



Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Public Facilities Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 30, 2024

1. **Call to Order & Freedom of Information Act Requirements:** The Public Facilities Committee of Council met at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 30, 2024 at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been satisfied. Present were Council Committee members Carl Hubbard (Chair), Ned Higgins, and Gary Visser. Staff members present were Town Administrator Andy Benke, Charles Drayton, Amanda Hawver, Joe Henderson, Fire Chief Anthony Stith, Bridget Welch, and Max Wurthmann. There were two (2) members of the public present and no (0) members of the media.

Chair Hubbard called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., and stated the press and public were duly notified pursuant to State Law.

2. **Approval of the April 9, 2024, Public Facilities Committee Minutes**

Motion was made by Mr. Visser, seconded by Mr. Higgins, to approve the April 9, 2024 Public Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously.

3. **Discussion and Update of Boardwalk Repairs and Replacement Project**

Stations 26 ½ and 22 ½ boardwalks have been completed and Station 21 should be finished by June 21. He reviewed the options for what boardwalks should be repaired next, focusing on Stations 18 and 24. Staff would like to pursue the next Greenbelt funding and would like guidance from the Committee to move forward. Station 23 is also an option for repairs.

Staff would like to have a ramp built at Station 18 since there are ADA parking spaces there. They were not able to rebuild the ramp due to erosion issues. There was further discussion about the improvement options as well as addressing ADA parking and ADA accessible paths.

Motion was made by Mr. Visser, seconded by Mr. Higgins, to establish priority to applying for a Greenbelt ramp at Station 24 and prioritize improvements at Station 18 and add signage about the lack of accessibility at Station 18, passed unanimously.

4. Discussion of Additional Historical Signs to include discussion on placement of marker on Sr. Officers Row

Staff has received DOT encroachment permits to install signs at Officer's Row for two signs, one at Station 17 and I'On Avenue and the other at Station 18 and I'On Avenue. Locates for utility, water, and fiber optic lines will be done in the next week. They also have proof of the signs. Mike Walsh of the Battery Gadsden Cultural Center reviewed the signage and also requested possibly adding a QR code.

Motion was made by Chair Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Higgins, to have the signs sorted, built, and installed, passed unanimously.

5. Discussion of Friends of Battery Logan clean-up

Tim Harrell of the Friends of Battery Logan presented a brief history of the Battery, its current state, and the group's requests and goals for maintaining and enhancing Battery Logan. The long-term goal is to preserve the monument and make it safe and accessible to the public. The group has a four-phase plan, which would begin with removing and trimming back vegetation. They are hoping for the Town's assistance with cutting and the group will manage most structural improvements. He then took questions from the Committee. Mr. Benke stated there are possibly some options to have the Town assist with funding. Mr. Henderson stated there would need to be at least three bids for the Town to be involved. There was discussion about the Town's involvement of the first phase and also potentially allowing the 501c3 handle the trimming.

Motion was made by Chair Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Higgins, to forward to Council a request to consider up to \$30,000 for clean-up of Battery Logan, passed unanimously.

6. Review Feasibility of burying power lines either throughout Island or in certain spaces where trees are subject to severe pruning by Dominion. What is the process?

There have not been updates since staff was given a quote of \$180,000-\$200,000 from Dominion Energy for an engineering study. This will go to the Finance Committee for discussion.

7. Update of Old Town Hall building with appointment of citizen subcommittee to study options and offer recommendations

Mr. Visser has suggested gathering a group of citizens to come up with some options for how to proceed with the updating of the Old Town Hall. This could possibly include selling the

property, updating the building, etc. Staff members Max Wurthmann and Charles Drayton will also be involved to give guidance about the building and what is structurally possibly.

8. Discussion of TA Grand Fund for Non-Traditional Transportation Improvements

Mr. Drayton reviewed the CHATS, transportation alternatives grant program, that funds non-standard transportation projects, such as bike paths and accessibility paths. The grants are between \$500-\$2.5 million. He suggested three projects as candidates, an off-street path along Jasper in the extended right-of-way, adding way-finding signs across the Island to direct people to ADA accessible parking, and funding a commercial district master plan. Part one of the application is due on June 5. Mr. Drayton then took questions from the Committee.

Chair Hubbard also mentioned the suggestion of adding a guard rail to the bike path across the Ben Sawyer Bridge. Mr. Henderson stated the first step would be reaching out to SCDOT and acting after a response from them, as the Town does not have jurisdiction over the bridge or its pathway.

Motion was made by Chair Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Higgins, to allow Charles Drayton to move forward with the CHATS transportation alternatives grants program to submit the application, passed unanimously.

9. Discussion of the Landscaping and Lighting of the Restored Historic Shallow Well buildings on Jasper Blvd.

There was discussion about the options and feasibility of adding modest landscaping at the historic shallow well buildings across from 2612 and 2678 Jasper Blvd. The maintenance department currently mows around the buildings and provides basic upkeep. There is also a possibility of extending power to each building and/or adding signage to identify them as a historic Island structure.

Mike Walsh briefed the Committee on Battery Gadsden Cultural Center's future projects that involve some of the Town's public facilities. One idea is to have two seasonal outdoor productions at the Battery put on by HALO Charleston (Holy City Arts & Lyric Opera). Another possibility is to commemorate the SC 250 celebration by creating a replica of the original Palmetto fort like the first one built at Fort Moultrie. This is also one way to use the Palmetto trees that Dominion Energy will be cutting down around the Island. Mr. Visser mentioned it would take extensive engineering plans as well as an exit strategy for the materials once the celebration is complete.

Mr. Drayton gave an update on the Sand Dunes beach access project. There is a need to realign the beach boardwalk by the Sand Dunes Club, so it does not encroach on private property. Staff is currently working on a plan to restructure the path and is working with all necessary entities to ensure proper compliance regarding the private property as well as the preservation of the neighboring Maritime Forest. Fire Chief Anthony Stith mentioned the need for urgency as this ideally needs to be completed before the busy summer season starts. It will be discussed and hopefully decided on at the next Workshop.

10. Adjourn

Motion was made by Mr. Higgins, seconded by Mr. Visser, to adjourn the meeting at 11:06 a.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch