

**TOWN OF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND
RECREATION COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, August 14, 2015
9:00 AM**

A meeting of the Recreation Committee of Council was held at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, August 14, 2015 at Town Hall, 2050-B Middle Street, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied. Present were Council Committee members Sarah Church (Chair), Rita Langley and Susan Middaugh. Councilmember Howard was in the audience, along with residents Michael Noll, Rick Reed, and Mike Walsh. Staff members present were Andy Benke, Joe Henderson, and Ellen Miller.

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Church called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m., and stated the press and public were duly notified pursuant to State law.

2. **Battery Gadsden** – Resident Rick Reed gave a brief presentation of a proposed plan for volunteers to enhance the grounds at Battery Gadsden. The volunteers, many committed to the rejuvenation of the Battery Gadsden Cultural Center, would like to be recognized by the Town as the Community Grounds Volunteer Group governance under the Battery Gadsden Cultural Center. The enhancements to the Battery Gadsden grounds would include the elimination of harmful invasive species, trimming bushes, limbs, weeds; and continuing routine maintenance of grounds to make accessible for Town staff to mow the grass. Phase I would include a wildflower and butterfly garden; pumpkin patch/flower garden, and a vegetable garden. He stated the volunteer group would need adequate water support and possible electricity to the pump system in the existing well house.

Issues discussed:

- **Water** - currently Town water is being used through an unmetered pipe which also serves the Poe library. A separate line could eventually be established with a meter; billing or non-billing to be determined. The volunteers will determine if the well is in working condition, and request electricity from staff/Council if is working. There is a cistern which would hold about 500 gallons of water after a one-inch rainfall.
- **Liability** – The Battery Gadsden Cultural Center has liability insurance as required by the lease; however, the grounds of Battery Gadsden Cultural Center are not included in the lease. Sarah Church reported she spoke with the Charleston County Conservancy and they have a liability policy for the volunteers; however, they are not allowed to use power tools. She believes it is the same for the Park Foundation's policy. Mr. Reed will speak with the Charleston Conservancy and the Park Foundation regarding their liability policies. Mr. Benke will consult the Town insurance provider regarding volunteer liability.

Committee:

- The Town is not entering into an agreement with the Grounds Committee; however, Town Council could recognize the volunteer efforts with a generic resolution.
- Requests for Grounds Committee projects – first ask staff; staff will determine if issue needs to go to Council.
- Ground Committee should ensure that all tenants of that area are in agreement with requests.
- There should be a coordinator for this effort, perhaps Mr. Reed.
- Committee will report to Council at the September Workshop for their consideration.

3. Farmers' Market - Resident Michael Noll had previously presented information to Council to consider establishing a Farmers' Market on Sullivan's Island. The Committee had reviewed this information and stated the main questions are cost, staff hours, location, time, frequency, and how to determine participation. Sarah Church stated that she would like to support this issue; however, because residents do not want to bring more traffic to the island, it could be a smaller-scale event perhaps geared toward the residents. Mr. Noll answered that when he did the National Garden Week event here this year, the data he collected showed that ninety percent of his customers were already on the Island – vacationing on the island; walking their dog, riding their golf cart; or going to the restaurants to eat. He did not think a farmers' market would actually bring much additional traffic to the island.

His points were:

- Select a day/time that will not compete with other type events.
- Scale drives the cost and location drives the scale.
- Can have permanent vendors and/or rotating vendors.
- Need ADA accessible bathroom or portable bathroom
- Electricity needs (depending on type of vendors chosen)
- Additional DHEC regulations for food vendors
- Usually the host organization charges for a 10x10' spot; and vendor applications are due in January. A screening/selection committee would handle these applications.
- A staff member or a representative for the Town would need to be present at the event, although much of the planning could be handled by volunteers.
- Could try one-time small or large event; or start with small event to determine if there is interest.
- Opportunities with change to zoning ordinance to allow events on private commercial property.

- Resident Mike Walsh suggested to consider the vendors' expectations. The vendors expect lots of patrons, and what customers would come? Who is the potential audience?

Committee:

Sarah Church stated this information will be presented to Council at the September Workshop for their consideration.

4. Motion was made by Rita Langley, seconded by Susan Middaugh, to adjourn at 10:40 a.m., carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen Miller