee was here after the hurricane and had a fall); an abandoned boat at Freeport Marina; one motor vehicle collision; 3 instances of burglaries (This included two Bloody Point incidents); one natural death in a home; one verbal disagreement with shots fired; 2 domestic abuse complaints; 2 cases of forgery: one instance of passing phony money, and one internet scam; a deputy sheriff’s phone fell in the water; property damage from a vehicle driving off the road; 6 instances of stolen property including restaurant theft and golf carts; a bag on a golf cart fell off and could not be located; an assault and battery; 4 cases of suspicious activity: human skeletal remains found near the beach (tidal activity had exposed a grave site); one traffic stop for a cracked windshield; one vandalism with damage to the property; and a disturbance involving a gun.

A public member said that it would be interesting to have past annual reports to see if any trend could be determined.

## **Committee Reports**

Committee on Resources Development (Chairperson: James Bays)

Mr. Bays will be holding a meeting in January. He will also be distributing collection boxes at local businesses for Council projects.

Committee on Amenities (Chairperson: Darnell Brawner)

Mr. Brawner reported that the gazebo area has received attention and has been cleaned up. In the near future it will be pressure washed and sealed.

#### Committee on Solid Waste (Chairperson: Darnell Brawner)

Mr. Brawner said that the dump has been kept in a better condition and got a good report from DHEC. He noted that there is now a location for oyster shell remains, which can eventually be used to re-nourish oyster reefs. There is now a camera monitoring system in place which should reduce illegal dumping practices. The County is currently entertaining all options for solid waste solutions, but it is not clear what direction they are taking. This is a positive step in that there seems to be forward movement, and there may be some developments within the next 6 months.

#### Committee on Roads (Chairperson: John Schartner)

Mr. Schartner said that there are several marked spots on Haig Point Road that indicate pending repair work where the heavy trucks from the hurricane caused damage. He and Mr. Hunter discussed the best mechanism for reaching out to the County's Public Works Department to issue an invitation for a representative to attend and speak at an upcoming Council meeting. Ms. Devine asked Mr. Schartner if he could be more specific as to what parts of the road were still in need of attention. Mr. Schartner replied that sections of the runoff ditches and edges of the road still need to be cleaned up.

#### Marshside Mama's Project (Chairperson: John Schartner)

A Subcommittee of the Council comprised of Mr. Schartner, Ms. Robinson, and Mr. Bays is working with the Marshside Mamas Co-op to explore a collaborative arrangement between the Council and the Co-op. Mr. Schartner said that Mr. Hunter's daughter (an attorney) is attempting to identify a law firm that will provide bono legal assistance to draft a contract or lease that would allow the Council to play a pro-active role in maintaining the property for the community while at the same time protecting everyone from liability. Mr. Hunter said that conversations have taken place with several law firms and he hopes to have an answer within the next couple weeks.

#### Ferry Committee (Chairperson: Steve Hill)

Mr. Hill reported that the public ferry is still operating on a month-to-month lease arrangement with the County, but that he is hoping that the county will execute a contract soon. In response to a question from the public, he said that it is not clear on why the process has been delayed; There doesn't seem to be a specific issue, rather he believes is a "paper flow" matter.

#### Cultural and Historic Preservation (Chairperson: Sallie Ann Robinson)

Ms. Robinson reported that we were not successful in receiving a grant through the county's 2 percent tax program. She urged everyone to visit the park that now has completed bathrooms and a trail. Mr. Hunter added that we are waiting for DHEC to give final approval following completion of the water testing process, with a visit potentially happening on the following day. Ms. Robinson Will be looking at fund raising process for grills, playground, tables. James Bays reported that his committee has raised around \$1100 for a play ground set; and will be setting up a Go Fund me page; There will be an important

#### Committee on the Daufuskie Island Plan and Code (Chairperson: Deborah Smith)

No report was given in lieu of the presentation by Ms. Davis and Mr. Timmerman.

### **Event Announcements**

Ms. Devine reported that guest speaker Dan Hernandez of "Run 4 a Reason" would be presenting at the December Council meeting on December 19th. This organization spearheads challenging, charitable running events in the Low Country. Twenty percent of the proceeds of this event will be donated to the DI Historical Foundation. Mr. Henderson will present the particulars of the 15 mile Daufuskie Ultra Run which will begin at 8:15 am on January 20th, 2018.

The Daufuskie Elementary School will hold its Christmas show on December 14th at the Firestation: 6:00 pm start time

Daufuskie Island Community Farm - Daufuskie Community Farm & Artisan Village will hold their Annual Meeting, Silent Auction, Artisan Showcase, and Cookout on Sunday, December 3rd, noon to 4:00 pm.

Daufuskie Island Christmas Parade - Saturday, December 9th

Ms. Smith reported that there is interest in Daufuskie providing ongoing support for the Open Arms Children Shelter.

## **Public Forum**

*Has the county set a deadline for the disposition of Marshside Mamas?*

Mr. Hunter: No

*There are ads in the Island Packet for the Webb Tract development. Are we going to be blindsided by a development?*

Ms. Smith: No application has yet been filed with the county for this project. The ads are seeking to raise funds for the project. Once an application has been filed, the county will work with us for community review and comment.

Mr. Hunter: The Planning Department will review any application and then share with the Daufuskie Council and community.

*The dump is looking a lot better; kudos to Mr. Brawner*

Mr. Darnell - Lots of parts came together; glad there has been improvements.

*Will the council be working with the current Marshside Mamas co-op?*

Mr. Shartner: Yes, but certain conditions have to be met. The response from the Co-Op has been very positive.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm.

