



State 2% ATAX Committee Beaufort County, SC

Burton Wells Recreation Center
1 Middleton Recreation Drive, Beaufort, SC 29906

**Tuesday, September 23, 2025
8:30 AM**

AGENDA & MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

**VIMAL DESAI, CHAIRMAN
DICK STEWART
ANITA SINGLETON-PRATHER**

**KEN GUERRA, VICE-CHAIR
STEVEN GREEN
MARIE GIBBS**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Committee Vice-Chair Ken Guerra called the meeting to order at 8:40 am.

Present:

Committee Vice-Chair Ken Guerra
Committee Member Anita Singleton-Prather
Committee Member Marie Gibbs
Committee Member Steven Green
Committee Member Dick Stewart

Absent:

Committee Chair Vimal Desai

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Committee Vice-Chair Ken Guerra led the pledge of Allegiance.

3. **STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FOIA**

Committee Vice-Chair Ken Guerra confirmed compliance with FOIA.

4. **MODIFICATION OF AGENDA**

Motion: Committee Vice-Chair Ken Guerra made a motion to modify the agenda to add the nomination of a committee member to serve as the liaison to the Local A-Tax committee, seconded by Committee Member Marie Gibbs.

Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

5. APPROVAL OF MODIFIED AGENDA

Motion: Committee Member Anita Prather-Singleton made a motion to approve the modified agenda, seconded by Committee Member Marie Gibbs.

Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

6. NOMINATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBER TO SERVE AS THE LIAISON TO LOCAL A-TAX COMMITTEE

Motion: Committee Vice-Chair Ken Guerra made a motion to nominate Dick Stewart to serve as the liaison to the Local A-Tax Committee, seconded by Committee Member Marie Gibbs.

Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 15, 2025

Motion: Committee Member Steven Green made a motion to approve the minutes from April 15, 2025, seconded by Committee Member Marie Gibbs.

Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

8. PRESENTATIONS BY GRANT APPLICANTS

Committee Vice-Chair Ken Guerra led the presentation schedule. The following grant applicants presented: [List of grant applicants and their presentations].

9. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF GRANT AWARDS

Motion: Committee Vice-Chair Guerra made a motion to defer discussion and recommendation of grant awards to a follow-up meeting on October 6, 2025, seconded by Committee Member Marie Gibbs.

Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Vice-Chair Ken Guerra adjourned the meeting at 1:45 pm.

2025-2026 State 2% Accommodations Tax Grant Presentation Schedule
9/23/25

#	Time:	Committee Member	Organization	Event/Project Title	Event Date	Location of Event/Project	Submitter First Name	Submitter Last Name	Requested Amount	Received 2024	Received 2023
1	9:00:00 AM	DESAI	Arts Center of Coastal Carolina	Tourism Destination Marketing Support	2026	Arts Center of Coastal Carolina - HHI	Janet	Smith	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
2	9:05:00 AM	SINGLETON-PRATHER	Carolina Bight Sanctuary, Inc (dba Carolina Bight Birding Center)	2026 Marketing Bird Sanctuaries in Beaufort County	1/1/2026	Birding Sanctuaries and Spaces Throughout Beaufort County in 2026	Jenn	Clementoni	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 36,200.00	\$ -
3	9:10:00 AM	SINGLETON-PRATHER	Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra	HHSO Symphony Under The Stars Concert	4/8/2026	Fripp Island Ocean Creek Golf Course	Alan	Jordan	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
4	9:15:00 AM	GUERRA	Memory Matters	2026 Move Your Mind 5K Run/Walk	9/19/2026	tbd	Stacy	Floyd	\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	\$ -
5	9:20:00 AM	DESAI	Friends of Hunting Island State Park	Fresnel Lens Enhancement Project 2026	ongoing	Hunting Island State Park	Linda	Miller	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00
6	9:25:00 AM	GIBBS	Friends of the Spanish Moss Trail	Promoting the Spanish Moss Trail	2/2/2026	Spanish Moss Trail - Beaufort County	Sissy	Perryman	\$ 36,300.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -
7	9:30:00 AM	SINGLETON-PRATHER	Greater Beaufort-Port Royal CVB	2025-2026 Northern Beaufort County DMO Marketing/Promotion	11/1/2025	Northern Beaufort County	Robb	Wells	\$ 195,000.00	\$ 270,000.00	\$ 195,000.00
8	9:35:00 AM	STEWART	Long Cove Club	Darius Rucker Intercollegiate	3/2/2026	Long Cove Club of Hilton Head Island	Christy	Cohen	\$ 16,500.00	\$ -	\$ -
9	9:40:00 AM	GREEN	Pat Conroy Literacy Center	March Forth Event 2026	3/7 - 3/8/2026	Penn Center and Literacy Center	Bruce	Murdy	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
	BREAK 10 MINS										
10	10:00:00 AM	GUERRA	Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park	12th Annual Juneteenth Celebration	6/11-13, 19/2026	Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park	Ahmad	Ward	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
11	10:05:00 AM	GREEN	Historic Port Royal Foundation	Create a Visitor Center at the Port Royal Museum	ongoing	Historic Port Royal Foundation Musuem	Marcy	Roy	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
12	10:10:00 AM	STEWART	Black Moses Freedom Festival	Black Moses Freedom Festival	6/5/2026	Penn Center - St. Helena Island	Eboni	Holmes	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
13	10:15:00 AM	GIBBS	Beaufort International Film Society	Beaufort International Film Festival	2/17/2026	USC Beaufort, Center for the Arts	Ron	Tucker	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
14	10:20:00 AM	STEWART	The Original Gullah Festival of South Carolina, Inc.	2026 Original Gullah Festival	5/22/2026	Chambers Waterfront Park, Tabernacle Baptist, and more	Denise	Bullitt	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -
15	10:25:00 AM	GREEN	Penn Center	2026 Penn Center Juneteenth Celebration	6/20/2026	Penn Center - St. Helena Island	Denise	Bullitt	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00
16	10:30:00 AM	GUERRA	Penn Center	Penn Center 2026 Heritage Days	10/12/2026	Penn Center - St. Helena Island	Denise	Bullitt	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00
17	10:35:00 AM	GREEN	Gullah Traveling Theater	2026 Decoration Day	5/21-5/23/26	USCB Center for the Arts	Denise	Bullitt	\$ 36,500.00	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 30,000.00
18	10:40:00 AM	GIBBS	Hilton Head Choral Society	Vienna Boys Choir Concerts	2/23/2026	Low Country Community Church, Bluffton SC	David	Coyle	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
19	10:45:00 AM	DESAI	Friends of Fort Fremont	Fort Fremont Marketing Campaign	1/1/2026	Fort Fremont Preserve - St. Helena Island	Wendy	Wilson	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -
	BREAK 10 MINS										
20	11:00:00 AM	SINGLETON-PRATHER	Libraries for Kids International	Dreams Under the Serengeti - Libraries for Kids Int'l World Book Day 2026	4/25/2026	Port Royal Sound Foundation - Weezie Educational Pavilion	Laura	Winkel	\$ 10,500.00	\$ -	\$ -
21	11:05:00 AM	GIBBS	Beaufort Area Hospitality Association	Beaufort Oyster Festival	1/17/2026	Waterfront Park - Beaufort	Ashlee	Houck	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
22	11:10:00 AM	GUERRA	Campbell Chapel Community Development Ministry (CCCDM)	Historic Campbell Chapel Restoration and Rehabilitation	3/31/2026	Bluffton	Ron	James	\$ 125,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
23	11:15:00 AM	DESAI	Beaufort Area Sports Council	Beaufort County Sports & Cultural Facilities Assessment and Implementation Study	1/1/2026	Northern Beaufort County/Beaufort County	Robb	Wells	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ 60,000.00
24	11:20:00 AM	SINGLETON-PRATHER	Building Brighter Futures	Music Festival of the Lowcountry	6/6/2026	Waterfront Park - Beaufort	Jamie	Peart	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
25	11:25:00 AM	GIBBS	SC Lowcountry Tourism Commission	Promotion of Beaufort County and the Lowcountry	7/1/2025	Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties	Peach	Morrison	\$ 82,900.00	\$ 93,300.00	\$ 93,300.00
26	11:30:00 AM	GREEN	Hilton Head Island Land Trust	HHI Land Trust Raptor Cam Project	1/1/2026	Hilton Head Island - Land Trust Website (hhilandtrust.org)	James	Schneider	\$ 12,500.00	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00
27	11:35:00 AM	STEWART	Favour Corp	843 Gospel Jubilee Festival	3/28/2026	Habersham Vacant Lot or 22 Sammie Lane Dr. is the secondary location	Andrea	Murray	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
28	11:40:00 AM	DESAI	Basic Enhancements, Inc	Mermaids Of The Low Country	6/6/2026	Penn Center - St. Helena Island	Terilyn	Smith	\$ 22,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
29	11:45:00 AM	GUERRA	Port Royal Sound Foundation	Tourism Marketing and Maritime Center Exhibits	1/1/2026	Port Royal Sound Foundation campus	Kat	Armstrong	\$ 96,000.00	\$ 89,510.00	\$ 20,000.00
	LUNCH 40 MINS										
30	12:30:00 PM	STEWART	Beaufort-Jasper YMCA	Annual Beaufort River Swim and Run	6/6/2026	Port Royal Marina	Julie	Kuhns	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ -

2025-2026 State 2% Accommodations Tax Grant Presentation Schedule
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31	12:35:00 PM	GREEN	Beaufort Water Search And Rescue	Water rescue services and water related event patrols	1/1/2026	County wide water rescue services	Patrick	Canning	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
32	12:40:00 PM	SINGLETON-PRATHER	Freedman Arts District	Chalk It Up! Arts Festival	3/27/2026	Freedman Arts District - Beaufort	Elizabeth	Quarles	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 97,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
33	12:45:00 PM	DESAI	Historic Bluffton Foundation	2nd Annual Under the Ancient Oaks Living History Festival	10/7/2026	Heyward House Museum - 70 Boundary Street, Bluffton SC, 29910	Nicki	Graziani	\$ 7,450.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -
34	12:50:00 PM	STEWART	David M. Carmines Memorial Foundation	Hilton Head Island Seafood Festival	2/23/2026	Hilton Head - various locations	Kelly	Smith	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -
35	12:55:00 PM	GIBBS	Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance & Motoring Festival	Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance & Motoring Festival	10/1/2025	Various Locations	Kelly	Smith	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 38,000.00
36	1:00:00 PM	GUERRA	Native Island Business & Community Affairs Association	30th Annual Gullah Celebration	2/1/2026	Various Locations Throughout HHI, Bluffton and County	Kelly	Smith	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
								Total Requested	\$ 1,379,150.00		
								Available	\$ 1,000,000.00		

1:05 PM Greater Beaufort Port Royal CVB
1:10 PM Beaufort Area Sports Council

ADDED: Lowcountry Golf Course Owners Association, 2026 Golf Tourism to Drive Vacating Golfers to Beaufort County, Barry Flemming, \$20,000



State 2% ATAX Committee Beaufort County, SC

Finance Conference Room, Beaufort County BIV 2
102 Industrial Village Rd Bldg. 2 Beaufort, SC 29906

**Tuesday, April 15, 2025
8:30 AM**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

**VIMAL DESAI, CHAIRMAN
DICK STEWART
ANITA SINGLETON-PRATHER**

**KEN GUERRA, VICE-CHAIR
STEVEN GREEN
MARIE GIBBS**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Committee Vice-Chair Ken Guerra called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.

Present

Committee Vice-Chair Ken Guerra
Committee Member Dick Stewart
Committee Member Anita Singleton-Prather
Committee Member Marie Gibbs
Committee Member Steven Green
County Council Liason Anna Maria Tabernick

Absent

Committee Chair Vimal Desai

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Committee Vice-Chair Guerra led the pledge of Allegiance.

3. **STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FOIA**

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion: It was motioned by Committee Member Stewart, Seconded by Committee Member Marie Gibbs to approve the agenda.

The Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 8, 2025**

Motion: It was motioned by Committee Member Stewart, Seconded by Committee Member Marie Gibbs to approve the minutes from April 8, 2025.

The Vote: The motion was approved without objection.

AGENDA ITEMS

6. **DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF GRANT PRESENTATIONS - Committee Members**

Please watch the video stream to view the full discussion.

<https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/340263>

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Committee Vice-Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:22am.

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BACKUP PACKAGES, PLEASE VISIT:**

<https://beaufortcountysc.gov/council/council-committee-meetings/index.html>

Minutes

2024-2025 Cycle 2 State 2% Accommodations Tax Grant Presentation Schedule

County Council Chambers 100 Ribuat Rd. Beaufort, SC 29906

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

8:45am - 12pm

- 1

Call to Order
- 2

Pledge of Allegiance
- 3

Statement of Compliance with FOIA
- 4

Agenda Apporval

Motioned Dick Stewart and seconded Steven Green
- 5

Nomination for Chair

Vimal Desai Elected - Unanimous

Motioned Ken Guerra and seconded Marie Gibbs
- 6

Nomination for Vice Chair

Ken Guerra Elected - Unanimous

Motioned Dick Stewart and seconded Anita Singleton-Prather

Recess until first presentation

7 Presentations

Scheduled Time	Committee Member	Organization	Event Title	Amount	Actual Time Presented
9:00 AM	Dick Stewart	1 Hilton Head Island Airport	Fly TO Hilton Head Island: Inbound VCB Partnership to Target Fly Markets	\$ 30,000.00	8:56 am
9:10 AM	Ken Guerra	2 Friends of the Spanish Moss Trail	Kids in Parks South Carolina - Along the Spanish Moss Trail	\$ 20,000.00	9:13 am
9:20 AM	Ken Guerra	3 Friends of the Spanish Moss Trail	Promoting the Spanish Moss Trail	\$ 20,000.00	9:21 am
9:30 AM	Marie Gibbs	4 Arts Center of Coastal Carolina	'Tourism Destination Marketing Support'	\$ 40,000.00	9:26 am
9:40 AM	Steven Green	5 Beaufort Area Hospitality Association	Beaufort New Year's Eve Fireworks Celebration	\$ 20,000.00	9:38 am
9:50 AM	Steven Green	6 Port Royal Sound Foundation	PRSF Maritime Center Dock Renovation	\$ 52,510.00	9:46 am Stewart recused
10:00 AM	Anita Singleton-Prather	7 Beaufort History Museum	Beaufort History Front and Center	\$ 72,700.00	9:52 am
10:35 AM	Dick Stewart	9 Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park	HMFP 11th annual Juneteenth Celebration (June 12,13,14 and 21, 2025 and 6th Annual Holiday Nights and Lights (December 6,7 and 8, 2025)	\$ 35,000.00	10:02 am
10:10 AM	Vimal Desai Ken Guerra	8 Gullah Traveling Theater, Inc.	Da' Gullah American Revolutionary Experience	\$ 25,000.00	10:15 am Prather recused
10:20 AM		15 MINUTE BREAK			10:30 am
10:45 AM	Marie Gibbs	10 Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra	HHSO Marketing Programs	\$ 25,000.00	10:45 am
10:55 AM	Steven Green	11 USCB Center for the Arts/ USCB Educational Foundation	Performing Arts Season	\$ 15,000.00	10:56 am
11:05 AM	Anita Singleton-Prather	12 Carolina Bight Sanctuary, Inc.	Wings Over Beaufort (Birding & Ecotourism Festival)	\$ 42,000.00	11:06 am Stewart recused
11:15 AM	Vimal Desai Dick Stewart	13 The Henry Clay Foundation	The S.M.O.K.E. Invitational Basketball Tournament	\$ 152,000.00	11:18 am
11:25 AM	Dick Stewart	14 The Gullah Museum of Hilton Head Island	The Old Fashion Oyster Roast and The Gullah Food Festival	\$ 25,000.00	NO SHOW
11:35 AM	Anita Singleton-Prather	15 Favour Corp.	The 843 Lowcountry Southern Blues Line Dance Festival	\$ 15,000.00	11:31 am
11:45 AM	Ken Guerra/Marie Gibbs	16 The Freedman Arts District	"Off the Wall and Onto the Stage: Dancing The Art of Jonathan Green"	\$ 50,000.00	11:40 am
11:55 AM	Vimal Desai Marie Gibbs	17 Beaufort County 250 Committee (BC 250) of the South Carolina American Revoilution Sestercentennial (250) Commission	Beaufort County 250 Committee Fund - Community Foundation of the Lowcountry	\$ 47,960.00	11:47 am Prather recused
				\$ 687,170.00	
12:05 PM		1 HOUR LUNCH BREAK			
1:05 PM		DISCUSSION OF AWARDS			DISCUSSION OF AWARDS SET FOR 4/15 @8:15 AM

- 8

Meeting Concluded

12:00pm

Committee Attendance 4/8/2025	
Vimal Desai	ABSENT
Dick Stewart	PRESENT
Anita Singleton-Prather	PRESENT
Steven Green	PRESENT
Ken Guerra	PRESENT
Marie Gibbs	PRESENT