



COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT TASK FORCE
9:00am, Thursday, May23, 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, Alex Stone, Bev Miller, Paige Grimbball, Ben Marks

Absent: Bill Skeen, Rod Turnage

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

Mr. McNair described how today's meeting would be structured. He also shared that the community listening sessions will focus on the same four areas the task force has discussed. The ideas generated by the listening sessions will be brought back to the task force for further evaluation. Mr. McNair explained how feedback will be generated in the listening sessions. Ms. Hindman suggested that advertisements for these sessions encourage people to bring their cell phones as that will be the main means by which qualitative data is received and recorded.

Ms. Vega suggested a sign-in sheet for the listening sessions that allows attendees to identify themselves as full-time resident, part-time resident, business owner, non-resident, etc. Administrator Fragoso said staff will develop the sign-in sheet and share it with the task force prior to the first listening session.

Mr. McNair distributed the recommendations from the last meeting and asked task force members to provide feedback via email.

Administrator Fragoso then shared the myriad efforts the City has made and is making to increase, maintain, and manage the quality of life on the island, specifically in the areas of managing short-term rentals, community partnerships, public transportation, community enhancements, youth engagement, and special community events.

Ms. Miller expressed concern about the trend of short-term rental licenses. Administrator Fragoso and Director Kerr explained that the City closely follows data surrounding short-term rentals particularly through the use of Rentalscape, the City's short-term rental management software. Director Kerr said Rentalscape shows very little change in short-term rental activity as opposed to an increase. Administrator Fragoso said the City will release shortly a report that separates short-term rentals by income, which is a better indicator of actual rental activity.

Mr. McNair then ask task force members to address the brainwriting statement: "To address our overall quality of life, I believe our top priorities should be..."

Ms. Tucker expressed concern that some task force members feel as if their ideas are not being valued. Mr. McNair encouraged members to allow the process to unfold as they are currently still in the stage of collecting and assimilating their ideas. Ms. Chalmers stated that she feels as if the answers to the “test” have already been decided and that priorities have been chosen for them. Administrator Fragoso said the work of this task force is a very intentional effort to understand the needs of the community.

Ms. Miller expressed concern that the slide deck on the City’s website for each meeting is misleading the community into believing that what is on the slides are the ideas being generated by the task force.

Mr. Marks suggested the task force have an un-proctored meeting where there can be a more open flow of ideas among members. There was agreement that the next meetings should be two hours instead of 90 minutes in length. Mr. McNair said the next meetings of the task force will be more small group discussion.

Discussion ensued as to the name of the group – committee versus task force. Administrator Fragoso and Mr. McNair apologized for the confusion. The group is considered a task force and will be addressed as such moving forward.

Task force members were encouraged to invite residents to the upcoming listening sessions and promote it via their own social media.

The next meeting of the task force will be Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 5pm.

The meeting ended at 10:29am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk