



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

January 12, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

5:00 PM

Mr. Oliver, Chair.

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

Absent - David Bartholomew

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Oliver, Chair.

III. MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion to approve was made by Councilman Scallate and seconded by Mr. Sutton.

All were in favor, motion carried.

IV. MINUTES

A. December 1, 2025.

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

Councilman Scallate abstained from the vote as he was not in attendance.

Minutes approved as presented.

V. DISCUSSIONS

A. Status Report on Waterfront Park Public Opinion Survey.

Mr. Marshall provided an update on the progress of the survey. To date, there have been approximately 1500 responses. The survey will be open until the end of the week on January 16, 2026. One final media push is being done. The results of the survey will be sent out to the committee before the next meeting.

B. Status of plan to provide interim access to the Day Dock.

Mr. Marshall provided an update on the permitting process currently taking place. It is anticipated this will be at least a 3 month process. There will be two separate RFPs sent out

with a disclaimer they are contingent upon receiving permits for the work. One for the Day Dock and one for the Marina Day Dock (Dinghy Dock). Both will run concurrent.

Linda Roper, Downtown Operations Director, spoke about the work being proposed for the Marina Day Dock (Dinghy Dock) which was damaged by Hurricane Helene. The entire dock would be replaced. It is to be a 10 foot wide structure for boats to be able to moor on both sides. Safe Harbor will continue to manage this dock. This is a free asset to the public. An inquiry was made to see if the Day Dock permit might be expedited in any way for a July 1, 2026 completion.

C. Approval of draft report to Council on issues regarding marina premises.

Mr. Oliver spoke about the draft report to Council that was sent out to the committee. No one had anything to add to the report as they felt all the items had been addressed. Mr. Oliver wants to do a little more fine tuning and will bring it back at the next meeting. Mr. Marshall inquired about presenting this at the Council Retreat. Mr. Oliver is not sure it would be ready by then and wants to give the committee another look before submitting to Council at the February Worksession. The public should be invited to a meeting to view what is being proposed and to see the results of the survey. The marina and park issues should remain separate.

There was a discussion about the article written by Dick Stewart in The Island News which spoke about the fencing and other considerations to improve the resident, tourist experience in the park. Make the fencing look more appealing. Mr. Marshall spoke about seeking donors to help pay for these improvements through the Pride of Place Program. Councilman Scallate stated the Freedman Arts District could be contacted to see if they could help with providing a solution. The swings should be moved for everyone to enjoy in the meantime.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Howell Beach, Alternate Member of the Committee.

VII. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

There were no additional committee comments outside of the discussions.

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.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Sutton and seconded by Councilman Scallate.

All were in favor, motion carried.