



Beaufort County Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting

Chairman

Natalie Hefter

Vice Chairman

Katrina Epps

Board Members

Kathryn Mixon

Sally Murphy

Cheryl Steele

Katherine Pringle

County Administrator

ERIC GREENWAY

Staff Support

ROBERT MERCHANT

Administration Building

Beaufort County Government

Robert Smalls Complex

100 Ribaut Road

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Historic Preservation Review Board Agenda

Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 1:00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. FOIA – PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PUBLISHED, POSTED, AND DISTRIBUTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 21, 2021
6. CITIZEN COMMENTS (*Comments are limited to 3 minutes.*)

ACTION ITEMS

7. Fort Fremont History Center Naming Request
8. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes
Historic Preservation Review Board
January 21, 2021, 1:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Noah Krepps, Beaufort County Planning and Zoning Long-Range Planner, called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Katrina Epps, Vice Chairman
Sally Murphy
Cheryl Steele
Kathryn Mixon
Katherine Pringle

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Natalie Hefter, Chairman

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert Merchant, Beaufort County Planning and Zoning Acting Director
Noah Krepps, Beaufort County Planning and Zoning Long Range Planner
Diane McMaster, Beaufort County Planning and Zoning Senior Administrative Specialist

PUBLIC COMMENT (non-agenda items):

None.

MINUTES:

The Vice Chairman entertained a motion to approve the minutes presented. Ms. Sally Murphy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Katherine Pringle, to approve the June 18, 2020, minutes as submitted. There was unanimous approval from Board members.

Those in attendance recognized Rosalyn Browne for her service during her Historic Preservation Review Board tenure. Ms. Browne resigned her position effective 01/14/21.

NEW BUSINESS: St. Luke's United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall Addition

The applicant is St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Architect: Sam McCleskey, McCleskey and Associates Architects PA The Church is located at 3080 Okatie Highway, Okatie, SC.

Beaufort County Planning Staff neither approves nor denies the proposed construction project. Staff stated that consideration should be given to the historic tombstones as well as the design and materials selected.

The Church's Building Committee is proposing to construct a 446-square-foot addition to its existing fellowship hall with no plans to alter the historic church structure. It was noted that the Church has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1987. Ms. Katherine Pringle stated that she was under the impression the entire parcel was listed on the National Registry.

Mr. Sam McCleskey and Mr. Jim Seymore, St. Luke's UMC Building Committee Chairman, answered questions and shared construction details with the Board. Board members expressed concern regarding construction and the close proximity to tombstones, unmarked grave sites, and the historic Church itself. Ms. Katrina Epps suggested Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) be used prior to construction.

Ms. Katherine Pringle made a motion to adopt and approve the proposed construction, seconded by Ms. Cheryl Steele. The motion contained one (1) stipulation as follows: The Board would adopt and approve the proposed project with a strong recommendation that a form of ground surveying, GPR, be used prior to construction. There was unanimous approval from Board members.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Vice Chairman Katrina Epps adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Fort Fremont History Center Naming Request

Applicant: Friends of Fort Fremont
Location: Fort Fremont Preserve
Application Type: Naming/Renaming

The Friends of Fort Fremont are requesting that the soon to be completed Fort Fremont History Center be named the Pete Richards History Center. Pete Richards was the founder and original leader of the Friends of Fort Fremont and was instrumental in transforming the Fort Fremont Preserve from a little known historic ruin into a historic park with interpretive signage, a visitor center, pavilion, diorama and other amenities. The attached application provides a good overview of Pete Richards' life and contribution to Fort Fremont.

Beaufort County Policy for Naming and Renaming Landmarks: In 1998, County Council adopted a policy statement for naming and renaming landmarks. The policy requires that any naming of a County site or landmark be submitted to the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) for their review and recommendation to County Council. The policy statement specifically states historic names can be used by "citizens who have made a significant contribution to the history of Beaufort County, South Carolina, or the United States, and who have been deceased a *minimum of 5 years*." The policy statement also recommends "if Council wishes to honor a distinguished citizen by naming an existing facility after them, the appropriate method would be to add "In Memory of (name)" to the existing name."

Staff Recommendation:

It is important to note that the proposed naming of the Pete Richards History Center is not consistent with Beaufort County's policy statement for naming and renaming landmarks for the reasons stated above. Staff also has concerns that while Pete Richards was a great community leader and contributed to many of the improvements made to Fort Fremont, his name is not associated with the Spanish American War era or with coastal batteries of the late 19th and early 20th century, which is the focus of the history center. This may provide confusion to out-of-town visitors of the center.

Attachments:

1. Application
2. Beaufort County Policy for Naming and Renaming Landmarks



Date: June 21, 2021

To: Beaufort County Historic Preservation Review Board

From: The Friends of Fort Fremont

Subject: Proposed Name for the Beaufort County History Center at the Fort Fremont Preserve

The Friends of Fort Fremont propose that the newly constructed Beaufort County History Center (HC) be named The Pete Richard's History Center.

Pete Richards was the founder and original leader of Friends of Fort Fremont. His energy, enthusiasm, and dogged determination transformed an unknown historical ruin into a recognized historical relic of interest to many. There would be no public awareness of Fort Fremont, the citizen's friends' group would not exist, no signs or cell phone app explaining the fort and its significance would be in place, the unique diorama of the fort in 1905 and especially the history center would never have come to fruition without Pete's vision, enthusiasm, passion, and undying energy.

Before Pete's so-called "retirement" to Beaufort, he served as a Navy officer on the Mekong River during the Vietnam War, made a career in industry, and was elected to the Atlanta Board of Education. This was but a precursor for what this human dynamo would accomplish for his fellow-citizens in Beaufort County. He spearheaded the local drive to save the USS Olympia (and even had us on the final list of potential homes for Admiral Dewey's old flag ship). Although once a city boy, he embraced his new Lowcountry home. His leadership in the Master Naturalist program and his passion for birds and the Audubon Society at Fripp Island brought the love of birding to hundreds of people and especially to children through the "Birthday for The Birds" event in Port Royal each May. Pete's efforts were also critical in identification and recognition of six Beaufort County barrier islands as a recognized Important Birding Area (IBA).

The new center exists because of Pete's passionate persuasion of the matter before the county over many years. Pete was a unique individual who passionately worked to make Beaufort County a better place for everyone. Naming the HC for him would be an appropriate recognition.

Beaufort County Policy PS-10 requires that a candidate be deceased a minimum of five years. Pete died on February 29, 2020. Because of his significant contribution to Beaufort County and specifically to Fort Fremont, we request an exemption to the 5-year requirement.

Endorsements are attached from Dr. Chris Marsh, Spring Island Trust Executive Director; Mr. Gary Kubic, Beaufort County Administrator (2004 – 2017); Mr. Ian Hill, Beaufort County Historic Preservationist, Retired.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. A grand opening of the HC is scheduled in the fall of 2021. We request a decision before the dedication of the building. If you require any additional information, please contact Kathryn Sommerville Mixon via email at k.mixon1879@gmail.com or by phone at (803) 424-5878.

Cc: Chris DiJulio-Cook, Senior Administrative Specialist, Planning and Zoning Department
Alice Howard, Chair Natural Resources Committee

Attachment: Letters of Endorsement

KSM:ww

SPRING ISLAND TRUST

June 16, 2021

Dear Beaufort County Historic Preservation Review Board:

I am writing a letter of support for naming the Fort Fremont History Center for Pete Richards, the volunteer who worked for over a decade to make this park a reality.

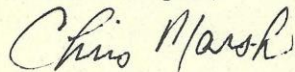
Almost two decades ago I suggested to Pete that he might want to adopt development of the Fort Fremont Park as his Master Naturalist project. Pete then did what Pete always did so well – through his enthusiasm and organizational skills he got others involved in helping develop the concept and recommend the solutions needed to transform a dream into a reality. He encouraged others when they were being productive, handled conflict with diplomacy, and demonstrated the fine art of polite persistence. Each time he encountered an obstacle, he re-evaluated the situation and either used a different approach or waited until conditions were more favorable to press forward again. Throughout this process he remained a positive person who obviously enjoyed people and got joy from seeing people work together to accomplish a shared goal.

Pete demonstrated to the rest of us how to bring out the best in people. Time and time again, he did this for the residents of Beaufort County. Examples include Pete helping co-found the Lowcountry Master Naturalist Association, expanding the reach of the Fripp Audubon Club, getting the National Audubon Society to designate the Trenchard's Inlet-Harbor Island area as a nationally recognized IBA (Important Bird Area), highlighting the importance of the rookery in Port Royal by creating an annual "Birthday for the Birds" event, and establishing the "Friends of the Port Royal Cypress Wetlands" organization.

In summary, naming the History Center after Pete Richards would not only acknowledge an individual worthy of recognition, but would tell future generations this is the kind of person they should emulate.

Thank you in advance for giving this request serious consideration.

With warmest regards,



Christopher P. Marsh, Ph.D.
Executive Director

May 24, 2021

Dear Mr. Lee:

During my four decades of public service, I have learned to recognize how rare it is to find an individual who puts others above self. Pete Richards was such a person. Pete loved his Beaufort County home and he recognized how important it is to preserve its historical past for future generations. Pete was not a lobbyist, he was an historical preservation enthusiast. He was a gentle man who reached out his hand for support and found mine. Pete was able to teach me the importance of Fort Fremont to the community and to our country. He quickly gained my support. Last year I lost a friend and the community lost a visionary.

Now it is time to honor Pete for his work and dedication. Sometimes exceptions to the rules are necessary, especially when a rule prevents us from doing the right thing.

Our focus should be on Pete's character and his accomplishments and name the Fort Fremont Center, "The Pete Richards Fort Fremont Center".

Finally, I would like to quote Cicero who said, "Honor is the reward of virtue."

Pete earned it.

Sincerely yours,
Gary Kubic

From: **Ian Hill** <ianhillpersonal@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Jun 3, 2021 at 2:23 PM

Subject: Re: Pete

To: joe lee <jlee9867@gmail.com>

I endorse the naming of the FT. Fremont center after Pete Richards and ask Beaufort County to waive the rule requiring one be dead for 5 years in order for a county facility to be named after them.

Ian Hill, Advisory Board Member

BEAUFORT COUNTY POLICY FOR NAMING AND RENAMING LANDMARKS

Beaufort County is blessed with a number of historic buildings, sites, and events that reflect our long and significant history. It is important when such sites are named or renamed that the historic names associated with these sites be retained. Changing the historic name of a landmark should be done only in extraordinary circumstances. If Council wishes to honor a distinguished citizen by naming an existing facility after them, the appropriate method would be to add “In Memory of (name)” to the existing name.

Prior to County Council approving the naming or renaming of any County site or landmark, the proposed name shall be submitted for review by the Beaufort County Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB). The submittal shall include the proposed name change, the reason for the change, and any available historic information regarding the site and the proposed name. After reviewing the proposal, the HPRB shall forward its recommendation to County Council.

Criteria for Naming or Renaming Landmarks

Historic Names

- A. Citizens who have made a significant contribution to the history of Beaufort County, South Carolina, or the United States, and who have been deceased a minimum of 5 years.

Examples: elected officials, community leaders, educators, military heroes, and individuals involved in the arts or athletics, etc.

- B. Places that have played a significant role in the history of Beaufort County, South Carolina, or the United States.

Examples: battle sites, sites associated with early explorers, or the sites of significant buildings, bridges, boat landings, and ferries

- C. Events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

Examples: events related to the Revolutionary or Civil Wars, civil rights movement, or maritime history of the County

Native American Names

Names associated with the long habitation of Native Americans in the Beaufort County area.

Examples: rivers, islands, settlements, and indian towns.

Natural Features

Names associated with nature that are indigenous to Beaufort County.

Examples: animals, birds, flowers, trees, marshes, and geological features.

Adopted this 22nd day of June, 1998.


COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

BY:



H. Emmett McCracken, Jr.
Chairman

ATTEST:



Suzanne DeRover
Clerk to Council