



Town of Hilton Head Island
GULLAH GEECHEE HISTORIC
NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION MEETING
Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 10:00 AM
Minutes

Call to Order

Vice Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Louis Johnson; Andre' White; Alex Brown; and Alan Perry

Board Members Absent: Terry Brubaker and Shirley "Peaches" Peterson

Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Brown moved to adopt. Mr. Perry seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of the Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2025

Mr. Brown moved to adopt. Mr. White seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Unfinished Business

2024-19 Wayfinding Solution Development Update - Thomas Boxley, Executive Director for the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation

Thomas Boxley addressed the Board regarding the item with the following information.

Mr. Boxley provided an overview of the work done to date on the wayfinding project. The project is at ninety (90) percent completion at this point. This includes site specific infrastructure development for the sites that include Fish Camp, Robinson Junior High School, Old School House Park, Fisherman's Co-op and pending further research the Barnwell Tabby Ruins. This also includes a landing page/website that will serve as the location that will house the digital artifacts and allow for us to expand in the future.

Kujanga Jackson, Solaos, provided the Board of Directors with an update of where the wayfinding project is currently. They are at the stage of development where they will be building narration, pictures, insights and historical context for the application. The project includes the development of an interactive mobile application designed to guide users through significant Gullah sites on Hilton Head Island. The app, compatible with both iOS and Android platforms, is built with extensibility in mind, allowing for future additions without the need for redevelopment. It features augmented reality experiences at key sites, such as the Fisherman's Co-Op, where murals and artifacts come to life through users' devices. The app also includes a travel guide, business directory, and geospatial audio narratives to

enrich user experience. A significant aspect of the project is the involvement of Gullah youth, providing them with opportunities to contribute to cultural preservation efforts. The app will also feature businesses all over the country that link back to the Gullah Culture that will also be featured on the website. Featured sites include: Old School House Park, Robinson Junior High School, Fisherman's Co-Op, Driessen Beach Park; the Barnwell Tabby Ruins, Fish Camp, and Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park.

Members of the Board had questions, comments, and discussion regarding: the process of testing the app; clarification of the sites that will be featured; this is a great start; will there be a place to introduce Gullah families; potential launch date; how information can be tied back the Gullah Culture of Hilton Head; upkeep of the app; favorable thoughts of the app the work done this far on it; and when the app is launched how will the information get out so it can be downloaded.

Vice Chair Johnson asked for Public Comment.

Thomas Barnwell made comments regarding his thoughts of an app of this kind being late but it is better that it is being done. He also expressed the importance of the industries the Island has to offer.

David White addressed the Board that it was great to listen to the work that is being done and this app will allow younger people in the community to learn & stay engaged to our community. He also suggested that those that went to Robinson Highschool be interviewed and added to the app.

New Business

Discussion and Review of the Fiscal Year 2026 Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation Proposed Budget

Thomas Boxley addressed the Board regarding the item with the following information.

The proposed fiscal year 2026 budget highlights include funding in support of small business development, real estate/neighborhood stabilization and development, and Phase II of the Cultural Heritage Site Wayfinding. The total proposed budget is \$3,479,922 which is 2% higher than last year.

Mr. Brown made a motion to forward to Town Council for consideration the Fiscal Year 2026 Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation Proposed Budget. Mr. Perry seconded.

Vice Chair Johnson asked for public comment.

There was no public comment at this time.

Members of the Board had questions, comments, and discussion regarding: the need to have a plan that focuses on the revenues; utilizing the Town's Grant Administrator to find other potential financial opportunities; the value of having the Town contributions such as office space, executive support, and marketing experience; and clarifications of the two new proposed positions.

Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment - Non Agenda Items

There was no public comment at this time.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

Approved: May 21, 2025

The recording of this Meeting can be found on the Town's website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov