

PLANNING COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 9, 2014

The Planning Commission met in the Council Chambers of the Town of James Island, 1238-B Camp Road, James Island, SC on Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. Members present: Chairman David Bevon, who presided, Ed Lohr, Bill Lyon, Lyndy Palmer, and Ed Steers. A quorum was present to conduct business.

Also present: Kristen Crane, Senior Planner, Councilman Leonard Blank, Councilman Joshua P. Stokes, James Hackett, Charleston County Planning Support Supervisor, and Frances Simmons, Secretary to the Planning Commission and Town Clerk.

Call to Order: Chairman Bevon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Prayer and Pledge: Chairman Bevon led the prayer and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act: Chairman Bevon announced that this meeting was noticed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

Approval of September 11, 2014 Minutes: Chairman Bevon moved to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2014 meeting; Commissioner Palmer seconded. Commissioner Lohr addressed page 3, paragraph 2, that stated adopting the list (pest trees) would eliminate trees that should not be planted. A brief discussion ensued with Mrs. Crane. Chairman Bevon suggested replacing discourage for the word eliminate.

The sentence will read: Adopting the list would discourage trees that should not be planted; and property owners would not be penalized for taking down these pest trees. The motion passed with the correction.

Public Comments: None

Staff Comments: None

Discussion and Presentation of Comprehensive Plan, Cultural Resources Element: Mr. Hackett provided an overview of the Cultural Resources Element and answered questions from the Planning Commission. Mr. Hackett noted that typographical and grammatical errors would be corrected before the final document is presented.

Gullah-Geechee Heritage: Mr. Hackett has received information from staff that the Town is partnering with the Saint James Foundation to assist them in building a Gullah Cultural Center on Grimball Road. A groundbreaking is scheduled in late December, 2014. Mr. Hackett will add information about the Gullah Cultural Center to the Cultural Resources Element.

There was some discussion whether to include James Island community-wide festivals in the Cultural Resources Element. Some of those events are: Reggae, Greek, and other Festivals held at the James Island County Park. Chairman Bevon commented that the newly formed James Island Exchange Club would like to put on a Children's Day Festival at McLeod after it opens. This would be done in conjunction with events on Memorial Day.

Commissioner Palmer talked about having kiosks/monument at historic sites on James Island so that people will know why the area is historic. This would make good field trips for school children. A driving history tour was also mentioned.

Mr. Hackett asked the status of the Seashore Farmers Lodge. Councilman Blank noted that \$50,000 had been given to the Lodge in a previous Town. Mr. Hackett thought that Ernest Parks and Richard Davis would be good sources to obtain information from to include in the Cultural Resources Element.

Cultural Resources Element Goal:

- Eliminate CR2 – this is a duplicate
- Add: Encourage and support efforts of non-profits to enhance island culture
- Add: Driving History Tour of James Island (this is actually more of an implementation item than goal but the action can be folded into implementation of CR 4.)

Mr. Hackett asked the Planning Commission to forward other ideas and recommendations to him.

The Natural Resources Element will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Chair's Comments: Chairman Bevon thanked Mr. Hackett for the presentation.

Commissioners' Comments: None

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2014.

Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Frances Simmons  
Secretary to the Planning Commission and Town Clerk