



## **Green Space Advisory Committee**

### **Chair**

MICHAEL McSHANE

### **Vice Chair**

ALICE HOWARD

### **Committee Members**

TOM DAVIS

LAUREL RHOTEN

CARMEN AVON MANNING

TIMOTHY EVANS

T. PETER KRISTIAN

### **Interim County Administrator**

JOHN ROBINSON

### **Administration Building**

Beaufort County Government

Robert Smalls Complex

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# **Green Space Advisory Committee Agenda**

**Friday, August 4, 2023 at 10:00 AM**

**Executive Conference Room**

**County Administration Building, 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, SC**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. FOIA – PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PUBLISHED, POSTED, AND DISTRIBUTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 11, 2023
5. OVERVIEW OF PENNY SALES TAX COLLECTION AND HISTORICAL DATA BY QUARTER – HAYES WILLIAMS, BEAUFORT COUNTY CFO
6. STAFF PRESENTATION OF AN APPLICATION FRAMEWORK THAT IMPLEMENTS A MEASURABLE SCORING SYSTEM GUIDED BY THE GREEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADOPTED PROGRAM
7. OTHER BUSINESS
8. ADJOURNMENT

# MINUTES

## Green Space Advisory Committee

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*July 11, 2023, 10:00 AM, Executive Conference Room, Beaufort County Administration Building*

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice-Chair Howard called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. Vice-Chair Howard said Chair McShane will be late. Vice-Chair Howard stated that public notification of the meeting had been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the SC Freedom of Information Act.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Tom Davis  
Timothy Evans  
Alice Howard, Vice-Chair  
T. Peter Kristian  
Michael McShane, Chair  
Laurel Rhoten

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Carmen Avon Manning

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Chuck Atkinson, Assistant County Administrator, Development/Recreation  
Mark Davis, Deputy Director, Beaufort County Planning and Zoning Department  
Thomas Keaveny, Beaufort County Attorney  
Rob Merchant, Director, Beaufort County Planning and Zoning Department  
Stefanie Nagid, Passive Park Manager

### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Grant McClure, South Coast Project Director, Coastal Conservation League; Kate Schafer, Director of Land Protection, Beaufort County Open Land Trust; Major David Trail, Director, Government & External Relations, MCAS; and Kristen Williams, Executive Director, Beaufort County Open Land Trust.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 27, 2023:**

Peter Kristian made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 27 meeting. Tim Evans seconded. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Tim Evans made a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting. Peter Kristian seconded. The vote to approve the agenda was unanimous.

Vice-Chair Howard asked all attending the meeting to introduce themselves.

**CONTINUATION OF STAFF PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDED PROGRAM CRITERIA AND APPLICATION PROCESS THAT INCLUDES A MEASURABLE SCORING SYSTEM:**

Mark Davis showed the revised draft program guidelines using the conference room computer screen. Mark said a draft of the program criteria was distributed to Committee members by email and staff received comments back from Carmen Manning and Laurel Rhoten. Mark reviewed the changes that had been made to the program guidelines document since the last meeting, pointing out revisions suggested by Carmen and Laurel. Committee members suggested a number of additional changes. Mark revised the document in real time as the Green Space Advisory Committee made suggestions.

There was discussion regarding the term “natural” habitats. Stefanie Nagid said the state had a reference guide that describes the various natural habitat types in the state that could be referenced.

Mark Davis provided staff feedback in response to some of the comments offered by the committee. The responses were to better explain the position of staff and the intended general direction of the program.

Chair McShane arrived at 10:35 AM.

There was continued discussion and further revisions by the Committee.

Tom Keaveny asked Senator Davis if he had reviewed Section 2 on Program Transparency and Equitable Distribution of Funds. Senator Davis said he had and agreed with the current wording.

Chair McShane asked for public comments from the guests present regarding the Program Criteria and revisions made by staff and the Committee. There were none.

Chair McShane asked for a motion to adopt the Green Space Program as reviewed and revised during the meeting. Peter Kristian made that motion. Tim Evans seconded. The vote to approve the Green Space Program was unanimous.

Tom Keaveny suggested that County Council could adopt the program by resolution, then send it to DOR; then, once DOR approves it, it could be adopted by ordinance. It was also suggested that it could be given first reading by County Council, sent to DOR, and once DOR approves it, it would be given second and third reading. Senator Davis said he thought DOR’s approval will be speedy.

***OTHER BUSINESS:***

The next step is to develop applications for each of the application types. Vice-Chair Howard asked Committee members to find examples of applications (ex., military, state) and give them to Mark Davis to use for suggestions. Mark said he will start by developing the application for fee simple/conservation easement acquisitions and once completed it can be used as a model for other application types.

Senator Davis will be remote at the next meeting scheduled for July 24.

Chair McShane suggested the Committee meet on Monday, August 14, at 1:00 PM, prior to the Community Services and Land Use Committee meeting at 3:00 PM and requested Committee members to attend the Community Services and Land Use Committee meeting to assist in presenting the work.

Chair McShane asked if the Committee could get an update on the financials for the program (i.e., how much money had been collected since May 1).

***ADJOURMENT:***

The meeting adjourned at 11:13 AM.

Minutes compiled by Libby Anderson, Beaufort County Planning and Zoning Department