

A special meeting of the Beaufort City Council was held on January 7, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. in The Friends Room at the Arsenal on Scott Street. In attendance were Mayor Bill Rauch, Mayor Pro Tem Donnie Ann Beer, Councilmen Frank Glover, Billy Keyserling, City Manager John F. McDonough. Councilman Gary B. Fordham was in the hospital. In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended, all local media were duly notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

The mayor called the meeting to order at 5: 10 p.m.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY ARCHITECT

The first item discussed by Brian Jenest, of ColeJenest and Stone, was the style of tables, chairs and umbrellas and where they would be located in the Waterfront Park. Both 36 and 42 inch diameter tops will be used in the four areas proposed with some of them permanently attached to the ground. Umbrellas will be located in two of the areas. The chairs will be moveable and the tables and chairs will be black. Councilman Keyserling asked if the umbrellas and chairs are to be collected each night and placed back in the Park daily. He added that if they aren't secured they will disappear. Mr. Jenest pointed out that if it becomes a problem, they can be secured permanently. However, the tables around the water feature will be permanently attached, he said. Councilman Keyserling stated Council, at their last meeting, said the fountain may not be part of Phase I. He said Sasaki referred to the fountain as an add on and in his opinion, this is a lot of money. The mayor raised the question of using black metal for the seats with it being so hot in July and August. Mr. Jenest commented they will be used along with the umbrellas and in the other areas, a combination of metal and wood will be used. Wood, which is actually a combination of wood composite, will be used where there is full sun. Mr. Jenest said, dark gray will be used as the color on the wood rather than brown. He displayed a picture of the proposed lighting fixtures and trash receptacles. The receptacles will not have the ashers on top because they collect water and the lighting fixtures will be black. The mayor said he is concerned that the design of the lighting fixtures resembles an antique and will not go with the Thomas style of buildings. Mr. Jenest said the actual fixture will not be as ornate as the picture shown.

Mr. Jenest answered questions from the public about the proposed location of the bike racks and if they will be children friendly. Mrs. Beer pointed out that bikes, skate boards, and skates are not to be ridden in the Core Commercial area or in the Park. Questions were also raised about water fountains and attachments for dogs. These issues will be addressed later.

PAVING:

Several samples of paving that were proposed were displayed for Council's consideration. For the fountain and the walkway along the back side of the Park, they are proposing to use an oversized brick with a stone edge; the secondary pathways which include the promenade, the amphitheater, and the garden will be in a slate stone with a brick edge; and for the narrow walkways they propose a smaller granite stone with a brick edge. Mr. Jenest explained they are proposing a pattern with two rows of brick with stone in between every third bollard along the waterfront. Additionally, they are proposing to use ballast stones for the 18 inch thick retaining walls along the amphitheater.

Comments were made about there being no tabby planned for use in the Park. Mr. Jenest said part of the concern is trying to match the section of the tabby walkways when it is necessary to make a repair. The proposed pavers will also be laid on a sand bed, making them easier to replace. A paver that would simulate tabby was considered; however, they have had difficulty locating it.

PLANS FOR SPECIFIC AREAS

The garden area, the area behind the restaurants, and the playground were discussed. One of the issues for the *garden* was to relocate the three panels that depict the history of Beaufort, the Thomas Heyward monument, the Boy Scout and the Viet Nam Memorials to make this a reflective space. There will be two entrances and the pavement would be of stone, surrounded with seating, low plants, and an area with quiet water. Possibly, the history of Beaufort could be told through a series of plaques and placed near the bus access for people to view while waiting for their ride.

AREA BEHIND THE RESTAURANTS/BUSINESSES

Mr. Jenest said the reason for incorporating the area, that is now used for six parking spaces, into the Park is to let people flow from the restaurants into the Park and also to alleviate congestion during the events. The existing walkway will be moved back toward Bay Street, which is City property, and will open up the area for additional seating and viewing. The trees will be preserved, the existing parking area will be raised to the elevation of The Bank Restaurant with steps coming down from Hemingways Restaurant. The walkway will be of brick with a stone edge so it will blend with the rest of the Park. Referring to the festivals, Mr. Jenest pointed out this change will allow more room for the public even though this will eliminate the service access.

PLAYGROUND

Joanne Shiroma, of ColeJenest and Stone, whose expertise is playgrounds, explained the proposed play space. She said a play area is planned to accommodate the widest age range of children and to reflect the Beaufort architecture with a nautical theme for the play components. There will be gates at the entrance with the first area for the younger children. Some of the play equipment will include a shrimp boat, net to climb, a play house with two levels resembling Beaufort architecture, slides, four swings, bucket seat swings for toddlers, a pirate ship, a moveable bridge, and a crows nest. Additionally, picnic tables and benches are planned along with porch swings in the shade structure.

The fence will have items for play such as chimes. The materials to be used for the boats will be maintenance free recycled wood that doesn't splinter or crack with steel framework, she said. Trying to create surfaces that will not get too hot in the summer, the slides will be plastic and the swing support will be steel for durability. Questions arose about protecting the tree roots which Ms. Shiroma answered. When asked about what will be done to prevent the sand from migrating onto the stone, she explained a curbing will be used. Other concerns expressed about using sand included finding it in the fountain and problems created by cats using it. Mr. Jenest pointed out that the fence will be approximately four feet high, even though cats can climb and jump, at least it will not be open. Sand is preferred over wood chips because it is a natural surface. They are trying to incorporate the existing 1059 engraved pickets into the new fence. Since there are so many more pickets than actually needed for the new fence, it may be necessary to make it double sided. Mr. Jenest stated it is not certain if they will be allowed to use the existing pickets. If not, they have considered placing the names on something else to memorialize all the efforts put into the

playground. Ms. Shiroma suggested using steel wire mesh or wrappings with the names laser cut into it and running the entire outside of the fence. There could also be graphic designs incorporated, she said.

Referring to the portion of Scott Street leading to the fountain, the question was raised that if that street is turned into a pedestrian street, what will happen to the parking spaces. Also, it is difficult to turn left at the bridge now when exiting that area and it is a two way street. Councilman Keyserling pointed out that the problem is the intersection becomes blocked when the bridge opens and this change will cause traffic to be further backed up on Bay Street. He added that it was never his impression that Scott Street was to be one way.

Councilman Keyserling asked to hear from Public Works regarding the maintenance of the Park. A question was raised as to whether additional staff would be needed when the Park is completed. The Public Works Director answered that has not been decided.

VOTE ON ITEMS

Tables: The mayor stated the black metal furniture won't always be in the shade and in the summer it will be very hot. Mr. Jenest said these choices were made because they are durable and require little maintenance. Black was chosen because it is timeless and elegant. However, he suggested using gray as an alternative. Councilwoman Beer said when the water feature was first discussed, tables and chairs were not mentioned and that area will be in the sun. The mayor said wood is traditionally used and asked if that causes maintenance concerns. Mr. Jenest suggested using teak but added that it is more costly with higher maintenance. Ms. Libby Barnes, Chamber of Commerce President, asked what is used by other communities along the coast, that is affordable and aesthetically pleasing. Mr. Jenest replied if they don't use metal or aluminum, then they use teak. When asked about changing the color of the furniture, Mr. Jenest reminded Council the structures that have been approved are green. Therefore, gray, black, or white would be suitable colors. Another suggestion from the audience was to use black steel mesh chairs which would be cooler. According to Mr. Jenest, they would be lighter making them easier to move and even throw into the river. Councilman Keyserling said he is concerned about the tables not being fastened down and he is totally against umbrellas from a maintenance and a theft point of view. There are a lot of people in the Park late at night who are unsupervised and there will be a lot of vandalism. The Public Works Director mentioned if it becomes necessary, they could be stacked and locked with a plastic coated cable at night. Councilwoman Beer agreed that the umbrellas can be easily destroyed. Mr. Jenest pointed out that if there are not umbrellas, for the first five years until the trees grow, the area will be in the sun. He asked Council's thoughts on bolting them in place so they would be secure during the night.

PUBLIC ART

The areas ColeJenest & Stone would like to have input for public art were outlined for the Beaufort Public Art Commission by Mr. Jenest as follows: along the blank wall on Scott Street where the Saltus Restaurant is, unique custom benches, and areas where there are broad expanses of pavement, suggesting as an example, a hop scotch. These three areas need attention and will not impede the progress of the work at the Park. He suggested the Commission address them as soon as possible. Additionally, the playground gates would be a great project for art.

Tables: Returning to the discussion on the street furniture, Mr. Jenest proposed the tables and chairs not be bolted down in the beginning then if that doesn't work and they disappear from the Park, the tables and chairs can be secured. Councilwoman Beer moved to accept the tables and chairs in black with the ability to secure them at night. Councilman Glover gave second. The motion was unanimous.

Umbrellas: Mr. Jenest explained approximately 30 umbrellas of a commercial grade with a black metal frame are proposed for use.

Councilman Keyserling moved to not have umbrellas in the Park. The motion died for lack of a second.

Councilwoman Beer made a motion, seconded by Councilman Glover, to have umbrellas.

Mr. Glover asked how this would effect the staff. The Public Works Director replied when the structures designed by Mr. James Thomas were approved, they realized additional staff would be needed. Assuming there would be three employees in the Waterfront Park once it is completed, the care of the umbrellas would be part of their duties. Currently, there is the equivalent of one city employee working throughout the day in the Waterfront Park.

Council members Rauch, Beer, and Glover voted in favor of using no more than 30 umbrellas of this style. Councilman Keyserling voted nay. The motion passed 3 to 1.

Benches: Gray wooden benches are proposed for placement in the sun and metal benches in the shade.

Councilwoman Beer moved to approve the benches as stated. Councilman Glover gave second.

Councilman Keyserling asked how the furniture relates to the main structures. Mr. Jenest explained the furniture has contemporary clean lines. This choice was made because of the traditional look of Bay Street and the contemporary structures in the Park.

Council unanimously approved the benches as proposed.

Trash: On motion by Councilman Glover, second by Councilwoman Beer, Council approved the trash receptacles without the ash tray on the top.

Bike Racks: Councilman Glover moved to change the design of the bike racks. Councilwoman Beer gave second. The motion was unanimously.

Mr. Jenest said they will be returning to present another design for the bike racks and they would also like to bring another design for the lights.

On motion by Councilman Glover, second by Councilman Keyserling, Council voted to revise the design of the lights.

Drinking Fountain: Councilman Keyserling moved to revise the drinking fountains so they are not as ornate. Councilwoman Beer gave second. The motion passed unanimously.

Brick: Mr. Jenest asked Council to consider the oversize brick pavers with a blue stone edge along the main or primary path way and around the fountain. He added that this type stone should not be difficult to replace or match if that were necessary.

Councilwoman Beer moved to approve the oversize brick pavers with a blue stone edge for the main side walk. Councilman Glover gave second.

Councilman Keyserling said he likes the brick; however, in his opinion, there are too many different things going on in the Park with two different type stones, black furniture, etc.

Council members Beer, Rauch, and Glover voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Keyserling voted nay. The motion passed 3 to 1.

The narrow or secondary walkways: The area of the amphitheater, the narrow walkway that winds through and around the park and the garden area are considered the secondary walkways and stone with a brick edge is proposed for use.

Councilwoman Beer moved to approve the stone with a smaller brick edge for the secondary walkways. Councilman Glover gave second. Council members Glover, Beer, and Rauch voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Keyserling voted nay. The motion passed 3 to 1.

Promenade: The proposal is that every third bollard on the promenade be a double row of brick with a band of brick around the stone on a bed of sand to tie the primary and secondary walkways together.

Councilwoman Beer moved to approve the design for the promenade. Councilman Glover gave second.

Isiah Smalls, Public Works Director, stated these stones and brick can be replaced as opposed to what is currently there. Also, it will be easier to maintain.

Council members Beer, Glover, and Rauch voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Keyserling voted nay. The motion passed 3 to 1.

Scott Street wall: Mr. Jenest explained nautical stones attached to block are proposed for the Scott Street wall. Handmade brick with a blue stone cap is also recommended as an alternative.

Councilwoman Beer moved to use the brick and stone along the wall. Councilman Keyserling gave second. Council members Beer, Keyserling, and Rauch voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Glover voted nay. The motion passed 3 to 1.

Scott Street: A brick field with blue stone in between, similar to the primary paths are proposed for Scott Street.

Councilwoman Beer moved to approve the use of a brick field with stone banding on Scott Street. Councilman Keyserling gave second. Council members Beer and Rauch voted in favor the motion. Councilmen Glover and Keyserling voted nay.

Councilman Keyserling moved to use brick on the entire street. Councilman Glover gave second. Mr. Jenest asked if the stone could be considered along the side of the street for consistency because everywhere else brick is used there is also stone. He suggested this be revisited later.

Councilman Glover moved to table this motion.

Granite: Mr. Jenest asked Council to consider using granite as a border to separate the planting beds from the lawn.

On motion by Councilwoman Beer, second by Councilman Glover, Council voted to use granite as a border.

Deborah Johnson, Historic Review Board member, questioned whether the change of materials should come back before the Historic Review Board. The mayor referred to a similar situation with streetscape which did not go before the Board a second time. He asked how this is different. She replied these are elements that are important to the design of the Park and the entrances to the buildings. She noted a recent project in the Point that the Board was required to review the items that pertained to the building. The mayor said in his opinion, there is no difference between civic and commercial projects and the City should follow its laws. Councilman Keyserling agreed and said the Park should be treated like a commercial project and take the changes to the Board. The City Manager pointed out that the staff has reviewed the materials and their interpretation is that it is not necessary; however, Council can decide differently. He added that public input has been received and the Planning staff has reviewed the material at length with experts who design parks and the process needs to move forward. Mr. Jenest stated that if it goes to the Board again and is not approved that will put the project behind schedule. Ms. Johnson said the Board gave final approval with the understanding that they would see an example of the pavers leading into the building.

Councilman Keyserling moved to take the pavilion floor back before the Board. Mayor Rauch passed the gavel to mayor pro tem Beer and gave second. Council members Rauch and Keyserling voted in favor of the motion. Council members Beer and Glover voted nay. The motion failed.

Public Art: Councilwoman Beer made a motion to recommend the four areas of the Park proposed by Mr. Jenest, along the blank wall on Scott Street, three seating areas, and the large paved areas, to the Beaufort Public Art Commission. Councilman Glover gave second.

Councilman Keyserling suggested the Commission be involved in the process. Mr. Jenest said they would like to help develop the RFPs to be sure it is in keeping with what their company is proposing. The mayor said the resolution set out 1% of the project budget to be used for public art which in this case is \$45,000. This amount probably will not fund art for all four areas. The commission will be asked to consider these areas and make recommendations to Council as to what art will be suitable.

Council voted unanimously to submit these areas to the Art Commission for consideration.

Area # 1 : Quiet Garden - Mr. Jenest said there is the option of telling the history of Beaufort through plaques in this area. There will be trees, seating, a quiet water feature, landscaping, and possibly art. The three existing plaques will be relocated together in another location of the Park.

Councilman Glover made a motion to keep the six existing plaques in the garden area. Councilman Keyserling said there are different venues throughout the Park for performances and asked if the Garden area could be used for small performances. Mr. Jenest stated the grade will be flat with twelve benches and it could accommodate smaller performing groups. Councilwoman Beer gave second.

The mayor said those monuments were placed there by people who expected them to remain there and he doesn't object to moving them around in the general area but not moving them out of the Park. Mr. Jenest explained they are comfortable with placing the bust of Thomas Heyward, the Boy Scout and the Viet Nam memorials in that same area. However, a decision has not been made for relocating the three plaques. He suggested placing them on the blank walls of the entrance/restroom buildings. That structure will not be in place right away which poses a problem. Where can they be kept until that time.

The motion to keep the existing plaques and memorials in the area of the garden passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Keyserling, second by Councilman Glover, Council accepted the proposed plan for the garden.

Area #2 : Northern Expansion (area behind buildings)

Councilwoman Beer moved to approve raising the level of the area behind the two restaurants and the bank to the height of the Park to allow seating and easier access for people to use the Park. Councilman Glover gave second. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Jenest stated sleeves will be put in place to accommodate temporary fencing during events.

Area #3: Play Area - The mayor said his only concern is that the pickets be used for a double sided fence to remember the people who built the playground six years ago. Mr. Jenest asked that they be given time to make recommendations on the use of the pickets.

Councilman Keyserling suggested allowing ColeJenest & Stone time to rethink the use of the pickets because something is needed to symbolize the originators of the play area. The mayor agreed that those pickets have to be used in some way and not just place the names on something. Council concurred.

Remainder of Playground: On motion by Councilman Keyserling, second by Councilwoman Beer, Council accepted the playground design.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

BILL RAUCH, MAYOR

COUNCILWOMAN DONNIE ANN BEER

COUNCILMAN FRANK GLOVER

COUNCILMAN GARY B. FORDHAM

COUNCILMAN BILLY KEYSERLING

ATTEST:

BEVERLY W. GAY, CITY CLERK