DI Council Meeting Tuesday May 17 2016 Location: Mary Field School

Chuck Hunter called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Present

Chuck Hunter
Dave Hutton
Janet Adams
Len Pojednic
John Schartner
Deborah Smith
Tina Fine
Steve Hill

Absent:

Charlie Small

A majority of the members being present, a quorum was present.

Updates:

a. Community Park / Restrooms

Chuck Hunter is working with the county on a new proposal for the Francis Jones Road Park. Chuck will have the opportunity to review the proposal prior to finalization to make sure the proposal was appropriate for Daufuskie's particular needs and circumstances. Chuck is also working with the county architect and engineer on bathrooms for the county dock.

In response to a question from a member of the community, Chuck said that he will encourage the county to include a providing for the contracting of cleaning and trash pick-up services for the facilities, and that each site will have a storage closet for supplies.

b. Capital Project Sales Tax

Steve Hill reported that the county is proceeding with a November ballot initiative calling for a one penny sales tax designed to generate \$120 million over 4 years for special projects. Communities and certain entities were allowed to submit proposed projects to an oversight committee, and the DI Council nominated three projects: subsidies for a ferry service, a solid waste facility and program, and acquisition of road right-of-ways. (ROA) The ferry service project was rejected, but the solid waste facility and the roads right-of-way project were approved and will go to bull county council for review. The

approved amount for each project was \$1.8 million for the waste proposal and 1.3 million for the ROA initiative.

In response to a question from a community member, the tax will be geared to income generated by visitor/vacationers.

c. Public Ferry Request for Proposal

Tina Fin reported an RFP has been issued for the county contract for public boat transportation to island; J&W and HP Ferry Company have submitted bids as part of the procurement process. The County's Purchasing Department will use a selection committee who will review the proposals and then make a recommendation to the Public Facilities Committee, with the final determination to be made by the full Council.

d. CBRA Legislation

Deborah Smith reported that she is working with the Melrose Property Owners Association on the development of a legislative strategy to support Congressman Mark Sanford's legislation to remove Daufuskie from the (CBRA) map. Review and input of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services is critical, and the process was delayed by some months due to a bureaucratic oversight by that agency. Additional outreach by the Council/MPOA group will be made to key Members of Congress, including South Carolina's U.S. Senators.

e. Doorway to Daufuskie

John Schartner and Janet Adams reported on the success of the Council's partnership with the Hilton Head/Bluffton Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Council on behalf of historic signage on Daufuskie. The project was completed with the installation of two substantial kiosks (one at Freeport Marina, one at the County Dock) providing a map of the island with historic sites identified with the assistance of the DI Historic Foundation, and including a bulletin board on the reverse side for community bulletins. A successful ribbon cutting event was held with several members of the Council present.

2. Island Security and Response

Len Pojednik addressed concerns by residents about recent crime and safety issues, including the "Crime Spree" episode with three golf carts and one boat stolen/ vandalized by off-island culprits. The county sheriff's office believes they have identified the responsible individuals. Len cautioned residents that we need to let the sheriff's office handle such situations and not to take matters into our own hands.

3. Daufuskie Island Plan

Deborah Smith and Janet Adams are heading up a committee to refocus attention on the Daufuskie Island Plan, developed by many island residents and county officials and representing thousands of hours of work over a 6-year period of time. An invitation was issued to the public for participation in this committee.

4. Daufuskie Historical Foundation

Jeff Brunning, new president for the Daufuskie Historic Foundation, gave a brief presentation about the organization. This mission of the DHF is to preserve island's important culture and historical artifacts. Jeff said that the Foundation was originally created to help preserve the Mt Carmel Baptist Church. In 2001 the church was in a bad state of disrepair and was about to be converted to a real estate office. The Foundation restored the church and converted it into the Billie Burn Museum, and subsequently adding the next door Jane Hamilton School which now includes a Gullah learning center, and provides space for the community library and the polling location for elections. Other museum activities have included restoration of the carriage house, the Oyster house, the "White School" building (now used for as the island archives location). Most recently the Foundation spearheaded the restoration of the carriage used by Sarah Grant, beloved midwife on Daufuskie for many decades.

Jeff urged the community's support for the organization and said they have an initiative to attract new members. There are currently 200 members, but many of them are lifetime members. People interested in supporting the foundation are referred to the group's website: www.daufuskiemuseum.org

Open Forum

Re the Capitol Sales Tax Initiative, a community member asked how the Daufuskie projects were chosen, especially since ferry services have always been a priority. Steve Hill explained that support for ferry services were originally among the recommended projects, but that the County committee reviewing the proposals only approved waste management services and the Roads Right-of-Way initiative.

There were numerous comments and questions on the ferry service contract, and concern about the limited services currently provided. Len Pojednic explained that the past RFPs and funding levels precluded a broader range of services, and that the current contractor is meeting the letter of the contract. He said more needs to be done in the future to enhance the scope of the contract and increase funding levels. Steve Hill referred to the DI Ferry Services Handbook and believes this handbook needs to be updated, especially if the holder of the contract changes.

There were questions relating to information indicating that J&W Corporation may want to withdraw from the current bidding situation and also a request for more information about the HP Ferry Company. Several community members asked about the outcome of a Council survey sent to both bidding companies requesting information about the scope of services each would provide.

Steve - The DI Ferry Services handbook - on county website; "Protocol handbook" Believes some issues need to be expanded; Palmetto breeze proceedings; If holder of the contract changes, this handbook needs to be updated/changed.

Geoff IF application is to be withdrawn, what is the contract proposal and who is the HP Ferry company; HP ferry company which has leased from Jim Woodward a boat; questions about exactly who the HP Ferry company is. There was a question about whether or not members of the community could attend the Public Facilities Committee meeting where the contract bids would be discussed. The response was that the committee hearing room was small, but that anyone could attend.

There was general discussion about the cost of operating a ferry boat, with John Schartner, Dave Hutton, and Steve Hill referencing expenses such as certifications, inspections, insurance, and safety requirements. John Schartner pointed out that operating margins for the operation of boats are very thin. Dave Hutton pointed out that the amount of money that the county pays for the Daufuskie services is not intended to fund the full cost of operating a comprehensive boat service, but rather was a subsidy to help meet expenses. Chuck Hunter said that the Council is attempting to education the county about the importance of funding a ferry, and that progress has been made.

A question was asked about the status of the Webb tract development. The council agreed that an update was needed and that a presentation would be requested by the developer.

Janet Adams reported that Turtle Season is May 1st - October 31st, with ocean-front properties asked to observe a "Lights-Off" policy during those times. So far, only one verified nest had been identified on the Bloody Point beach by the Turtle Team

Karen Opderbeck, Daufuskie's elections clerk, reminded the community that June 14 is the date for statewide primary races and local races in some areas, and that if there was a need for run-off elections the date would be June 28th.

Chuck Hunter thanked the community for a strong turn-out and for the continued support of the Council's activities.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.