



## Design Review Board Meeting

### Chairman

JAMES C. ATKINS

### Vice Chairman

ERIC WALSNOVICH

### Board Members

KRIS FELDMANN

DENISE PROCIDA

JOHN TETER

VACANT

VACANT

### County Administrator

MICHAEL MOORE

### Council Liaison

PAULA BROWN

### Clerk to Council

SARAH W. BROCK

### Staff Support

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# Design Review Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 2:30 PM

Large Meeting Room, Grace Coastal Church

15 Williams Drive, Okatie, SC 29909

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 MINUTES – July 10, 2025
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 7, 2025
5. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (Comments are limited to 3 minutes)

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## ACTION ITEMS

6. **NEW BUSINESS:** None
7. **OLD BUSINESS:**  
  
[A.](#) Sam's Club & Fuel Station Repainting Project, 14 & 20 Bluffton Road, Bluffton – Final (Revisit)

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## OTHER BUSINESS

8. **NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING** – 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 4, 2025, at Grace Coastal Church, 15 Williams Drive, Okatie, SC 29909
9. **ADJOURNMENT**



**BEAUFORT COUNTY**  
**DESIGN REVIEW BOARD (DRB) MINUTES**  
July 10, 2025, Grace Coastal Church, 15 Williams Drive, Okatie, SC

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**Members Present:** James Atkins, Eric Walsnovich and Denise Procida

**Members Absent:** Kris Feldmann and John Teter

**Staff Present:** Nancy Moss, Beaufort County Community Development Department

**Guests:**

Stokes Toyota Service Center Addition Project: Tim Probst, PDG Architects; Jeff Ackerman, Carolina Engineering; and Josh Tiller, J.K. Tiller Associates

Mercedes-Benz Expansion Project: Cord McLean, JMX Design; and, Birkie Ayer, Ayer Design Group

No members of the public were in attendance.

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1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Board had a discussion about whether there was a meeting quorum with three of the five Board members present. It was determined that there was a quorum. Chairman Atkins called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.
2. **FOIA:** Chairman Atkins said that “public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act”.
3. **MINUTES:** Chairman Atkins asked if there were comments on the June 5, 2025, meeting minutes. Ms. Procida motioned to approve the minutes as prepared. Mr. Walsnovich seconded to approve. Motion carried with the approval of Ms. Procida and Mr. Walsnovich. Mr. Atkins abstained from voting.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** There was no public comment.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Stokes Toyota Service Center Addition and Parking Lot Improvements Project, 3557 Trask Parkway – Beaufort - Conceptual:**

Ms. Moss provided the project background. Mr. Atkins asked for public comment, but no comments were made. Tim Probst, the architect for the project, made the presentation for the project. He stated that the parapet roof for the service center was lowered as much as possible but had to be high enough to accommodate the lifts and to hide the rooftop equipment from the parkway. Mr. Tiller said that there was a lot of existing plant materfillede west buffer, that the

existing driveway cut off Trask Parkway would be closed and filled in with plantings and that a widened foundation buffer fronting the new service center was being treated as a highway buffer with overstory, sweetbay magnolias and shrubs.

Ms. Procida stated that her main concern was that the front of the main dealership building won't be seen with the service center addition being built closest to the parkway. Mr. Ackerman said that ideally, they would have preferred to shift the service center addition back but that there is an existing 50' powerline easement behind the building that constrains the site. Ms. Procida asked what date the original dealership was built. Mr. Ackerman said that it was permitted in 2005 and completed sometime in 2006. Ms. Procida said that due to the dealership's age, it will be a challenge for the service center to match the existing dealership.

Mr. Walsnovich said that he had no comments regarding the architecture, that it achieved what they are trying to do and that it made sense. He said that landscape-wise, more overstory versus understory trees should be the goal from property corner to property corner along the front and to provide calculations every 100' to show that the buffer meets the planting requirements. Mr. Tiller asked if the front foundation buffer plantings could count toward the requirements. Mr. Walsnovich stated that they could. He said that he liked the layering of the plants but suggested to change out the oakleaf hydrangea because it would be borderline in the afternoon sun and would scorch and burn. Mr. Walsnovich stated again that he would like to see more overstory trees than understory trees and to specify 7-gallon shrubs for large shrubs versus 3-gallon and that hopefully the contractor will follow the planting mix proposed in the new planting areas where the old pavement existed because he suspected that the soil compaction percentages would be high. He said that the planting scheme was nice.

Mr. Atkins said that the addition looked great. He suggested that the ACM panels align with the tunnel parapet, but otherwise it looks much better than what's there. He said that the ACM panels will be ok because they are being used on a limited basis and match the existing dealership architecture. Mr. Probst stated that they tried to minimize the use of the ACM panels. Mr. Atkins said to look at the existing foundation plantings in front of the dealership building and to supplement where needed.

Mr. Walsnovich made a motion to approve this project subject to the following conditions:

- Pull back the ACM panels to align with the tunnel parapet wall
- Extend the buffer plantings along the entire frontage to meet the proper overstory, understory and shrub counts. Provide calculations every 100' to show that the buffer meets the planting requirements. The front foundation plantings can count toward the plant requirements count. Provide more overstory trees than understory trees.
- Look at the existing foundation plantings in front of the dealership building and supplement where needed.
- The building addition must be attenuated.
- Reconsider using the oakleaf hydrangea and change it out with a more suitable shrub.
- Upsize the large shrub size from 3-gallon to 7-gallon.

Ms. Procida seconded the motion.

Mr. Atkins asked the Board if a discussion was needed. There was no discussion.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS:**

### **A. Mercedes-Benz of Hilton Head Building Additions and Parking Lot Expansion Project, 155 Fording Island Road – Bluffton – Final:**

Ms. Moss provided the project background. Mr. Atkins asked for public comment, but no comments were made. Cord McLean, the architect for the project, and Birk Ayer, the Civil Engineer for the project, co-presented for the project. Mr. McLean read from the conceptual DRB action form point-by-point and summarized how they addressed each comment. Mr. Ayer said that additional shrubs were added in front of Honda to comply with today's Code. He said that three crape myrtles and three failing oaks were not mitigated.

Ms. Procida said that she liked the elevations a lot. She referred to the west elevation and said that the two trellis' should align with the window shutters and that the windows should be centered between the jointing and to extend the black water table to the back corner of the building. She asked how the roofs drained and whether scuppers and downspouts would be proposed on the back because they were not shown on the elevations. Mr. McLean said that scuppers would be proposed and that the downspouts would be built internally.

Mr. Walsnovich said that he appreciated all the changes made. He said that he loved the brackets added to the roofs at the entrances and agreed with Ms. Procida's comments. He stated that the light poles cannot be over 20' in height and that the plant schedule should list 1.5" caliper understory trees. He said that he appreciated the extent of buffer plantings being proposed and the calculations listed on the plans, but that the calculations should be broken-up for every 100' of buffer to verify the plant counts are being met. He said that tree mitigation was not a concern due to the number of overstory trees being proposed but that he did want to see a tree survey for the existing highway buffer along Highway 278. Mr. Walsnovich asked that an alternate pavement should be proposed at the tree islands and ends of parking bays because gravel was not considered pervious.

Mr. Atkins said that overall, the building looked good, but that the "swoosh" bothered him and that he's cautious of having these types of branding images for the moment in time. He said that the dealership will change its branding in the future and instead of the building architecture appearing timeless. He said that the speed doors align with the primary driveway cut and is not his favorite feature. He stated that he was hesitant about expanding the parking lot adjacent to Graves Road but said it would be better than the grass parking that currently exists. Mr. Atkins said that the rendering does not match the "super white" color on the material board and requested that actual color samples be provided to the DRB to ensure it is not a black & white building because that is not what the renderings represent. Mr. Atkins said that he was concerned that the relocated trees may die and wondered if the client would be better served if new larger caliper trees were installed.

versus relocating the trees. He said that the applicant should have the option to install larger caliper trees versus relocating the existing trees as mitigation.

Ms. Procida and Mr. Walsnovich made a motion to approve this project subject to the following conditions:

- Align the overhead door trellis' with the window shutters on the west elevation.
- Adjust the placement of the windows on the west elevation to align with the joints.
- Extend the brick water table on the west elevation to the back corner of the addition.
- Clarify the overflow areas on the backside & service area (scuppers & downspout locations).
- Provide physical material & color samples.

Mr. Walsnovich added to the motion:

- Demonstrate how the highway buffers meet the planting requirements every 100'.
- Specify how the project meets the tree mitigation requirements. The applicant has the option to install larger caliper trees in lieu of transplanting the crape myrtles, oaks and bald cypress. The palm trees can be transplanted.
- Upsize the understory trees to 1.5" listed in the Plant Schedule.
- Show the light pole locations on the landscape plan
- Lighting Plan: match lighting plan site plan with the overall site plan.

Mr. Walsnovich seconded the motion.

Mr. Akins asked the Board if a discussion was needed. There was no discussion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Procida read the standard final condition "the building additions, landscaping, and lighting must be built/installed according to the plans reviewed and approved by the DRB. The material and color board reviewed and approved by the DRB must be adhered to during construction. Any changes to the approved plans or submittals must be requested for and submitted to the DRB for formal approval before changes are made".

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- 7. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** Mr. Atkins stated that the next scheduled meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 7, 2025, at Grace Coastal Church, 15 Williams Drive, Okatie, SC 29909.
- 8. ADJOURNMENT:** Ms. Procida made a motion to close the meeting, Mr. Walsnovich seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.



**BEAUFORT COUNTY**  
**DESIGN REVIEW BOARD (DRB) MINUTES**  
**August 7, 2025, Grace Coastal Church, 15 Williams Drive, Okatie, SC**

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**Members Present:** Eric Walsnovich, Kris Feldmann and John Teter

**Members Absent:** James Atkins and Denise Procida

**Staff Present:** Nancy Moss, Beaufort County Community Development Department

**Guests:**

Stokes Toyota Service Center Addition Project: Tim Probst, PDG Architects; Jeff Ackerman, Carolina Engineering; and Josh Tiller, J.K. Tiller Associates

Sam's Club & Fuel Station Repainting Project: Isaac Grayson, BRR Architecture Inc.

No members of the public were in attendance.

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1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chairman Walsnovich called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.
2. **FOIA:** Vice Chairman Walsnovich said that “public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act”.
3. **MINUTES:** Vice Chairman Walsnovich asked if there were comments on the July 10, 2025, meeting minutes. Mr. Teter and Mr. Feldmann did not attend this meeting so it was decided that this vote would be tabled until the next meeting.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** There was no public comment. Mr. Walsnovich said that per the applicant's request, the Stokes Toyota project would be discussed first.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**5. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. Stokes Toyota Service Center Addition and Parking Lot Improvements Project, 3557 Trask Parkway – Beaufort – Final:**

Ms. Moss provided the project background. Mr. Walsnovich asked for public comment, but no comments were made. Tim Probst, the Architect for the project, made the presentation. He said that the red ACM eyebrow color would match the existing red color on the dealership building.

Mr. Feldmann referred to the elevation sheet and questioned why the ACM panels were extended. Mr. Probst said that it was extended to align with the joints. Mr. Feldmann did not have any other comments.

Mr. Teter said that he was not at the last meeting but that the building looked good.

Mr. Walsnovich stated that he had no comments about the architecture. He said that the pavement next to the tree islands must be pervious per 5.8.80 in the Code, that the landscape plan looked great and that the lighting plan was difficult to read and couldn't determine which light poles were new or to be removed. He said that light fixture cut-sheets should be submitted and that the minimum/maximum average footcandles seemed to be met, but the footcandle values at the front property line were too high and had to be reduced.

Mr. Feldmann made a motion to approve this project under the following conditions:

- The parking spaces next to the tree islands must have pervious pavement.
- Ensure that the new red ACM trim matches the red color on the existing dealership building.
- Submit a revised lighting plan that clearly shows which light poles are to be removed and being proposed, with reduced footcandle levels at the front property line, pole heights specified, and light fixture cut sheets attached.

Mr. Teter seconded the motion.

Mr. Walsnovich asked if a discussion was needed. There was no discussion.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. Sam's Club & Fuel Station Repainting Project, 14 & 20 Bluffton Road – Bluffton - Final:**

Ms. Moss provided the project background. Mr. Walsnovich asked for public comment, but no comments were made. Isaac Grayson, the architect for the project, attended the meeting via telephone.

Mr. Teter said that the proposed colors were a good improvement over the existing colors.

Mr. Feldmann said that the proposed gray colors were acceptable but that he did not think the proposed blue facade color met the criteria because it was too bright and is not being applied as an accent on the entire wall.

Mr. Walsnovich agreed with Mr. Feldmann's comments. He said that the blue color should be used on the signage panel background. He said that the blue walls would be counted toward the signage square footage calculations and that they were limited to 149 +/- square feet of signage on the entire building.

Mr. Feldmann said that the blue accent color on the Sam's Club walls did not qualify as accents but that the blue fascia and gables on the gasoline canopy did qualify.

Mr. Grayson wanted to confirm that the Design Review Board was not pleased with the tone and extent of blue being proposed on the Sam's Club walls and the Board agreed. He said that they had another option with a Sam's Club wall sign with a blue background with light lettering. The Board members were more receptive to this option and Mr. Feldmann stated that the fuel canopy should take on a similar scheme as Sam's Club and that the blue color should not be applied on the gables & fascia.

Mr. Teter moved to Table this project to allow the applicant to revise the renderings by removing the bright blue wall color and to work through the signage calculations to ensure they were meeting the Master Sign Plan requirements.

Mr. Feldmann seconded the motion.

Mr. Walsnovich asked if a discussion was needed. Mr. Grayson asked what the next steps would be. Mr. Walsnovich said to revise the elevations and bring it back to the next DRB meeting for review.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

7. **NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** Mr. Walsnovich stated that the next scheduled meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 4, 2025, at Grace Coastal Church, 15 Williams Drive, Okatie, SC 29909.
8. **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Teter made a motion to close the meeting, Mr. Feldmann seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

## Sam's Club & Fuel Station Exterior Painting Project

<b>Type of Submission:</b>	<b>Final (Revisit)</b>
<b>Developer:</b>	Sam's Club
<b>Architect:</b>	John Frank, BRR Architecture, LLC
<b>Landscape Architect:</b>	N/A
<b>Engineer:</b>	N/A
<b>Type of Project:</b>	Commercial
<b>Location:</b>	14 & 20 Bluffton Road, Bluffton
<b>Zoning Designation:</b>	C5 Regional Center Mixed Use

The project consists of changing the existing exterior brown & tan color scheme to a three-toned gray color scheme at Sam's Club retail store, and a one-story fuel station and gasoline canopy. These structures were constructed in 2017 with Sam's Club on a 12.52-acre parcel and the fuel station on a 1.01-acre outparcel complete with parking areas, landscaping, lighting, stormwater ponds and infrastructure. This site is bound by Highway 278 to the north, Bluffton Road to the east and Red Cedar Road to the south.

The buildings have bronze metal seam roofing and awnings, and the facade is clad with a combination of brown split block and cream, tan & brown stucco with brown brick accents. The applicant is seeking approval from the Board to repaint the exterior stucco & split block facade materials light and dark gray. The brown brick accents and metal roofing will remain unpainted. No other building alterations or site modifications are being proposed.

This project was reviewed by the Design Review Board on August 7, 2025, and was tabled to allow the applicant to revise the drawings to address the Board's comments:

- The gray colors proposed looked acceptable, but the blue did not qualify as an accent color and does not meet the color standards in the Code and would not receive approval. ***The blue facade walls at Sam's Club & on the gables & fascia at the fuel Station has been changed out to gray.***
- The blue color must be muted and can be used on the wall sign panel background. ***The blue color being proposed does not match the specified blue color that is listed in the Sign Master Plan.***
- The fuel canopy should take on a similar scheme as Sam's Club and the blue color on the fascia and gables should be removed. ***Complied (Sheet A2.2).***
- Please revise the elevations per the comments listed above and per the option described by the applicant at the meeting. ***Complied.***
- Work through the signage calculations to ensure the wall signage did not exceed the maximum square footage allowed per the Master Sign Plan requirements. ***The applicant submitted a signage exhibit (Sheet A2.1) which proposes two Sam's Club wall signs totaling 148.69 SF which is under the maximum signage square feet allowed (149.53 SF).***

### Staff Comment:

1. The blue color proposed (PMS 300C) on the wall signage background is slightly brighter than the existing blue (PMS 288C) which is a pre-approved Beaufort County blue signage color and listed on page 7 of the Master sign plan.

END OF REPORT