



## COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE

9:00am, Thursday, May 9, 2024

1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

### MINUTES

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

**Absent:** Alex Stone, Rod Turnage

**Staff Present:** Administrator Fragoso, Director Kerr, PR Officer Yudchenko, Captain Thompson, Lt. Forsyth

Administrator Fragoso introduced Captain Thompson and Lt. Forsyth who came to the Committee to speak about the efforts of the Police Department. Mr. McNair stated that an overwhelming number of open comments received on the community survey spoke positively about the efforts of the Police Department.

Mr. McNair reminded Committee members that their goal is to direct City Council's attention to the needs of the community via general ideas of places where they can look for solutions. He discouraged providing very specific ideas since this community enrichment/livability plan will have a "lifespan of 5-7 years." He would like feedback from the Committee at the "kickback points" to make sure their concerns have been properly reflected.

Ms. Chalmers said the majority of residents don't want more parking on the island. She believes it is premature to say parking should be increased if traffic cannot be controlled. Ms. Smith believes traffic and parking are intertwined; if parking is easier to secure, then some of the traffic control issues could be solved. Ms. Hindman expressed concern about the wording "limiting visitors in peak seasons" on a published document, believing it could cause problems with the public, specifically those groups who are advocating for more parking on the island.

Mr. McNair clarified that the larger community forums will be a place to discuss larger issues and not the specific ideas generated by the Committee.

Mr. McNair distributed a sheet of recommendations about stormwater and flooding generated at the April 25 meeting and asked Committee members to provide feedback at the next meeting.

Captain Thompson gave a presentation on the increased Public Safety efforts of the Police Department that stemmed from last year's beach shooting incident. He spoke about the department's relationships with neighboring agencies and how that benefits the residents and visitors of the Isle of Palms. Additional efforts include partnering with school districts, a K-9

addition to the staff, the purchase of a transport van, placement of beach and street cameras, and purchase of tactical vests for Fire Department personnel.

Lt. Forsyth said he would like to see more citizen engagement in the community/neighborhood meetings hosted by the Police Department as well as more participation in their annual National Night Out event.

Administrator Fragoso spoke to the importance of reporting livability issues to the Police Department. These reports help the police and the City accurately engage and respond to their concerns if they are aware of them. Captain Thompson also encouraged citizens to report their concerns in real time.

Discussion ensued as to the best way to report concerns and incidents that are non-emergency to the police. Ms. Chalmers suggested the use of a text-based number that records when an incident was reported to the police.

Administrator Fragoso shared information on the paramedic program, the BSO program in light of the addition of PCI for parking management, bicycle and pedestrian safety efforts, and the very-long term project that is revisioning Palm Boulevard.

Mr. McNair asked Committee to respond in writing to the following prompt: “To address our safety efforts on the island, I believe we should...”

Mr. McNair said the next meeting on May 23 will focus on quality of life and foundation issues.

Committee members briefly offered additional feedback on bicycle and pedestrian use of the Isle of Palms Connector.

The meeting ended at 10:40am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk