



Town of Hilton Head Island
GULLAH GEECHEE HISTORIC
NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, December 6, 2023 – 9:00 AM
Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

Committee Members Present: Chair Shirley “Peaches” Peterson; David Ames; Alex Brown, Terry Brubaker; Pastor Louis Johnson; Andre White (*via Microsoft Teams*)

Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Ames moved to remove the Executive Session portion of the agenda. Mr. Johnson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Unfinished Business

Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation Strategic Plan – Thomas Boxley, Executive Director for the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation

Thomas Boxley, Executive Director, addressed the Board to provide an update on the strategic plan which also included an updated timeline for completion.

Board members asked questions, commented, and provided feedback regarding information he presented from the previous meeting.

The Board then broke off into small planning groups as they did at the previous meeting to interact with one another and Mr. Boxley regarding the strategic plan. They spoke about various topics that would be considered for addition to the strategic plan. During this time Mr. Boxley also answered questions from citizens regarding various topics of interest about the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation.

New Business

Discussion Regarding Prioritization of Housing Needs in the Gullah Geechee Community – Thomas Boxley, Executive Director for the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation

Thomas Boxley, Executive Director, addressed the Board regarding prioritizing housing needs within the Gullah Geechee Community on Hilton Head. He stated that the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation (GGHNCDC) draft Strategic Plan includes initiatives for affordable and workforce housing.

The GGHNCDC plans to apply for financial support from the Town of Hilton Head Island via State Accommodations Tax Funding to aid in their efforts to develop affordable and workforce housing within the Gullah Geechee Community.

As the GGHNCDC goes through the Strategic Planning process it will serve as a guide as to how they will support future housing development before making a formal request to Town Council. The Board realizes that the process will require approval and adoption of the final draft of the housing impact analysis by Town Council and the subsequent approval of a budget amendment that will appropriate funds to support this effort.

The Board was encouraged by the conversation and looked forward to hearing more as the Strategic Plan is further drafted and ultimately finalized.

Discussion of the 278 William Hilton Parkway Project and the Potential Impacts on the Historic Stoney Community – Thomas Boxley, Executive Director for the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation

Thomas Boxley, Executive Director, spoke to the Board regarding the past, present, and future of the 278 William Hilton Parkway Gateway Corridor Project. He provided comments to the Board about his involvement with those who are directly and indirectly impacted by the project. Mr. Boxley stated that there have been multiple conversations regarding potential mitigation strategies including potential financial compensation, land swap, and infrastructure needs to assist in facilitating the implementation of the project. Mr. Boxley stressed that this is a sensitive topic for the Stoney Community and has to be handled with care. He mentioned that those that he has spoken with previously are frustrated as this has been an ongoing discussion for over six years now and there has not been any action. Mr. Boxley stated that this conversation with those directly and indirectly impacted will continue to take place as no two mitigation strategies will be the same. The Board was pleased with the work that Mr. Boxley has done so far and thanked him for his efforts in the matter.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.