

**DI Council Meeting  
April 17, 2018  
Minutes**

**Pledge of Allegiance** (Led by Chris Sutcliffe)

**Roll Call**

Present-Chris Sutcliffe, Erin Quinn, Deborah Smith, Leanne Coulter, Sallie Ann Robinson, John Shartner

Absent-James Bays

A duly constituted majority being in attendance, a quorum is present.

**Spirit of Daufuskie Award**

April Recognition: Pat Beichler

Since our community is dependent on volunteer assistance, the Daufuskie Island Council (the Council) will be recognizing volunteer service regularly.

As someone who has given so much to the island, Pat Beichler is the Council's first recipient of the Spirit of Daufuskie Award. Pat, who came to the island in 1998 from Maryland, has contributed everything from her skills as nurse practitioner to substitute animal "vet", to volunteer firefighter, to election volunteer, to the leader of sustainability on the island with the establishment of the Community Farm in 2009. Her true gift to the island has been to inspire others to volunteer, as she has mentored more than 100 volunteers. She is also know for giving "Grandmother's advice" for home remedies as well. Pat Beichler was presented with a plaque and a small gift by the Council, and she received a standing ovation by those in attendance.

**Council Website Review**

Deborah Smith, Council Chair, took the meeting attendees through an overview of the Council website. She reviewed each section and covered the following:

- Home Page ("About the Council")
- Names and contact information of all Council members
- Committees and the name and contact information of the Council and public members associated with each committee
- Community Resource Volunteers
- Events, including upcoming meetings

- Contact Council
- Resources, including past minutes beginning in 2014, resolutions, and additional documents (One page is devoted to the review of the Daufuskie Island Plan and Code)
- Government Links: Beaufort County website including County, Council links, South Carolina Legislative and Executive Branch information, South Carolina Members of Congress websites
- Daufuskie Island Photos
- Links to Daufuskie organizations

## **Acknowledgment**

Former Council Member Chuck Henry was recognized and thanked for his past service.

## **General Announcements**

### **1) Meeting Etiquette**

The Council Chair stated that it is a balancing act as to how to run the meetings to receive audience feedback but also be mindful of time constraints. The Council wants the community members to express themselves but asks that comments generally be confined to the public forum. An exception to this would be if the Council plans to take a formal action, such as a resolution, when public input has not yet been solicited. The Council asks that any public comment be kept in under three minutes.

### **2) ByLaws Revision Report**

Deborah Smith, Council Chair, said that the Council wanted to clarify an action at a March executive session meeting. Because recent resignations had resulted in less than the 9 members specified in the Council by-laws, and because the Council wanted to make sure that any actions by the Council could not be later challenged (e.g., the Prospect Road issue), the Council voted to provide a range for the number of required Council members from 5 to 9 pending the next annual election. She also referenced discussion by the council about extreme circumstances such as a hurricane when many members may be off the island for a period of time, and the need to allow the remaining members to function as well as possible. She said that the Council also believes that the bylaws in this general area (including election procedures) need to be reviewed and updated, including a review of potential options for additional members to be added mid-year through one or more options. Council Member Leanne Coulter will be spearheading this review process.

### **3) Community Happenings**

Council Member Erin Quinn reported that there are several upcoming events including the following:

- Wednesday, April 18th: Clothing trunk show and treats at the Mary Fields School.
- Saturday, April 21st: Environmental Day Beach Sweep
- Sunday, April 22nd: Bird walk and luncheon

- Sunday, April 22nd: Oyster roast to raise money for the Daufuskie Island Elementary School
- Monday, April 23rd: Golf event at Haig Point to raise money for a Jeremiah 38 mission medical trip to Honduras. Last year's mission trip treated 2,000 patients.

### **Treasurer's Report**

John Schartner reported that there is \$3,700.00 in the account. \$1500.00 was donated by the Hilton Head Island Chamber of Commerce for publicity. \$1100.00 was raised by James Bays for the playground fund and \$1100.00 is for discretionary use.

### **Committee Updates**

#### **Roads Committee**

Committee Chair John Schartner reported that the Pappy's Landing "end of the road" was visited by David Wilhelm, Beaufort County Environmental Engineering and Land Management Director, and other county staff, and safety concerns raised by the Council is being addressed. Reflectors have been put up, and there will be trees placed at the end of the road as a barricade.

Prospect Road closing: There has been much discussion on this issue by the Daufuskie Island Council by the Beaufort County Council and legal team, but Mr. Delaney again stated his intention to close the road. The Daufuskie Island Council voted at the March 28th meeting that it is committed to supporting continued public access to the road. The county may decide to litigate this issue if Mr. Delaney closes the road. According to previous Daufuskie Island Plans and statements by long-time residents, it can be documented that the road has been open to the public without interruption for more than sixty years. Individuals are willing to give sworn testimony to detail the amount of time the road has been open, if the need arises.

#### **DI Plan and Code Committee**

Review/Update of Daufuskie Island Plan and Code:

Beverly Davis, Certified Community Planner, gave her report. The draft plan and code, including maps, are now posted on the Council website for review and in hard copy at the Mary Fields School. Comments can be provided through the Council's website and to any Committee member. The summary information is consistent with Beaufort County code, and it has been streamlined to make its language consistent and the document understandable. The current Code (zoning) is more than 300 pages long, and the revised document is approximately 50 pages long. Language that is part of the Beaufort County code remains there for reference. There is a chart on the website that shows the changes from the previous document. Changes for land use are few and include 1) a higher allowable density for the commercial village and the gateway corridor; and 2) more flexibility land use for property owners in certain parts of the island. The Council would appreciate any feedback and would like to adopt this draft version at the May Council meeting. Ms. Davis stated that two major goals were met in that this plan is much more user friendly than previous plans and that the process was

much more community-based. There is an additional piece built into the plan for the ability to allow an 'aging in place' cluster development. The option for small family subdivisions is still available in some areas. The Council thanked Beverly Davis and Sonny Timmerman for their work on this process and subsequent draft document.

### **Cultural and Historical Committee**

Committee Chair Sallie Ann Robinson gave her committee report by highlighting the ribbon cutting ceremony being planned for the Francis Jones Community Park. Congressman Mark Sanford will be a featured speaker, along with County officials and other guests. The event will take place on May 12th at 4:00, and there will be a barbecue with hot dogs and hamburgers, children's activities, possibly artisan tables, and prizes. There will be donation boxes placed in various locations to raise money for the park. The ceremony will include the official dedication of the park pavilion in honor of former Council Member Dave Hutton and Chris Hutton.

It is possible that the dump may be moved after July 1st should a proposed contract to privatize these services be approved by the County. This will enlarge the size of the park, allowing more amenities including a ball park. One person has expressed interested in the cleaning contract for cleaning the bathrooms at the park and at the county dock. There will be a work day scheduled for BEFORE Saturday, May 12th, to get the park ready for the ceremony.

**Resources Development Committee** – See previous comments about donations boxes and under Treasurers Report.

### **Ferry Committee**

Committee Chair Chris Sutcliffe stated that all ferry riders are encouraged to make a reservation when riding the ferry so that the ferry company can determine what size boat will be needed.

### **Old Business**

#### **County Building**

The Council Chair stated, as reported earlier on NextDoor, that the county offered to transfer the county building to the Daufuskie Island Council, but after much deliberation and legal advice, the Council decided not to be in the real estate business. The Council's mission is to be an advocate for the entire community. The community members will be surveyed through Survey Monkey to weigh in for desires for how the building and space are to be used. This information will be shared with the community and with the county to help them be aware what the Daufuskie Island community would like to have happen.

#### **New Business**

The Council Chair stated that council members will continue to attend Beaufort Council meetings. When attending a recent Beaufort County Council meeting, the present council members were able to meet with Public Works Director David Wilhelm and the new Beaufort County Litter Control Supervisor, Artrell Horne. During a subsequent

meeting on Daufuskie, council members were also able to discuss plans for Daufuskie to receive 'Keep Daufuskie Beautiful' Signs to be posted on island. There are volunteer teams that may be able to come to Daufuskie for projects, including a Marine battalion do litter clean-up. A customized plan will be developed for Daufuskie Island.

Council Member Sallie Ann Robinson reminded attendees to consider the curves on the roads, encouraging drivers of vehicles to slow down and be sure to brake for golf carts.

### **Public Forum**

Council Chair Deborah Smith stated that the public could either state their name and have their name put in the minutes or just be identified as a member of the public.

Former Council Member Chuck Henry commented on what a great job the Council had done in the last six months under difficult circumstances.

Terry Elrod asked if beach re-nourishment would ever be addressed by the Council. Council Chair Deborah Smith responded that although the 2018 council has not recently addressed this issue, it has been an issue during previous Council sessions. She said that the difficulty for public sector funding for island projects is that a portion of Daufuskie is included in the map created by the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA). Deborah stated that it will be difficult to get any federal grants until Daufuskie is no longer subject to CBRA designation. Deborah is the Council and Historic District representative on task force representing the Bloody Point, Melrose, and Historic District communities. This group has been encouraging our Congressional delegation to promote legislation removing Daufuskie from the CRBRA map. Congressman Mark Sanford was the sponsor of a House Bill in the last congressional session to do just that. U.S. Senator Tim Scott met with Task Force members last year and said he would attempt to add language to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act to remove Daufuskie from the CBRA map, but that effort was not successful. Efforts will continue this year. There are also private HOA beach re-nourishment initiatives in which the Council is not involved.

Sylvia Wampler stated her concern about Mr. Dulany's plan to close Prospect Road. Chair Deborah Smith responded that after the community came out in force in opposition to the road closing in 2016, the County Council rejected an effort by Mr. Dulany to remove the road from the County's road maintenance inventory. The Daufuskie Island Council voted on March 28th, 2018 to reaffirm that it should stay open to the public. Ten to twelve residents on the island have said they will state that the road has been open for many decades. A meeting was held with Mr. Dulany, his lawyer, and the county lawyer and administrator regarding this issue, ending with a reference to this issue going to court. The Daufuskie Island Council remains steadfast in its commitment to working towards a resolution for the community to retain access to Prospect Road.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm after Chair Deborah Smith thanked the public for their participation.

