



Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
In-Person Meeting at James Island Town Hall
1122 Dills Bluff, James Island, SC 29412
September 17th, 2025 at 3:00 P.M.

In attendance: Chairwoman Brook Lyon, Chris Bizzell Katie Zimmerman, Joe Walters, Jenna Stephens, Beth Saunders, Sheila Parker, Eliza Story, Dr. Carol Tempel, Ashley Kellahan, Tamara Robinson, Marche Miller, Kristen Crane, Mike Hemmer, Richard Stuhr, Leslie Skardon, Deanna Miller, Annette Begner.

There were other attendees that did not sign-in. PLEASE SIGN-IN!

- I. Welcome – Chairwoman Lyon called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and led a prayer and the pledge of allegiance.
- II. Previous Meeting Minutes – Chairwoman Lyon
A motion to approve the minutes from July 16th, 2025, Steering Committee Meeting was made by Beth Saunders and seconded by Joe Walters; passed unanimously.
- III. Public Comments:
-Deanna Miller asked about the status of Rethink Folly Road Phase 1 and if there was a date for the project to begin. Sheila Parker indicated that within the next three months due to the project having to have been recently rebid.

Chair Lyon noted that, along with Ms. Miller, all the candidates running for Charleston City Council were in attendance and asked each of them if they wanted to speak.

- IV. Old Business:
 - a. SCDOT Road Safety Audit for Folly Road
Chair Lyon noted SCDOT is still reviewing and has cut some of the medians back, but the idea of a stop light at Santee is not currently warranted. Joe Walters noted that semi-trucks will be driving through the neighborhoods to deliver on that side of Folly and SCDOT is making one road safe at the expense of other roads and it is not logical.
 - b. Camp Road Middle School
Lyon noted that some improvements have been made including the change of some students to be dropped-off at the library to lessen the car line and they are looking into a second lane for the drive-through. Dr. Carol Tempel confirmed and noted other efforts are underway such as hiring more bus drivers. Katie Zimmerman noted that Mr.



Reidenbach had promised some information that she had not yet received. Mayor Lyon also noted that pick-ups are staggered, and this year seems better so far.

c. Consultant for Rethink Folly Road

There was discussion regarding renewing the services of a consultant. Sheila Parker and Marche Miller from the County noted that this request would need to go before the County Council. Zimmerman noted that the last time, the funding came from county planning. The committee felt like the effort is in a circle and we need councilmembers Honeycutt and Boykin to make this a priority. Each municipality seems ready to provide support, but we hit a wall when it comes to funding from the County. A consultant can help with organization and grants.

Dr. Tempel noted that the schools are looking into grants for safe routes to schools and several members felt like the least that could be provided were letters of support.

It was noted that a well-defined scope, like the Toole Group contract, is needed for funding for the consultant to discuss at a future meeting. A conceptual scope needs to be developed. Kristen Crane noted she could go back and determine the contact with the Toole Group and refine the scope previously developed. A presentation could be done at the next meeting.

Chair Lyon noted that Honeycutt requested that outlook invites be sent for meetings and that at the next meeting, we will have our new City of Charleston representative. Zimmerman noted that when construction begins on Phase 1, that should also help and we should do a groundbreaking.

d. Folly Beach Center Street Storm water Project – Jenna Stephens

-Ms. Stephens noted that construction has started on the side streets and will soon move to Center Street. The City has a May 2026 deadline for completion on the project.

e. Charleston County Central Park Road Project –

The project is underway and there were no updates at this time. Mayor Lyon noted that the Town has not heard many complaints.

V. New Business:

a. Crosswalk Requests

Chair Lyon noted that the Town has had two crosswalk requests on Folly Road; one at Prescott Street and one at Wilton Street. Lyon noted that Representative Spencer Wetmore was looking at SCDOT efforts. Zimmerman noted that the crossing at Wilton would be included in Phase 1 of Rethink Folly Road and the crossing at Prescott Street would be a recommendation in the SCDOT road safety audit.



- b. There was no other new business discussed.

VI. Jurisdictional Updates:

- a. City of Folly Beach – Chris Bizzell
Waterline updates are also occurring with the Center Street Project. Jenna Stephens also noted that the lanes configurations on Folly Road at Bowens and Pees Island has conceptual SCDOT approval.
- b. City of Charleston – James Wallace from Charleston Traffic and Transportation noted:
 - Stormwater infrastructure improvements to the Central Park watershed
 - James Island Christian School expansion (sidewalk included)
 - Retiming of signals along Folly Road nearly complete
- c. Charleston County – Central Park Road project should be at a point to allow the road to reopen by the end of November.
- d. James Island PSD – No updates
- e. Town of James Island – Mayor Lyon
 - Jack of Cups close
 - Bagel shop on hold
 - Mondo's renovation and expansion
 - Other vacant lots being considered
 - Election for two new Council members, also noted the Mayoral and Council race at Folly, and all three of the Charleston City candidates are here. Annette Begner introduced herself and then Deanna Miller also did so. Leslie Skardon had to leave.
 - The Mayor noted a Town of James Island forum on October 20 and a Folly Beach forum on October 16.
 - The James Island Arts and Community Center is in the permitting phase
 - The James Island Intergovernmental Council will meet on October 29 at 7 pm.
 - Also a pet helpers rabies clinic on December 6 at 9 am.
 - The Swim School site on Folly upzoning request was recommended for denial by the Planning Commission and ultimately denied by council.
 - The Town Market will be on October 3 and there will be a James Island Outreach silent auction at the Market.



- f. Katie Zimmerman noted the County Council is exploring efforts for the Transportation Sale Tax and will have a meeting on September 25 at 5 pm and they will start a public input process later this year.

VIII. Next Meeting – Scheduled for 3:00 pm on November 19th, 2025 at Town of James Island

VIX. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 pm

Minutes provided by Michael D. Hemmer – James Island staff