



Approved BEAT Board Minutes 1-4-21

Introduction

President Pete Key called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:09 pm with the following Board members in attendance: Dan George, Bob Jakus, Pete Key, Marilyn Priddy, and Jennifer Swift. Linda Eastman joined Zoom after the meeting was underway, and Ted Janes, Dwight Willis, and Sybil Murray Burgess were absent. Guest speaker Brayton Willis also attended.

1. Pete's motion to approve the draft agenda passed following a second by Marilyn.
2. No changes were suggested to the draft minutes from the December board meeting. Pete's motion to approve the draft minutes passed following Bob's second.

Presentation

Pete welcomed guest speaker Brayton Willis and reviewed Bryaton's bio:

- Northeastern University Civil / Environmental Graduate Engineer
- Retired Senior Project Manager and Strategic Planner - US Army Corps of Engineers
- Former member of the WMPO Citizens Advisory Committee for the 2045 regional transportation plan update
- Former member of the Town of Leland Transportation oversight committee
- Former acting Chairman of the Brunswick County Branch NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Committee
- Life member of the NAACP
- Marine Corps Veteran

Brayton reviewed his presentation the Brunswick County NAACP's proposal, which was entitled *Proposed Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Multi-Use Greenway/Blueway Trail - a Passage to Freedom*. He referenced the National Heritage Act (PL 109-338) passed in October of 2006 and briefly reviewed the Gullah Geechee history. Brayton described the proposal and support from WMPO, Navassa Mayor Eulis Willis, Belville Mayor Mike Allen, the Town of Leland. He praised Navassa Planning and Development Director Barnes Sutton's commitment to the project and the progress already made. Brayton emphasized how few greenways existed in Brunswick County and the economic benefits of this proposal. He talked about the importance of preserving the Gullah Geechee culture in a rapidly growing area and how important it is to take action before the entire area is developed. Brayton answered numerous questions about the proposed route and potential involvement of various governmental agencies and non profit organizations during and after the presentation.

Board members expressed their delight with the proposal and asked how BEAT could assist. Brayton suggested working to increase awareness among community members and attending town and county meetings to weigh in on environmental issues.



Announcements & Adjournment

Board members did not have any old or new business to discuss. Pete announced the next Board meeting would be held at 6 pm on February 1st. Marilyn requested that the Board start planning a 2021 membership meeting via Zoom at the next meeting. Pete adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.