

Committee on Special Facilities

February 6, 2025

A meeting of the Committee on Special Facilities was held on this date, beginning at 4:04 p.m. over Zoom.

PRESENT: Councilmember Karl Brady (Chair), Councilmember Robert Mitchell (Vice-Chair), Councilmember Jim McBride, Councilmember William Tinkler, and Mayor William S. Cogswell

Also Present: Romaine Heyward - Special Facilities Director, Matthew Frohlich - Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Magalie Creech, Melissa Cruthirds, Elizabeth Dieck, Donna Constance, and Philip Clapper

Chair Brady called the meeting to order.

Invocation

The meeting was opened with a moment of silence led by Chair Brady.

Approval of the October 3, 2024 minutes

On a motion by Councilmember Tinkler, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2024, Special Facilities Committee meeting.

Special Facilities Update

Ms. Heyward said most buildings were closed Wednesday through Friday because of the ice storm. They reopened on Monday. The Old Exchange was open on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday, they made \$3,500 on admissions, and on Sunday, they made \$1,300.

The Dock Street Theatre was closed to the public, but the Charleston Stage staff and workers were getting ready for their show, 39 Steps, which opened on January 29th and ran through February 9th. There was another leak on the third floor from the ice storm, and the Parks Department was aware of the leak and was working on fixing it. Charleston Stage will move out next week, and Cultural Affairs will be in the building. They were doing two events, The Power of Our Stories and a musical performance by Mike Brown and friends.

Angel Oak was closed because of the icy roads. Mr. Kronsberg and his crew worked through the weekend to clear the road for cars to pass. The Angel Oak was reopened on Monday. Ms. Demosthenes was president of the Lowcountry Land Trust but was now the president of the Land Trust Alliance in D.C. Ms. Sydney Cook was named president and CEO and was made aware of all that was happening at Angel Oak.

Councilmember McBride said a family that lived near Angel Oak had people parking and blocking access to their property. Because this was a persistent problem, they did not leave their home at certain times of the day because of the many visitors on that road.

Ms. Heyward asked if they had put up no-parking signs.

Councilmember McBride said he would keep them updated on this situation.

Ms. Heyward said they would help out in any way they could.

Mr. Frohlich said they would get with Mr. Mathis and Traffic and Transportation to see if they could have the City sign shop make something official from the City and install it in the right of way.

Ms. Heyward said the Old Slave Mart was open on Saturdays, but in February, they opened on Sundays for Black History Month.

They had a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Maritime Center for the Boeing Lab, which the Mayor and Councilmembers had attended. They still had issues from Tropical Storm Debbie because most of the docks were still damaged, which made the dock area inaccessible to transient boaters. Also, the fuel pump area was not running. While the fuel pump area was being taken apart to be fixed and replaced, they found some unforeseen damage and would be down until further notice. It was suggested that the City put a seawall at the entrance of the Maritime dock to mitigate some of the damage from the wind and water.

With no further business, the Committee adjourned the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

Clerk of Council's Office

Donna Constance