Daufuskie Island Council Meeting

November 19, 2019 - 6:00 PM Mary Field School

Call to Order: Council Co-Chair Leanne Coulter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum of members present

Roll Call:

Present: Leanne Coulter, Roger Pinkney, Steve Hill, John Schartner, Robert Levis Absent: Sally Ann Robinson, Brandy Breese

Pledge of Allegiance

Guest Speaker: Highway 278 Corridor Improvement Team

Craig Winn (SCDOT Program Manager) explained the process and current status. The process began about a year ago. (see newsletter handout and website www.scdot278corridor.com for more information). Out of 17 alternatives initially considered, they are now down to 6 reasonable alternatives. Public hearings will be held in fall of 2020 - they are looking at construction beginning possibly in 2023.

Questions from community members:

- Did the bridges need to be rebuilt? Yes they would all eventually have to replaced/repaired and the MacKay bridge needs to be replaced soon. Asked if there could be a light generated by traffic for the Pinckney turnoff. A signal evaluation was conducted: there isn't enough traffic on Pinckney Island to warrant.
- Does the single bridge cost more or less than all the alternatives? The committee is looking at cost analysis. Some of the alternatives replace all the bridges. They must look at what kind of support structures will be needed for the next 75 years any new bridges would be built with that time frame in mind.
- What will happen to traffic during construction? They will maintain two lanes throughout construction. Peak traffic is during the week.
- Does this plan involve 3 lanes? Yes.
- Are there are any more alternatives to be considered? No, these are the six. Replacing the bridge is necessary. Roger Pinckney objected to the project, feeling that widening Highway 278 to six lanes to bring more tourists to Hilton Head is not worth disrupting established communities. He further commented "you are in the business of building roads, but I am in the business of living here. Many of the people who will be displaced are families who are descendants of slaves and they deserve more respect."

Guest speakers responded that there would be relocation assistance or finding comparable housing to anyone displaced. 2045 is where we projected the amount of traffic anticipated. Also access roads are being considered to ease the entry and exit for the community.

General Announcements:

- Steve shared that Beaufort County Finance Committee recently approved the selectees for accommodations tax grants (theme being they need to be tourist related). There were 3 Daufuskie organizations awarded grants:
 - \$5000 dollars for Daufuskie Day
 - Daufuskie Historical Foundation received \$3,000
 - Haig Point Foundation Vibes and Tides event received \$3500
- You can renew your SC driver license online and obtain a REAL ID, a valid ID for air travel which meets the federal TSA standards. Cost is \$25.00. It was reported it was very easy to do.
- As a follow-up to last month's discussion about the Daufuskie Fire Department possibly merging with Bluffton, Steve reported the council will seek to have a Fire Department representative come to next month's meeting to provide information.

Public Forum #1

None

Community Happenings

Saturday Nov 30 is the Holiday Market at the Mary Field School. There are local artisans and vendors participating and this event is usually well attended. A raffle and auction will be held for the church and there will be dinner hosted by Lucy Belles.

This Sunday: 1:00 pm Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Lucy Bell's.

On Dec 15th there will be the Christmas parade on Melrose.

Dec 19th will be the Daufuskie Elementary School's Christmas Play to be held at the firehouse.

Lori Rush will be here this weekend for haircuts.

SC Arbor Day is December 6th.

Bluffton Book Festival will be held this weekend and Sallie Anne will be there with her new book and a cooking demonstration.

Committee Reports

Planning Committee:

- Transportation Task Force: Pat Allison, Dean Roberson and Steve Hill are working as a committee; they have met several times this month. Pat provided an overview: Dean got in touch with Sonny Tillerman and discovered that in 1982 Beaufort County designated Pinckney Island as the landing for Daufuskie Island. The committee put together an email to David Wilhelm, BC Facilities Administrator, that described the growth of various local communities over the last 20-30 years and that Daufuskie has remained relatively stable. The county is trying to find other alternatives with parking being a major concern. They are looking at a couple of sites on the intracoastal waterway (near Hudson's and the Boat Landing near the cross-island parkway). They all have similar challenges: limited parking and close to a residential community. The committee pointed out that Pinckney Island is a possibility. In addition, the committee noted Daufuskie Island could be a place for young professional housing and highlighted all the positives. The committee has not heard a response yet. Right now, the county is looking at the engineering aspects. It's anticipated it will take several years before this is fully addressed. There is one possibility of relief that could be sooner – it is being discussed they could put some of the day trippers on Pinckney Island there (day trippers would not have luggage and the ferry could swing by and pick them up). This issue is a priority for the county right now. Leanne reported that Richard has been looking at off site parking for day trippers and she will circle back with him to see where that is leading to. Steve reported the committee met with Palmetto Breeze and he stated their knowledge level of Daufuskie is low and it was helpful to share information with them. Palmetto Breeze is going to get the council involved with other transportation entities.
- Community Surveys: Leanne reported there are two surveys being put together one being a wish list of community objectives and the second survey will deal with the ferry situation for residents. Beverly Davis has drafted a survey and it is currently under review.

Council Projects:

Road

- Roger reported that the council sent a resolution the county regarding Prospect Road. It is being taken for action.
- The situation of the burnt house/property at the corner of Haig Point Rd and Church Road discussed last month was updated There has been one dumpster taken off the property the other dumpster is still there. This situation is between the county and the property owner. A couple of the vehicles are gone. It continues to be a hazard and an eyesore.

• 2020 Election Preps

- The council will be forming an election committee soon and will have dates when applications are due.
- There are three seats open: Sallie Ann, Robert and John.
- Please consider running.

Public Forum #2

None

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm