

Town of James Island History Council  
Tuesday, January 12, 2021  
6:00 p.m.  
Meeting Minutes  
Meeting was held virtually in a Zoom webinar

In Attendance: Chair, Paul Hedden, Inez BrownCrouch, Jim Morrisette, Susan Milliken, Mayor Bill Woolsey-- liaison to History Council, Ashley Kellahan (Town Administrator), Town Councilmember Garrett Milliken (guest)

Meeting called to order at 6 p.m. by Chair Paul Hedden. Chair Hedden recognized Town Councilmember Garrett Milliken. Councilmember Milliken addressed the History Council with the suggestion to combine the "First Shot" event with other James Island history to include Civil War and Revolutionary commemorations and also the "Last Shot" of the Revolutionary War. Councilmember Milliken also suggested putting off in-person events planned for the winter/spring of 2021 due to Covid-19. He was thanked for his input.

Paul Hedden led discussion regarding the planning of events for 2021. Susan Milliken reminded the council that she had added to the agenda for tonight's meeting a discussion of Virtual Events for 2021. Inez BrownCouch made the motion to pause all TOJI History Council events and meetings to June 2021 due to Covid-19 and the delay of vaccines. Susan Milliken asked if Inez BrownCouch would accept an amendment to her motion to only curtail events and Ms. BrownCouch maintained her original motion to pause all events and meetings due to the severity of the pandemic. Additional discussion followed. The vote was called for Ms. BrownCouch's original motion. The vote was 2-2, motion failed. Paul Hedden made a motion to cancel Black History Month events (February 2021) and any First Shot events (April 2021). Motion was seconded by Jim Morrisette. Additional discussion ensued. The motion was clarified that All History Council events will be canceled until June 2021 due to the severity of Covid-19, but that monthly virtual History Council meetings would continue. Motion passed 4-0.

A discussion followed regarding the upcoming opening of the TOJI Arts and Cultural Center, opening scheduled for late spring or summer 2021. The History Council will discuss cultural center more in future meetings. There will be another call for historical artifacts to display in the center. Ashley Kellahan has spoken to the state museum regarding the possibility of obtaining artifacts to display.

Susan Milliken asked Paul Hedden to please note on the February meeting agenda that events for the winter and spring 2021 have been canceled, i.e. "All History Council events canceled until June 2021 due to Covid-19". He agreed to do so.

Jim Morrisette followed up with the council on his email regarding the history of James Island African-American settlements, churches and schools. Susan Milliken let Jim Morrisette know of the City of Charleston's City Plan info re. the historical settlements. Susan Milliken asked about the status of Fort Pemberton. Jim Morrisette reported that all is delayed re. Fort Pemberton due to Covid-19.

Motion was made by Paul Hedden to approve the meeting minutes from the December 8, 2020 meeting. Second by Susan Milliken. Minutes unanimously approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Minutes prepared by S. Milliken