



Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Public Facilities Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 7, 2023

1. **Call to Order & Freedom of Information Act Requirements:** The Public Facilities Committee of Council met at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied. Present were Council Committee members Greg Hammond (Chair), Justin Novak, and Gary Visser. Staff members present were Jason Blanton, Charles Drayton, Assistant Fire Chief Amanda Hawver, Joe Henderson, Scotty Sanders, Fire Chief Anthony Stith, Sam Stith, Bridget Welch, and Max Wurthmann. There were two (2) members of the public present and no members of the media.

Chair Hammond called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., and stated the press and public were duly notified pursuant to State Law.

Motion was made by Justin Novak, seconded by Gary Visser, to suspend the rules and add agenda item five, a discussion of boat trailers and boats on public property, passed unanimously.

Mr. Novak stated no decisions will be made about this added agenda item, it will only be added for discussion.

Renewed motion was made by Justin Novak, renewed seconded by Gary Visser, to that expanded discussion, passed unanimously.

2. **Discussion of Boardwalk Repairs and Replacement**

Chair Hammond reviewed the boardwalks that were repaired or replaced this year- Stations 18, 19, 27, and Sullivan's Island Elementary boardwalk. He stated those were in the most need for this year and for next year he suggested Station 26 ½ for consideration. He stated the path from the road (Bayonne St) to the wooden boardwalk has become soggy and is often flooded after it rains. The boardwalk is on the older side and there is a lot of standing water between the end of the boardwalk and the beach. He suggested an improvement plan similar to Station 27.

Mr. Henderson stated they have submitted for a \$30,000 Greenbelt grant that would construct a new boardwalk from the edge of Bayonne to the existing boardwalk at Station 26 ½ and thinks it will likely be awarded. He also said the grant is only for new construction and repairing the existing boardwalk would need to be a separate consideration.

Fire Chief Anthony Stith stated all the boardwalks are in need of some repair, but Station 22 (and others in the business district) is used most frequently and in most need of repairs. He feels the newly replaced boardwalks were done very well and the Town should continue with the same type of material for future replacements. The new ones will likely last 25 years instead of 8-10 years. The Board agreed and also suggested Station 21 for repairs.

Mr. Henderson said the Greenbelt project told us we can move forward with the projects and do not need to wait until any certain time of year to begin.

Motion was made by Mr. Visser, seconded by Mr. Novak, to recommend to Council to do appropriate work on Station 26 ½, passed unanimously.

Mr. Visser requested that the contractor put up signs directing visitors to the nearest path while it is closed for repairs.

Chair Hammond reviewed the priority list for replacing, which includes Stations 26 ½, 23, 21, and 17 (as a lower priority). Mr. Novak supported extending the boardwalk to the road (Atlantic Avenue) at Station 23 due to the muddy path. Mr. Henderson stated that property owners near the Station 23 path had not wanted a wooden boardwalk built but thinks those opposed have since moved away and is something to consider. Chair Hammond noted this but stated it is Town property and is being used for the public. Mr. Novak suggested alerting homeowners in the vicinity when meetings will be taking place to discuss these plans. Mr. Henderson stated any property owners within 300 feet of the Greenbelt project are notified with a letter.

Chair Hammond discussed the Station 24 boardwalk, which is mainly in good shape but there is some bowing due to standing water and should be elevated. Chief Stith agreed and said it is on the priority list. Next was Station 22 and 22 ½, which both have older boards that need replacement. Station 22 ½ seems to be in worse shape of the two and Chief Stith stated there is a 100 to 150-foot section that needs to be elevated. Chair Hammond stated Station 26 needs some boards replaced but can wait until the next cycle for repairs. He also suggested discussing possibly clearing the path at Station 17 or possibly building a new one but would not consider it a priority. Station 18 ½ is the last of the old boardwalks and should eventually be replaced but is also not a top priority.

Mr. Henderson reviewed the projects for the past year, which were Stations 18, 19, 27, and the Sullivan’s Island Elementary School boardwalk, as well as the grants the Town received and what the Town paid out of pocket. There was further discussion about the priorities of repairs as well as options for ADA accessible paths. Mr. Henderson reviewed the ADA requirements for paths and the ADA compliant paths the Town currently has. He also mentioned that DHEC-OCRM limits how far into the active beach the boardwalk is allowed to go, which can sometimes prohibit paths from being ADA compliant. Chair Hammond stated the Committee would review recommendations from Mr. Henderson and Chief Stith before deciding what to present to Council at the next meeting.

3. Discussion of Additional Historical Signage

- a. Officer’s Row
- b. Battery Thompson
- c. Battery Gadsden
- d. Battery Logan
- e. The Bandstand

Mr. Novak reviewed the signage project that has been ongoing since last year and mentioned the historic areas for which signs have recently been installed. He stated they would like to do a second round of signs and they are approximately \$3,500 apiece. Mike Walsh from the Battery Gadsden Cultural Center suggested using the same artist for graphics and the same company for installation. He mentioned the suggested signs would be installed on Town property and only has a question about where the sign for Officer’s Row would be placed. Chief Stith stated he has seen a lot of interest in the signs and suggested signs for Officer’s Row be placed at each end of the street. Other areas were also suggested, and Mr. Novak stated the signs for Officer’s Row would need further discussion since they would be closer to homes. Mr. Visser suggested maybe incorporating a QR code so interested parties can learn more. Mr. Walsh agreed and also suggested creating tours that visitors could go on.

Motion was made by Greg Hammond, seconded by Justin Novak, to recommend to Town Council to move forward with additional historical signage for Battery Thompson, Battery Gadsden, Battery Logan, and the Bandstand, and also open up for public comment for additional historical signage at Officer’s Row, passed unanimously.

4. Discussion of Island Maintenance

Chief Stith provided a list of current maintenance projects. Chair Hammond also suggested the Council reach out to Town Administrator Andy Benke or Chief Stith with further suggestions.

5. **Discussion of All Trailers/Campers on Town owned Property**

There was a complaint at Workshop about using Town property to allow residents to store boats and other items on vacant Town owned lots. Mr. Visser suggested first documenting how many items are currently being stored on the property. He also stated this kind of storage should not be allowed on Town lots. Mr. Novak clarified this is a separate issue from these types of items being left in the DOT right-of-way. Mr. Henderson stated there were forty-three (43) boats, trailers, and/or utility trailers parked on Town property or in the right-of-way, with seventeen (17) of those being on Town property and the remaining twenty-six (26) were either in the right-of-way or partially in both the right-of-way and Town property. He stated that after speaking with Police Chief Chris Griffin and Mr. Benke they determined that forcing these items off Town property often creates more spaces on public rights-of-way being occupied. Chair Hammond stated if they are going to allow storage the Town needs to identify a specific storage area, get public input, and create a policy to enforce. This issue will be discussed again later.

6. **Adjourn**

Motion was made by Justin Novak, seconded by Gary Visser, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch