



**Town of Hilton Head Island
GULLAH GEECHEE HISTORIC
NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, February 21, 2024 – 10:00 AM
Minutes**

Call to Order

Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

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

Council Members Present: Tammy Becker, Ward 4

Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Ames moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded. Motion carried 5-0 (Mr. White was not present at the time of the vote).

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Ames made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2023. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0 (Mr. White was not present at the time of the vote).

Mr. Ames made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 30, 2023. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0 (Mr. White was not present at the time of the vote).

Appearance by Citizens

There were no comments made.

Unfinished Business

Review, Consideration, and Approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2026 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, presented the Board with proposed revisions to the strategic plan discussed at the previous meeting, tailored for both the Board and the community in attendance. Mr. Boxley emphasized his commitment to ensuring that the Strategic Plan remains in line with the purpose and mission outlined in the organizing documents of the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation (GGHNCD), as well as with the Town’s Fiscal Year 2023-2025 Strategic Plan.

The Board and members of the public expressed positive feedback on the fiscal year 2024-2026 Strategic

Plan. David Ames, Board Member, noted that he had numerous discussions with Mr. Boxley regarding the plan and appreciated that his input had been incorporated. He expressed his support and comfort in approving the plan. Other Board Members echoed sentiments of support for the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation's Strategic Plan, recognizing it as a valuable tool for achieving the organization's mission and better serving the community. They highlighted the collaborative effort during the drafting phase, which set a positive tone for the final version. The comprehensive nature of the plan, which reflects extensive collaboration and consideration of the organization's strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities, was also acknowledged.

The Board commended Mr. Boxley for his dedication and vision in crafting a plan that aligns with the core values of the organization and empowers meaningful impact. With the strategic plan as a guide, Mr. Boxley expressed confidence in the organization's ability to navigate future endeavors, foster sustainable growth, and advocate for the preservation and advancement of Gullah Geechee heritage and communities.

Mr. Ames made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2026 Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation Strategic Plan as presented. Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Chair Peterson asked for public comment.

No citizens chose to speak at that time.

Mr. Ames inquired about Mr. Boxley providing an update to the Board regarding the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation's (GGHNCD) involvement in the William Hilton Parkway Gateway Corridor Project. Mr. Boxley informed the Board that he had been actively engaging with property owners along the corridor to understand their needs and concerns about the project. These discussions have been conducted privately to facilitate a comprehensive understanding of the various perspectives involved.

Mr. Boxley further mentioned that plans for a larger meeting involving the Town, County, and State were in progress. The objective of this meeting is to provide a platform for all stakeholders to voice their opinions and contribute to the decision-making process. Despite ongoing discussions spanning over six years, Boxley emphasized that the GGHNCD's efforts are part of a collaborative initiative involving multiple entities. He underscored the importance of effective dialogue among all parties involved, highlighting that the GGHNCD is not the sole driving force behind the project. This update underscores the GGHNCD's commitment to inclusive decision-making and collaborative efforts aimed at addressing the needs of the community and stakeholders affected by the William Hilton Parkway Gateway Corridor Project. Mr. Boxley stated that the proposed community meeting will take place within the next two weeks and correspondence will go out about that through the Town's Communications Department. This now is an ongoing conversation that will continue to take place with Mr. Boxley updating the Board as needed.

Chair Peterson asked for public comment on the topic.

Daniel Anthony: Mr. Anthony spoke to the Board regarding helping them get the word out about the community meeting and utilizing the Jonesville Preservation Society to do so.

Dr. Terry Grant Robinson: Mrs. Grant Robinson spoke to the Board about the value of Native Island property, financial planning, and how best to communicate with the older Native Island residents.

Chairman's Report

Chair Peterson commended both Mr. Boxley and Ms. Ervin for their ongoing dedication and efforts. She highlighted the value of their regular meetings, expressing that these sessions have provided valuable insight into the extensive work Mr. Boxley undertakes daily, even extending to weekends, regarding the William Hilton Parkway Gateway Corridor Project. Peterson emphasized that the project is not solely the responsibility of Mr. Boxley but is a collective effort involving all Board Members, the Town Council, and property owners in the Stoney Community.

This acknowledgment underscores the collaborative nature of the project and the importance of active involvement from all stakeholders. It reinforces the notion that successful outcomes are the result of collective commitment and cooperation, with each party contributing their expertise and resources towards a common goal. Chair Peterson's remarks serve to motivate continued engagement and collaboration among all involved parties, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and purpose towards the successful realization of the project's objectives.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 am.

Approved: May 15, 2024