



Town of Hilton Head Island
GULLAH GEECHEE HISTORIC
NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, September 18, 2024 – 10:00 AM
Minutes

Call to Order

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

Board Members Present: Shirley “Peaches” Peterson; David Ames; Alex Brown; Pastor Louis Johnson and Andre White

Board Members Absent: Terry Brubaker

Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Ames moved to adopt the agenda. Mr. Johnson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of the Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2024

Mr. Ames moved to approve. Mr. Johnson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Special Orders

Mrs. Peterson opened the floor to nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Mr. Brown made a motion to elect Shirley Peterson as Chair. Mr. Ames seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Mrs. Peterson made a motion to elect Pastor Louis Johnson as Vice Chair. Mr. Ames seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Mrs. Peterson made a motion to elect Andre White as secretary. Mr. Ames Seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Mrs. Peterson made a motion to elect Alex Brown as treasurer. Pastor Louis Johnson seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Unfinished Business

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

As part of the approved strategic action plan to honor the cultural history of the Gullah Geechee community and enhance tourism, Mr. Boxley informed the board that a contract for developing wayfinding solutions has been executed. The contractor selection process, specifically focused on Gullah heritage and historic sites, was completed in August, with the contract finalized around September 6. This initiative will include a digital application, enabling tourists and visitors to use technology for an enriched experience at culturally significant sites within the Historic Gullah Geechee Community.

Mr. Boxley introduced Kujanga Jackson, CEO of Solaos. Mr. Jackson provided an overview of his company and expertise, highlighting the use of cutting-edge artificial intelligence technology in creating immersive landmark experiences. He explained how sound and audio narration could be digitally integrated to recreate and enhance the storytelling of selected sites. Visitors will be able to use their smartphones to interact with these locations and access detailed historical and cultural information. Mr. Jackson also shared his previous projects, such as the Greenwood Rising XR Walking Tour, 51 Steps to Freedom Tour, and Historic Black Colleges League Pass+, which demonstrate his commitment to preserving and amplifying cultural narratives through interactive technology. He emphasized the importance of capturing stories from the past in innovative ways, showcasing his passion for this work.

During the discussion, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Boxley outlined the project timeline, potential demo dates, and platform release plans for both iOS and Android. They also touched on the number of stops, the integration of audio narration, and interviews with prominent members of the Gullah community.

The Board responded positively to the presentation, showing enthusiasm for the involvement of local students in the project. They also raised questions about the app's pricing for end-users, the possibility of adding more sites before completion, and ensuring the Gullah community's story is comprehensively and authentically told. Board members discussed the importance of collaborating with the HHI-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce to broaden the narrative that Hilton Head is more than just beaches and golf. They saw this project as an opportunity to engage visitors with lesser-known historical and cultural stories. Members also expressed excitement about including significant sites no longer physically visible, such as the Gullah Flea Market and Abe's Restaurant and Motel, preserving their legacy through digital storytelling.

The board thanked Mr. Jackson and expressed their enthusiasm for collaborating with Solaos moving forward.

Chair Peterson asked for public comment.

There was no public comment at this time.

Public Comment – Non Agenda Items

There was no request for public comment.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Approved: November 20, 2024

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