

Daufuskie Island Council Board Meeting Minutes

December 21, 2015, 5:30pm

Mary Fields School

Directors present: Steve Hill, Tina Fine, John Schartner, Bill Nickels, Chuck Hunter, Charlie Small

Directors absent: Dickie Phelps, Len Pojednic, Janet Adams

Guests: None

12 people in attendance

Meeting called to order: 5:30pm

Charlie Small welcomed everyone and introduced Tina Fine who will finish the 1 year term of Mike Davis on the council.

Charlie Small took time to thank the DI Council on their hard work for 2015. There are three people who Charlie wanted to specifically thank in no particular order:

Steve Hill – Thank you for all of your great energy and enthusiasm, he is our “nuts and bolts guy” who will take on any task and get the job done.

Jenny Hersch – 1st class scribe and more importantly is a first class person who everyone should know. Thank you for all of your efforts with the meeting notes you do a great job and so many positive comments are received on the notes. You deliver great information in a timely manner.

Paula Nickels – Thank you for your time and effort with The Front Porch, this is a first class publication and we always look forward to what comes out every week.

DI Council Election

Charlie Small discussed the upcoming DI Council election in February 2016. Three seats will be available (Dickie Phelps, Charlie Small, Bill Nickels). Bill will not be running again and Charlie Small will be up for re-election. Any person who wishes to be on the ballot has until January 8, 2016 to submit an application to run. Currently there are four people who have submitted an application. Applications are being collected by Len Pojednic.

A candidate question and answer forum will be held at the regular monthly DI Council Meeting on Monday, January 18, 2016 at the Mary Fields School at 5:30. Candidates will be available to answer questions at this time. Charlie Small indicated he would be unable to attend this meeting. Anyone can submit a question prior by emailing prior to this meeting by email to leannecoulter@hargray.com or submit via the DI Council website.

Anyone interested in more information on the Election is encouraged to look on the website.

Votes can be cast via mail, email or in person on February 13, 2016 at Mary Field School. If submitting via mail or email a copy of the following will need to be included with ballot: a driver's license, current property tax bill and photo ID or a Palmetto Breeze ID.

County Improvements

Chuck Hunter and Steve Hill had meeting with Josh Gruber (Beaufort County Deputy Administer and Tom Keaveny (Beaufort County Attorney) who has been taking a more active role with Daufuskie Island and our needs. Josh is committed to raising the existing bathroom at the county dock and replace with proper bathrooms. Some needs such as drain fields, well and sewer need to be determined.

Improvements to the County Dock are underway. Bathrooms are also being considered for the public beach. Bathrooms for County dock and public beach will be put out to bid together.

Charlie Small asked if the county was relying on DI Council for any additional information.

The county is currently seeking funds to cover both restrooms and the anticipated completion is Spring 2016. Chuck Hunter is working with the county on the budget and making sure the bids come in line of what would be expected for Daufuskie.

The Senator and other county officials are offering their support more and more to Daufuskie.

Concerning Marshside Mama's, the county reps indicated they're dealing with Beth Shipmen to enter into a new lease arrangement. DI Council sent to the county their support for Marshside Mama's and the ability to maintain it as we know it exists.

Doorway to Daufuskie

Meeting was set up by Hilton Head to pick out locations but it was cancelled and new meeting is scheduled for January. Currently they are not going to be doing any signage due to difficulties with county on placement but they are looking at doing a kiosk. It is still desired to have an island map and they are looking at an app to navigate someone around the island.

Project deadline is end of March 2016.

Preservation of Historic Daufuskie

Mike Bedenbaugh (from Palmetto Trust) provided Chuck Hunter on information about the South Carolina Bailey Bill (SC Code of Laws §4-9-195) which authorized the local governments to offer special property tax assessments for rehabilitated historic buildings. The main feature of this bill is to assess the property on the pre-habilitation fair market value for 20 years. This means the owner of rehabilitated structure will not pay taxes on the increased value due to renovations for a period of 20 years.

Communities have used varying minimum reinvestments ranging from 20% of the fair market value to 80% of the building must be spent on the qualified rehabilitation expenditures.

The DI Council decided it would do more review of this bill and make a recommendation to the community during the January meeting for approval.

Mike Bedenbaugh suggested we adopt the entire bill. Chuck Hunter spoke to Senator Davis about his feelings for this bill and he not objected to it.

Chuck Hunter and Steve Hill will continue to review and make proposal to council in January.

Open Forum

Aaron Crosby: Mentioned the Christmas Eve services will take place at 4:30pm.

Signage is an issue on Daufuskie where the county will not step in. Loss of signage from Doorway to Daufuskie is unfortunate as the county would not have to spend the money on this project.

Chuck Hunter: Mentioned the County will provide new communication equipment for use during the County council meetings. Currently only 2 places in the county have the ability to call in during the council meetings.

Aaron Crosby: In response to a question from the chair, Aaron indicated that he and Roger Freedman continue to work on plans for development of the Webb Tract. Aaron said they may have something to present in February.

Sara Deitch: She asked about the maintenance of the new restrooms to be built as Marshside Mama's currently handles the ones located there. Chuck Hunter explained it would get bid out to a local resident who wishes to have a job to maintain both restrooms.

Sara also asked about the 1 site for trash and this continues to be discussed for best solution. It was noted by the DI Council, resolution is sought during 2016.

Portable bathrooms will be brought over to county dock area during construction. It was also noted that the county will provide restrooms for events on the island when needed.

Tony Chase: Mentioned a new glass crusher will be delivered to the distillery in the next week. This will crush any glass into 2 different end products, one is smooth like pebbles and the other is a sand-like consistency. The intent is to crush as much glass from the island without having to use the landfill. The glass pebbles can be used in driveways and will be smooth enough to pick up by hand. The end products will be available to any resident who wishes to use it. Bins will be in place to separate the glass by color. No permit is necessary for this machinery as it is not operated for any business purpose.

Leanne Coulter: Mentioned Daufuskie has the highest mileage rates in Beaufort County and the county should take notice of this.

Jenny Hersch: Wanted to let residents know about an assistance program for anyone who may need it. This program will assist anyone needing help paying bills, home repairs etc. The website is www.needhelppayingbills.com/html/beaufort_county_assistance_pro.html

2016 is the Year of the Oyster on Daufuskie. Please join the DI Historical Foundation, the DI Conservancy and the DI Elementary School for an island-wide year-long series of educational programs, field trips and social events celebrating the environmental, economic and cultural importance of the oyster – past, present and future. For more information about Year of the Oyster please contact Jenny Hersh 413-717-2167 or herschbiz@aol.com.

Meeting adjourned: 6:15PM

Minutes submitted by: Tina Fine

Minutes submitted for review on: December 23, 2015

Next meeting - Monday January 18, 2016