

BLUFFTON TOWN COUNCIL QUARTERLY WORKSHOP MINUTES
JULY 21, 2015

Mayor Sulka called the workshop to order at 6:00 p.m. Council members present were Mayor Pro Tempore Huffman, Lavery, Hamilton, and Toomer.

Town Manager/Executive Director of the Bluffton Public Development Corporation Orlando, Deputy Town Manager Hodge, Director of Growth Management Leininger, Finance Director Freeman, Director of Public Works/Engineering Jones, Executive Director of Don Ryan Center for Innovation Nelems, Human Resources Director Robinson, and Major Manning were also in attendance.

Public Comments:

Doreen Baumann, 14 Stock Farm Road, stated she is spearheading the effort to have Bluffton designated as a state designated Cultural District. She suggested placing a small amphitheater at the Oyster Factory Park that could become a multi-use flexible space.

Oyster Factory Park Master Plan Update:

Shawn Leininger, Director of Growth Management, stated that Staff is requesting direction of the Oyster Factory Park Master Plan update.

As a result of direction provided by Town Council during the discussion of FY16 capital improvement projects in Oyster Factory Park, Staff drafted an updated Master Plan for the Park. The current Master Plan was prepared in 2008 and does not reflect the planned program for the Park and its many components, such as the dock location, boat ramp widening, and overall park programming.

Endorsement of the updated Master Plan will allow Staff to move forward with the FY16 improvements to the Park as follows:

1. Widening of the boat ramp by 8 feet (total width will be 28 feet) to accommodate two lanes of boat launch and retrieval;
2. Installation of a courtesy dock alongside the widened boat ramp;
3. Accessible sidewalk connection leading from the courtesy dock to the main parking area;
4. Expansion of the existing parking lot on the west side of the park to accommodate additional vehicle and boat trailer parking; and
5. Repair of the Garvin House roof and structural stabilization of the building.

Upon review by Town Council, Staff will incorporate the direction provided and present the final updates Master Plan for Town Council consideration at the August 11, 2015 meeting. As ownership of the Park is shared with Beaufort County, County approval is also required and will be coordinated with County officials concurrently with Town council approval.

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Oyster Factory Park Master Plan Update:

Staff is having discussions with the Historical Preservation Society House on possible shared event space and parking of the Colcock-Teel House.

Council concerns are as follows:

- More parking for trucks/trailers.
- Installation of walkway for safety reasons, particular for children.
- Entry road with increased traffic.
- Clean debris and install lights in the Colcock-Teel House area.

Public Comments:

Dan Wood, 35 Boundary Street, questioned if boats/trailers would still be able to pivot from the dock? The answer was yes.

The proposed Oyster Factory Park Master Plan will be placed on the Town Council meeting for final approval after meeting with Beaufort County.

Don Ryan Center for Innovation (DRCI) Update:

David Nelems, Executive Director of Don Ryan Center for Innovation, gave an overview. The DRCI opened its doors in May of 2012.

In 2011, Town Council approves the program; contract was executed by Clemson and Town Manager; Town Council approves the DRCI By-Laws; and appoints member of the DRCI Board.

In 2014, received \$100,000 SC Innovation Grant; companies graduated and added; hired an assistant, started DRCI Foundation; DRCI marketing program; public education sessions strengthened; engagement with SCAD, CUICAR, Beaufort County Schools, and Geekend/Creative Coast; and speaking tour.

In 2015, added innovators; added three Board Members; revised By-Laws; new agreement with Clemson; strategic planning; more speaking engagements; applying for new grants and more fund raising; BaseCamp used by other Centers; launched www.drcigolf.com; LowcountryWorks.com, \$100,000 Google AdWords grant; more press and TV coverage; engagement with Charleston Digital Corridor; broader DRCI marketing campaign; and engagement with multiple regional Chambers of Commerce.
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Don Ryan Center for Innovation (DRCI) Update:

In remainder of 2015 and thereafter, golf event; graduate five companies; enroll five new companies, more mentors and volunteers; engagement with USCB; regional and national partnerships; Code Camp; membership program, alumni program; and new, larger facility.

Workshop adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Mayor

Town Clerk