



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

May 4, 2026

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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**5:00 PM**

Mr. Oliver, Chair.

Members in attendance - David Bartholomew, Joseph Oliver, David Russell, Josh Scallate, Josh Schott, Bill Suter.

Absent - Ben Coppage, Scott Marshall, Mike Sutton.

## **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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Mr. Oliver, Chair.

## **III. MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

## **IV. MINUTES**

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### **A. April 13, 2026.**

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

Councilman Bartholomew abstained from the vote as he was not present for the meeting.

Minutes approved as presented.

## **V. DISCUSSIONS**

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### **1. Review of Waterfront Park Design Concepts following Public Meeting comments and next steps.**

Bill Barna with McSweeney Engineers stated it was estimated that 150 people were in attendance. He received 49 physical comment cards and 191 in-person polling stickers. There were 25 opinions received on-line. Option 2 (Build New and Raise) and Option 4 (Build New and Raise and Enhance Amenities) received the most support. He then went over some of the other statistics. He stated the next step is to finalize Phase 2 and move into Phase 3. He should have the finalized Alternative Analysis finished by June 1, 2026. He addressed the Committee's concerns and answered their questions.

A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

Councilman Scallate made a motion for the Committee to recommend Option 2 - (Build New and Raise) to City Council. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bartholomew.

Mr. Oliver is apprehensive about moving forward with the recommendation without an estimated cost but is supportive of the motion.

All were in favor, motion carried.

2. Status of request to Council regarding grants/fundraising.

Mr. Oliver recommended the discussion be pushed until contact can be made with the grant writing team from JMT who are part of the Project Team. Mr. Oliver asked what role, if any, would be appropriate for this committee to assist with this function.

Councilman Scallate suggested the Committee request that funding be a part of the Committee's scope.

Mr. Russel made a motion to submit the March 3, 2026 letter from Mr. Oliver to Council for approval to expand the mandate to include overseeing being involved in the grant writing process. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bartholomew.

All were in favor, motion carried.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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Rob Cahill  
Dianne Farelly  
Ben Sellers  
Howell Beach, Alternate Member of the Committee

**VII. ADJOURN**

**7:09 PM**

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

All were in favor, motion carried.

approved: June 1, 2024  
Jaci Wildner

A photograph of a waterfront park featuring a long, white, ornate metal railing with decorative scrollwork. The railing runs along a paved walkway that borders a body of water. In the background, there are lush green trees and a clear blue sky. A street lamp is visible near the railing.

CITY OF  
**BEAUFORT**  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
FOUNDED 1711

Waterfront Park Relieving Platform Consulting Services  
Public Feedback Summary  
May 2026

# Project Team



*McSweeney*

**McSweeney Engineers**

- Project Management
- Structural Engineering
- Inspections



- Structural Engineering
- Grant Facilitation/Research
- Permitting
- Adaptive Strategy Analysis

**DAVIS & FLOYD**

PLAN | DESIGN | ENGINEER

- Site Civil Engineering
- Surveying



- Geotechnical Engineering
- Materials Testing



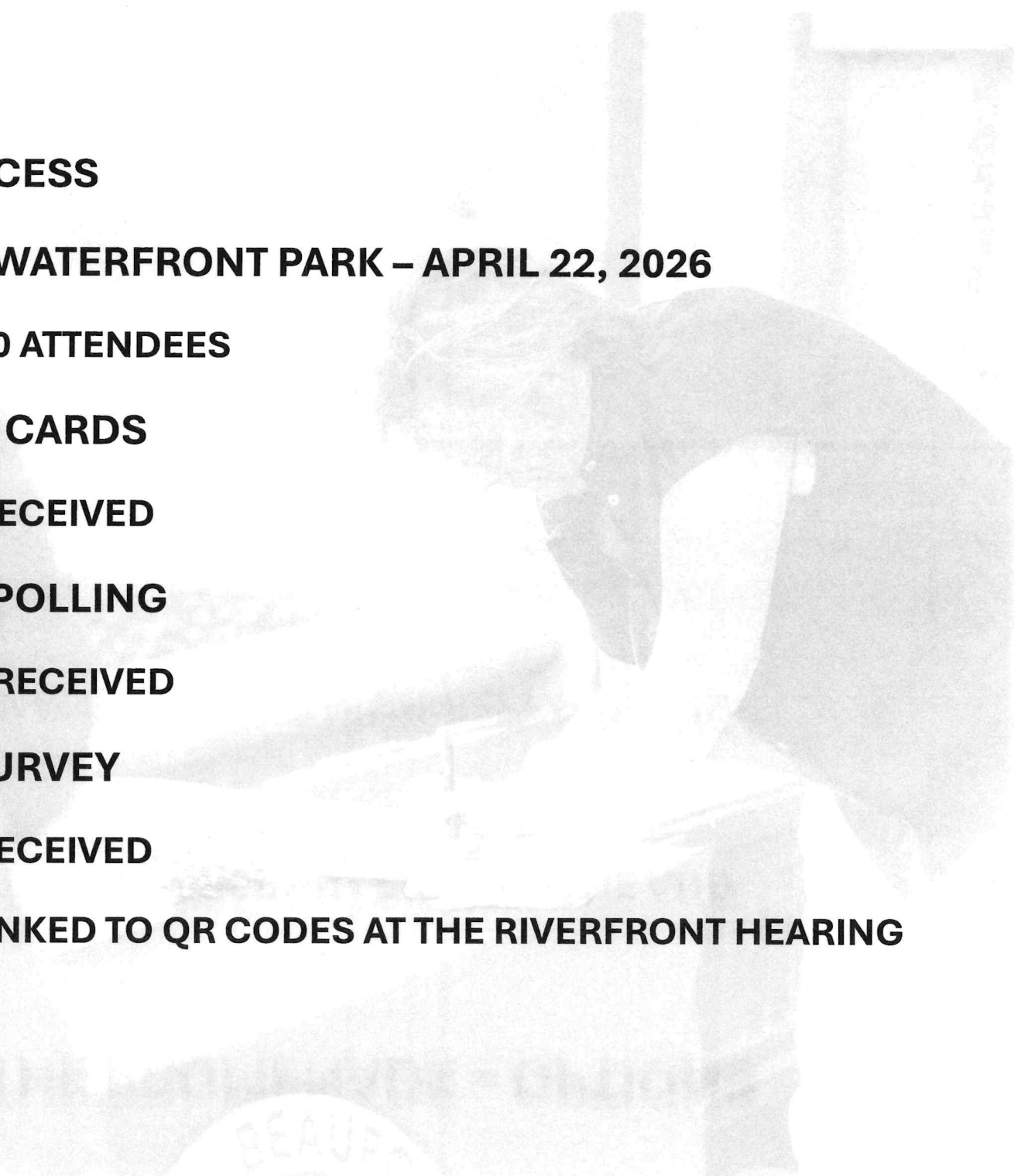
- Constructability Reviews
- Cost Estimating

# **PRESERVING THE PROMENADE – OPTIONS**

- 1. OPTION 1: STABILIZE THE WATERFRONT PROMENADE AND RESTORE ACCESS**
  - 2. OPTION 2: BUILD NEW AND RAISE - A HIGH-PERFORMANCE ELEVATED PLATFORM**
  - 3. OPTION 3: BUILD NEW AND RAISE - A RESILIENT SEAWALL AND SOLID FILL FOUNDATION**
  - 4. OPTION 4: BUILD NEW AND RAISE - RAISE PLATFORM AND ENHANCE AMENITIES**
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# **METHODOLOGY**

## **DATA COLLECTION PROCESS**

- **PUBLIC MEETING AT WATERFRONT PARK – APRIL 22, 2026**
    - **ESTIMATED 150 ATTENDEES**
  - **PHYSICAL COMMENT CARDS**
    - **49 OPINIONS RECEIVED**
  - **IN-PERSON STICKER POLLING**
    - **191 OPINIONS RECEIVED**
  - **ONLINE FEEDBACK SURVEY**
    - **25 OPINIONS RECEIVED**
    - **ONLINE AND LINKED TO QR CODES AT THE RIVERFRONT HEARING**
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# **DATA ANALYSIS & INSIGHTS**

- **SUMMARY OF PUBLIC OPINION**

- **OPTION 1: MINIMAL SUPPORT (3 SELECTIONS)**
- **OPTION 2: MOST SUPPORT (73 SELECTIONS)**
- **OPTION 3: MODERATE SUPPORT (27 SELECTIONS)**
- **OPTION 4: SECOND HIGHEST SUPPORT (62 SELECTIONS)**

- **LIMITATIONS**

- **COMMENT CARDS AND STICKERS**
  - **POSSIBILITY FOR REPEAT VOTERS**
- **FEEDBACK SURVEY**
  - **ONLY 6 ONLINE RESPONDENTS ATTENDED THE RIVERFRONT PARK PUBLIC MEETING**

# **PUBLIC FEEDBACK HIGHLIGHTS**

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

- **NEED FOR INCREASED SHADE AND SEATING (BENCHES, TABLES, TREES)**
- **FAMILY-FRIENDLY AMENITIES (SWINGS)**
- **CONCERNS ABOUT OVER DEVELOPMENT (CRUISE SHIPS, BOARDWALKS, SPLASH PAD)**
- **ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS (RAILING, STEPS)**
- **EASE OF ACCESS**
- **MAINTENANCE CONCERNS**
- **COST**

# **PUBLIC INPUT**

## **SPLASH PAD**

- **14 RESPONSES SUPPORTS A SPLASH PAD**
- **4 RESPONSES OPPOSE A SPLASH PAD**

## **CRUISE SHIPS**

- **4 RESPONSES SUPPORTING/OPEN TO CRUISE SHIPS**
- **6 RESPONSES OPPOSING CRUISE SHIPS**

## **BOARDWALK**

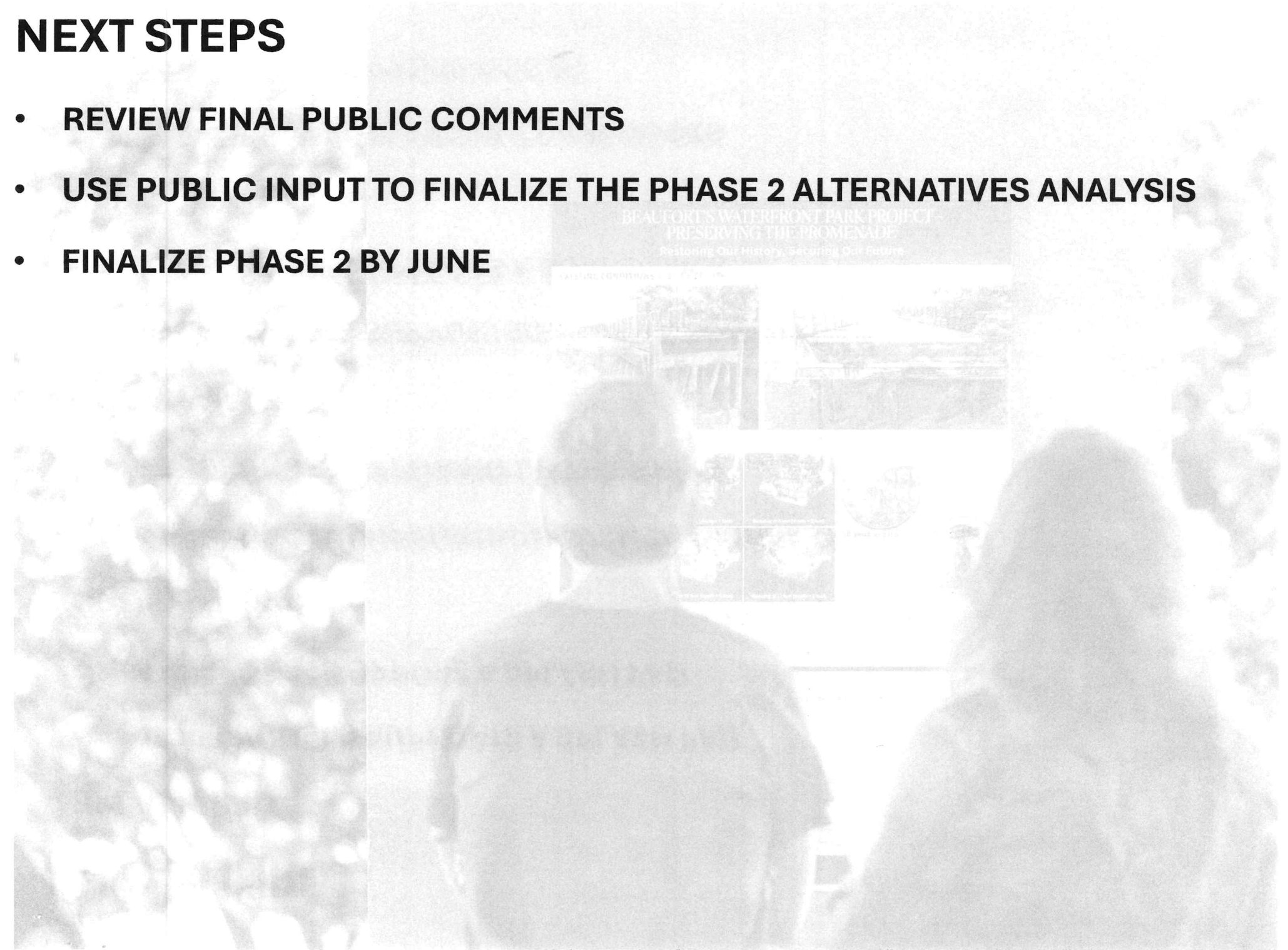
- **26 RESPONSES SUPPORTS/FAVORS A BOARDWALK**
- **39 RESPONSES OPPOSES A BOARDWALK**

## **DAY DOCK**

- **11 RESPONSES SUPPORT/FAVOR DOCKS**
- **9 RESPONSES OPPOSE DOCKS**

# NEXT STEPS

- REVIEW FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS
- USE PUBLIC INPUT TO FINALIZE THE PHASE 2 ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS
- FINALIZE PHASE 2 BY JUNE





**QUESTIONS?**