



Town of Hilton Head Island

Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 10:00 AM
1 Town Center Court, Hilton Head Island, SC
Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers

The meeting can be viewed on the [Town's YouTube Channel](#), the [Beaufort County Channel](#), and Spectrum Channel 1304.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Adoption of the Agenda**
3. **Approval of the Minutes**
 - a. Regular Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2025
4. **Presentation and Recognitions**
 - a. Report of the Executive Director
5. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. 2024-19 Wayfinding Solution Development Update - Thomas Boxley, Executive Director for the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation
6. **Public Comment - Non Agenda Items**
7. **Adjournment**

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Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) Civility Pledge:
“I pledge to build a stronger and more prosperous community by advocating for civil engagement, respecting others and their viewpoints, and finding solutions for the betterment of my city or town.”



Town of Hilton Head Island
GULLAH GEECHEE HISTORIC
NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION MEETING
Wednesday, August 20, 2025, 10:00 AM
Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Peterson called the meeting order at 10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present: Shirley Peterson; David Ames; Alex Brown; Sarah Eisner; and Andre White

Board Members Absent: Louis Johnson and Alan Perry

Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Ames made a motion to adopt. Mr. Brown seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of the Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes of July 16, 2025

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve. Mr. White seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Mr. Ames abstained).

Unfinished Business

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

Thomas Boxley provided the Board with a brief update of the wayfinding solution application and companion website. Mr. Boxley stated that the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation (GGHNCDC) will host a launching party on October 2nd. Over the next few weeks, the contractor and GGHNCDC Team will review the final information and site features.

Board members had questions, comments and discussion regarding: comments regarding the ease and functionality of use of the application; suggestions of engaging the public of the site and application through the use of historical images for future GGHNCDC use; the implementation process of physical signs; a suggestion of the GGHNCDC having a social media presence on Instagram and Facebook; what marketing and advertising strategies are planned; and the roll out plan for the launching party.

New Business

Nomination & Election of New Officers for July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026 - Thomas Boxley, Executive Director for the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation

Chair Peterson opened the floor for nominations for the positions of Chair, Vice- Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Mr. Brown made a motion to nominate Louis Johnson as Chair. Mr. Ames seconded.

Mr. Brown made a motion to nominate Shirley Peterson as Vice Chair. Mr. White seconded.

Ms. Peterson made a motion to nominate Andre White as Secretary. Mr. Ames seconded.

Ms. Peterson made a motion to nominate Sarah Eisner as Treasurer. Mr. White seconded.

Chair Peterson asked for public comment. There was no public comment at this time.

Motion carried 5-0. At this point Ms. Peterson assumed the role of Vice-Chair.

Public Comment - Non Agenda Items

There was no public comment at this time.

Executive Session

At 10:17 a.m., Mr. Ames made a motion to enter into executive session. Mr. Brown seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

At 10:48 a.m., Mr. Brown made a motion to end executive session and return to the regular meeting. Mr. Ames seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion of Negotiations Incident to Proposed Contractual Arrangements and Discussion for the Proposed Sale or Purchase of Property [Pursuant to South Carolina Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-70 (a)(2)] related to:

1. Stoney Area

Action from Executive Session

There was no action as a result of executive session.

Adjournment

At 10:49 a.m., Mr. Ames made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Brown seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

The full recording and a transcript of this meeting can be found on the Town's website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov



TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND

Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation

TO: Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation
FROM: Thomas Boxley, Executive Director
CC: Marc Orlando, Town Manager
DATE: September 17, 2025
SUBJECT: Report of the Executive Director

RECOMMENDATION:

No action necessary. This item is presented as a status update.

BACKGROUND:

As part of its ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability, the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation (CDC) provides regular updates regarding staff activities and initiatives. These reports are intended to keep the Board informed of progress on key programs, collaborative efforts with community partners, and operational matters that support the organization's mission. Monthly updates also provide a mechanism for documenting accomplishments, identifying emerging needs, and ensuring alignment between staff activities and the strategic priorities established by the Board.

SUMMARY:

Since the August meeting the CDC staff has engaged in the following activities:

- **Community Needs Group** – This community-based response group was organized to address immediate needs that arise as a result of disasters. Meetings are held biweekly with representatives from community-based organizations, including Emergency Management (Tom Dunn), Deep Well, CF Low Country, Second Helpings, and the faith-based community. The biweekly schedule reflects both the immediacy of hurricane season and the need to mobilize quickly in the event of a storm.
- **Land Management Ordinance Focus Group** – This group was formed to develop recommendations regarding the Town's Land Management Ordinance (LMO) updates. The purpose is to ensure that the perspective and needs of the Historic

Neighborhoods are represented. The group meets monthly and provides feedback to inform the LMO update process.

- **Home Safety and Repair Program** – This initiative, funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan Act and administered primarily by the Planning Department and Historic Neighborhoods Principal Planner, Mrs. Stewart, has concluded. All program funds have been encumbered and expended.
- **Experience Gullah** – Staff continue to advance the “Experience Gullah” project, including the website and companion application. The official launch is scheduled for **Thursday, October 2, 2025**.
- **Accounting Services** – As the CDC enters its second full year of operations, staff are engaging outside accounting services. A qualified firm will be retained to provide tax filing and audit services.
- **Money Talks Financial Education Series** – The August session focused on *Navigating Access to Capital in a Changing Environment*. The September session will focus on *The Legal Aspects of Business Ownership* and will feature speakers from the University of South Carolina Joseph P. Rice School of Law. This partnership will continue to strengthen support for local entrepreneurs as they establish and grow their businesses.

End of Memo



TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND

Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation

TO: Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation
FROM: Thomas Boxley, Executive Director
CC: Marc Orlando, Town Manager
DATE: September 17, 2025
SUBJECT: 2024-19 Wayfinding Solution Development Update

RECOMMENDATION:

No action necessary. This item is presented for informational purposes only.

BACKGROUND:

In October 2024, the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation (CDC) engaged Solaos to develop a comprehensive Wayfinding Application. The platform includes mobile applications for both iOS and Android operating systems, as well as a companion website. The initiative is intended to honor and preserve Gullah Geechee history while employing technology to enhance the cultural and educational experience of residents and visitors.

SUMMARY:

The development of the Wayfinding Application has been completed. Solaos will provide a detailed presentation on the application, including an overview of its functionality, the features of the companion website, and the interactive elements associated with each stop. The CDC will formally introduce the Wayfinding Application at a community launch event scheduled for **Thursday, October 2, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** at the **Fishing Co-op/Rowing and Sailing Center Park, located on Squire Pope Road.** Members of the community are invited to attend.