



COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE
9:00am, Thursday, April 25, 2024
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

MINUTES

Present: David McNair (facilitator), Susan Smith, Linda Tucker, Alex Stone, Joe Ready, Hugh Swingle, Patsy Hindman, Sara Vega, Rod Turnage, Maryanne Chalmers, Bill Skeen, Bev Miller, Paige Grimbball, Ben Marks

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Director Kerr, PR Officer Yudchenko

Mr. David McNair explained the back and forth process of ideas and information between the Committee and staff. He reviewed the work of the last meeting and presented a sheet detailing Committee recommendations regarding traffic, parking, and advocacy efforts of the same. Ms. Smith noted a change for the minutes of the April 11 meeting, stating that the suggestions for a parking garage and a long-range parking plan should be listed as two separate ideas.

Mr. McNair said staff will match their thoughts against the Committee's ideas and refinements and then bring back those ideas that are possibly feasible. He added that a Committee this size will likely not reach 100% consensus on any one idea; a super majority is more attainable.

Mr. McNair then reviewed the most pressing environmental concerns revealed by the Community Enrichment survey: stormwater management, water quality, septic systems, reducing litter, sea level rise, beach preservation, and protection of island wildlife and habitats.

Director Kerr then gave a presentation on the City's efforts in relation to some of those concerns including outfall improvements, the development of a drainage master plan, expansion of in-house stormwater management capabilities, updating of stormwater regulations, the development of a sea level rise adaptation plan, ongoing beach nourishment, the elevation of Waterway Boulevard, and efforts advocated by the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Discussion ensued about the City's website. Committee members said it does not easily provide information about these efforts. Administrator Fragoso shared that a complete redesign of the City's website will be completed in 6-8 months.

Mr. Stone asked how the success of these projects is measured. Mr. McNair said an easy-to-read dashboard could be part of the new website. He said, "When we find a way to capture the big metrics, the shifts that have been made, having a dashboard that gets communicated, the easy-to-read dashboard on the web that can show environmental issues, icon, icon, and you see needles move, that tells the story. It has got to be so simple. It is not easy to put together, but as part of

that beauty of communication, you have to have a metric and you have to show how the needle has moved as a result of these actions.”

Director Kerr added that the City has very clear directives that drive the design and funding of all projects. The City must show a cost/benefit analysis for all projects. Staff works with residents to fix problems, and one measure of success is when the staff no longer receives complaints about a particular concern. He agreed there needs to be more public awareness of the success of projects, such as drainage and stormwater management.

Director Kerr also shared that the City has a good working relationship with SCDOT. They are currently happy to let the City make improvements because they know the City will do it correctly. He clarified the ownership of the various pieces of stormwater infrastructure.

Ms. Chalmers complimented the efforts of the stormwater management team.

Mr. McNair asked Committee members to participate in a writing activity answering the following prompts: “To address our stormwater efforts, I believe we should...” and “To address our environmental efforts, I believe we should...”

Committee members continued to ask questions to Administrator Fragoso and Director Kerr about various environmental efforts. Ms. Tucker pointed out that information about what the City is doing is available, but citizens have to seek that connection with the City.

There was a brief discussion about the use of QR codes in providing information to visitors and new residents.

Mr. McNair asked the Committee to provide feedback on the sheet detailing the recommendations for parking, traffic, and related advocacy efforts. He reminded the Committee of the dates of Community Forums: May 29 at 10am and June 5 at 5:30pm.

The meeting ended at 10:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk