



Waterfront Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – Planning Conference Room, 1st Floor

November 3, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

5:01 PM

Mr. Oliver, Chair.

Members in attendance - Ben Coppage, Scott Marshall, Joseph Oliver, David Russell, Josh Scallate, Josh Schott, Bill Suter, Mike Sutton.

David Bartholomew joined the meeting about 15 minutes after the start time.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Oliver, Chair.

III. MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair, Mr. Oliver, stated there would be an opportunity for public comment right after the committee discussion on the survey and before any final vote.

IV. MINUTES

A. October 6, 2025.

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Sutton and seconded by Mr. Suter.

Minutes approved as presented.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Final approval of public opinion survey on Waterfront Park issues.

Councilman Scallate started off by going over the changes that were suggested during the October 21, 2025, meeting.

Members of the committee spoke about additional changes they would like to see. These included but were not limited to removing the word “design” from certain questions and adding the question - What incentives or improvements can best support local commerce while the park is under construction to number 12.

A discussion took place on the timeline of the survey. It will be active/open for approximately 60 days. There will be a flyer with a QR code handed out to downtown merchants to place in their shops. A kiosk could possibly be placed in City Hall or at the Downtown Library. The release date of the survey should be around the middle of November.

Councilman Scallate will make the necessary changes as approved and will get the survey to staff to circulate.

A copy of the final survey is attached.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Trask, 610 Bladen Street
Howell Beach, Alternate Member of the Committee

VII. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

There were no additional committee comments outside of the public opinion survey discussion.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Law: For the purpose of discussions of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements, and receipt of legal advice relating to matters covered by attorney-client privilege.

Mr. Sutton made a motion to go into Executive Session and seconded by Councilman Scallate.

All were in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Sutton made a motion to come out of Executive Session and seconded by Councilman Scallate.

All were in favor, motion carried.

No actions from Executive Session.

IX. ADJOURN

7:36 PM

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Scallate and seconded by Councilman Bartholomew.

All were in favor, motion carried.

approved: December 1, 2025
Gavi Wildner

Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park Community Survey

Purpose:

The City of Beaufort and the Waterfront Advisory Committee are seeking community input on potential improvements to the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park. Your feedback will help shape the design priorities for future enhancements to this important public space.

1. Connection to Beaufort and the Waterfront Park

Which of the following best describes your connection to Beaufort and the Waterfront Park? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ **Resident within the City of Beaufort**
- ☐ **Live outside the City but visit Beaufort regularly**
- ☐ **Property owner in the downtown or impacted area**
- ☐ **Business owner in the downtown core area**
- ☐ **Visitor or tourist**
- ☐ **Other (please specify)**

2. Frequency of Use

How often do you visit or use the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park?

- ☐ **Daily**
- ☐ **Weekly**
- ☐ **Monthly**
- ☐ **A few times a year**
- ☐ **Rarely or never**

3. Age Group

Please select your age group:

- ☐ **Under 25**
- ☐ **25-44**
- ☐ **45-64**
- ☐ **65 or older**

4. Primary Reasons for Visiting

Please rank the following reasons for visiting the park from 1 (most important) to 7 (least important):

- ☐ **Dining and shopping**
- ☐ **Relaxation and waterfront views**
- ☐ **Walking or exercise**
- ☐ **Events or festivals**
- ☐ **Children's play areas**
- ☐ **Boating or marina access**
- ☐ **Other (please specify)**

5. Park Use and Satisfaction

On a scale of 1-5 (1 = Very dissatisfied, 5 = Very satisfied), how satisfied are you with the following? (Please put the number in the box)

- ☐ **Overall layout and design**
- ☐ **Seating and shaded areas**
- ☐ **Green spaces and landscaping**
- ☐ **Waterfront access and views**
- ☐ **Event space and infrastructure**
- ☐ **Accessibility (wheelchairs, strollers, etc.)**
- ☐ **Cleanliness and maintenance**
- ☐ **Lighting**
- ☐ **Bathroom facilities**

6. What do you like most about the current park?

7. What aspects of the current park could be improved?

8. Do you see any safety issues with the current park layout?

If yes, please describe:

9. Day Dock Use

How often do you moor your vessel to the Day Dock (tie off your boat, not just visit or board from it)?

- ☐ Regularly during peak season (Summer)
- ☐ Occasionally during peak season (Summer)
- ☐ Rarely or never during peak season (Summer)
- ☐ Regularly during off-peak season (Winter)
- ☐ Occasionally during off-peak season (Winter)
- ☐ Rarely or never during off-peak season (Winter)
- ☐ Never

10. Water Access

Should additional access for smaller watercraft (such as kayaks, paddleboards, or small personal boats) be a priority?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

11. Vessel Accommodation

Should the park accommodate docking or tie-up for any of the following vessel types? (Check all that you would support)

- ☐ Shrimp boats
- ☐ Tour boats
- ☐ Government vessels
- ☐ Cruise ships
- ☐ Other (please specify)

12. Downtown Business Owners / Property Owners Only

a. How does the park currently impact your business or property?

b. What incentives or improvements can best support local commerce while the park is under construction?

c. What improvements could best support local commerce post construction?

13. Renovation Priorities

Please rank the importance of the following possible improvements to the Waterfront Park (1 = Lowest priority, 5 = Highest priority):

- ☐ Enhanced waterfront access
- ☐ Additional green space or gardens
- ☐ Improved playground or family-friendly areas
- ☐ More seating and shaded areas
- ☐ Upgraded event/entertainment infrastructure (stage, lighting, etc.)
- ☐ Art installations or cultural elements
- ☐ Eco-friendly/sustainable features
- ☐ Fitness or recreational facilities
- ☐ Accessibility improvements
- ☐ Parking enhancements

14. Design and Character

How important is it to you that the current park design remain largely the same?

☐ Very important ☐ Somewhat important ☐ Neutral ☐ Not important

15. Additional Feedback

Please share any other comments or suggestions regarding the Waterfront Park renovation:
