

**Walterboro City Council**  
**Work Session**  
**Kickoff Design Work for Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary Discovery Center**  
**December 12, 2016**  
**4:00 P.M.**

**Present were:**

Mayor Bill Young, Council Members Jimmy Syfrett, Paul Siegel, Tom Lohr, Bobby Bonds, and Judy Bridge. City Manager Jeff Molinari and City Clerk Betty Hudson were also present. Council Member James Broderick and Attorney George Cone were absent.

Also, present from McMillan Pazdan Smith were: Paulette Myers, Nick Galizia (MPS), Andrew Stever (Square Point) and Warren Pruitt (ADC, Landscape).

There were approximately 3 persons present in the audience: Michelle Strickland, Adam Davis and Charlie Sweat.

Mayor Young called the meeting to order and entered into the Work Session for the Kickoff Design for the Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary Discovery Center.

City Manager Molinari then introduced Ms. Paulette Myers of McMillan Pazdan Smith. She is here to do a presentation on the Discovery Center Project Kickoff. He also stated that Ms. Myers will take Council through a few exercises to get your thoughts and get this project kicked off. We are very excited to have McMillan Pazdan Smith with us and we are excited to get this project started.

Ms. Paulette Myers opened by thanking Council for having them back and for letting them help with this project. We are excited to do it. She then introduced the members of her project team: Nick Galizia, Andrew Stever and Warren Pruitt.

She then provided Council with the following agenda items: She reminded Council that this is a Work Session and that she was looking for feedback from Council on their ideas:

**CASE STUDIES:**

Using an overhead projector, Mr. Nick Galizia showed Council 3 short case studies on other Wildlife Centers that are about the same as the building we are dealing with for a similar type reference. The case studies he presented were:

1) **San Dieguito Lagoon Nature Center**

This building is approximately 6,000 square feet. It's a little more terrain. There are multiple levels. But I think the important thing in looking at this one versus your project is that they incorporated a lot of the same elements. Looking at the overhead slide, he pointed out that in the design of this building, there is an administrative area, a conference room, exhibit space that opens onto a courtroom. There is a multipurpose room and a couple of labs. The multiple purpose room and some restrooms are over here. All of those are centered around this courtyard space. It's kind of an outdoor classroom space that feeds down onto a terrace seating area that is really reminiscent of what we are trying to do with the amphitheater. Again, this building is a little different. It is built into the landscape. There is a lot more tiers. This is a high lead type building. So, it's not so much the design that we are referencing, as much as the programmatic aspect and the size. Ms. Myers reminded Council that the reason we are showing all of these designs, is to see if there is something that you see that might be incorporated into your Discovery Center.

2) **The Ottawa Wildlife Refuge**

Again, looking at a plan. This is a partial plan of the building that has their exhibition space. Again. It is relatively the same size, but what caught my eye about this one before the presentation someone had mentioned the possibility of using the floor to kind of guide you through. And here they actually incorporated some of the mapping of the refuge onto the floor. So, they have their exhibit spaces set up, and here you can see the colors to represent the area of refuge. This is a replica of a hunting lodge, with that small kind of intimate exhibition space.

**Page 2**  
**Walterboro City Council**  
**Work Session**  
**Kickoff Design Work for Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary Discovery Center**  
**December 12, 2016**  
**4:00 P.M.**

3) **Darby Creek**

Again, it is a similar size with similar kind of program with a multipurpose room, some class rooms and a big exhibition space. What I liked about this was the simplicity of the exhibit area, and its multi tier. They have incorporated the exhibits into the ramping as it moves down through the rest of the building. So, they have what they are calling a “live stream,” that replicates a lot of the natural habitats of the area around it. As you can see here, this kind of display setup with the ramp going down the middle is really a simple exhibition area along the side.

Mr. Galizia then said, again those three projects are really just very similar programs, and very similar in size. I just wanted to show them to you really quickly to see if anything jumped out at you as something that you wanted to consider and something we can reference back to.

**VISIONING EXERCISE:**

Ms. Myers then lead Council through the Visioning Exercise.

At this point Mayor Young stated that the last picture you had up there was with the stream running through it. That was similar to the design of the original Discovery Center. We had a stream running through it that rose and fell. It wasn't exactly like that, but it was that kind of idea. Ms. Myers pointed out that this is really a couple of boards with a little interactive display with one big thing. That stream is the one big thing and then everything else is very simple. So, it's kind of interesting.

Ms. Myers then announced that she will conduct the visioning exercise in two ways. I would like to do it with the cards. Maybe get two or three in a group and then we just go through and pick out “great things you'd like to see in here.” Then, we will talk about it as a group and maybe take 10 minutes to do it. Mayor Young invited former Mayor Charlie Sweat to come to the table and join the group.

Mayor Young then mentioned that he had sent pictures of the Lexington Nature Center to Ms. Myers. He said, when he started telling me how successful it has been and what a great project it was, it really made me excited about the possibilities we have here.

Ms. Myers had displays of similar Discovery Centers hanging on the walls in the room. She invited Council to come and look at those to see if there were similar features they liked which could be used in the Walterboro Discovery Center.

Council Member Bridge then said, before we think about the floor and space on the bottom level, it is worth considering using this as level space for events. That area could be designed so that we have a lot of usable space. Council Member Bridge then said, we want to design it so that the community can get a lot of use out of it. In addition to having exhibit spaces for our school children, we could have teaching classes and things like that. I think there will be a lot of social events. There is opportunity for a lot of social events there.

Ms. Myers then allowed Council about ten minutes to walk around the room, look at the displays on the walls and pick out some of the exhibit features they liked or didn't like to use in the Walterboro Discovery Center. She then asked that everyone get in groups of 2 or 3 to report on their findings using the note cards. Brief discussions were held among the individual group members.

Each team then gave the results of their findings/suggestions.

City Manager Molinari summarized the items that his group had picked out. He said, what we liked about it was just the different kiosk that it had. That was an interesting feature. He further stated this is kind of interesting to - where you had stuff that was hanging from the ceiling. Here is another one and it is kind of neat - was the exposed ceiling. This was the live stream.

City Manager Molinari then said, the next one here we just liked how you have this old tree with the Spanish moss. It fits in nicely with what we have in our Sanctuary. And this one right here, there was not anything particularly remarkable about it, but I put a sticky note on it, because in the corner here you can see this large window and that is one of the things that we are going to need to figure out. We've got that large window which faces Hampton Street. I think we are going to want to make a statement there, and what we ultimately want to do with that glass. Concluding he said, we focused more on what we liked.

Next, Mayor Young reported on his group's selections. He stated that he and Charlie Sweat had worked on this. Their comments/suggestions were as follows:

1) I liked this, but it's not necessarily what we want, but we sort of like the concept, as opposed to another one. Mr. Sweat then said, because what it has is a stage with the cover on it, which is one of the things we have been talking about. Then, the amphitheater is out front.

2) Mayor Young then said, this is an amphitheater. Of course, it has a lot of trees and things, but it doesn't show a stage. Mr. Sweat added, yes it has grass in, and that's one of the big things we were looking at doing too.

3) Mayor Young then said, this is a pond with a window in it that shows fish. I don't know how we would do that, but we were just thinking about having this on the inside. We probably don't have a way to really do that, but that is kind of neat. Mayor Young further stated, I think it was mentioned that in the big multipurpose room, there might be an opportunity to have an aquarium or something that would not distract from events.

4) He then went over more suggestions. He said, this is a plant display of some kind, we really didn't have an opinion on that.

5) This is a picture of another amphitheater. We will take it if it's big enough. Here's another amphitheater that does not have any delineated seating. It's just kind of a hill. We did not especially like that as much as the others.

6) Some of these things are like display walls. We really don't know how they would be used, so this did not especially knock us out, but you could possibly do something with them that would. Mr. Sweat said this is a part of the shelving. Mr. Young said, yes, we put a question mark and an "X" beside it, because we were not really sure.

7) The next one - I mean this is very neat and attractive. What it doesn't do to me, it looks like every other Discovery Center thing that you have ever seen. So, from that standpoint, it's not unique. Mr. Sweat said, it's just a standard run of the mill display area. The Mayor added, it's neat and attractive, but I don't know if it has any wow factor to it, but it may be all we can afford, who knows.

8) Speaking on the next item, Mayor Young then stated that this item didn't really knock our socks off, but kind of stood out, because when we had talked about a circular ramp coming down, this kind of looks like something that could be incorporated into the ramp idea. Mr. Sweat added that these were just displays on the wall for the ramp going down. The Mayor added, and we liked this. I mean, if you could do something like this inside, we liked that. We would need to have our kind

**Page 4**  
**Walterboro City Council**  
**Work Session**  
**Kickoff Design Work for Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary Discovery Center**  
**December 12, 2016**  
**4:00 P.M.**

of trees. Mr. Sweat then said, this goes back to the \$4 million display. It's still like what we had going through the middle of the building. Is that the one we couldn't afford? Mayor Young then said, I think that's pretty, but I don't know how we would do it.

A brief discussion was held on the Lexington Nature Center.

Ms. Myers then said since we had a lot of inquiries on the amphitheater, maybe we can talk about that a little bit. I know we talked about the stage in the theater. Maybe some toilets can be placed into the exterior, depending on where you want to locate them. There is a lot of imagery that shows a heart scape, and then a lawn. Then, there is the one that just had a lawn that kind of flowed down. I think maybe that structure would be better. Is that kind of the general consensus? Mayor Young replied, that's kind of what I envisioned. Not necessarily that one, but one with a mix of grass and concrete or stone or something. Ms. Myers then said, so either one of those 3 would be something similar. That's a mixture of art scaling and grass. Mr. Sweat then said, so what you've got for the people who are going to be sitting is on a hard surface, right on the hill. Then, up on the top of it, you've got grass, which gives you that inert feeling - the whole feeling of being back to nature.

Council Member Bridge then said, I like how it all blends. I don't like the white stark difference. The concrete, I don't like the concrete. Mr. Nick Galizia then said, the old difference between the center image up top and the image right below it, is that they used a laid stone, like a stacked stone on the base, the vertical base. The rest of it is still all concrete.

Mayor Young then asked, have you looked at the one at Salem College? They have a nice amphitheater, too, in Winston Salem, NC. I've been there once, but I don't remember a lot about it.

More discussion was had on using stones, bricks or concrete for the amphitheater. Council Member Bonds felt that stones just make it look so much better. Mr. Charlie Sweat felt that stones gave it a different appeal, whereas if you did this out of concrete, all you have to do is to change the tint or the color you spray it. So, when you are actually mixing the concrete, go with a different tone, like instead of the doing the white, do the green. Mayor Young said, I like the stone on the base of it, but to sit on it, a smooth surface of some kind would probably be good for people to sit. Council Member Syfrett felt that the grass would have to be real to fit the theme.

Mr. Stever then asked Council, do you see the amphitheater being used more during the day or at night or both. Mayor Young responded, both. Mr. Stever then asked, what kind of performances do you see it being used for? Council Member Bridge responded, family style things, because I think that is the purpose of this. We'd like to get families and children involved.

Mr. Charlie Sweat then said, in doing that amphitheater, you are also looking at the use of it by people at the Rice Festival for concerts or programs. Here again, you will have family-oriented people sitting there watching a performance of some type. The same could apply for people who use the Colleton Center. Instead of using the stage in the Colleton Center, they can use the stage in the amphitheater and come off with a whole different type of scenario of what could be done.

Council Member Bonds said, I think for every night time performance, you will have 10 day time performances. Right now, when the little girls do their tap recitals at the Rice Festival, they get up on some clanky stage in an asphalt parking lot, but what happens is, Ilona's School of Dance, they can go down to the amphitheater and be able to sit down and have a nice event to watch the kids tap dance. I think you may have some night time events, a concert or things of that nature, but I think that you'll find people using that far more in the day time than at night time.

Mayor Young then said, we have also talked about having the ability to show movies in the summer time and have families there, and also if we want to bring the marine band in or if the high

**Page 5**

**Walterboro City Council**

**Work Session**

**Kickoff Design Work for Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary Discovery Center**

**December 12, 2016**

**4:00 P.M.**

school band wants to do an outside concert or Christmas concert during the Christmas Festival, that will be good. It will be a multi-use thing and like Mr. Bonds has said, we have a lot of activities that go on during the Rice Festival that we really don't have a good place for. So, the stage would need to be big enough to accommodate a band. If we can afford it, we would need some lighting to accommodate different kinds of things and electrical service.

Council Member Bridge then said, we envision that the amphitheater is to be that one thing that nothing else in town has. Now, there is no other place to entertain a large group of people outside. Mr. Stever asked, how large do you think it should be? Ms. Bridge responded 250 people. Mayor Young said, oh no, I think it has to be bigger than that. I think when they talked about one, they showed us one that they thought would seat 800 people. Mr. Galizia then said, the count we have done, just based on square footage, is somewhere north of 600 to 800 people. Mayor Young said, now it might not be that much, but as much as we can. He then noted that Lexington's seating may be 900 people, but they are having 1,800 people show up for events. Now, we are not Lexington. Council Member Bridge felt the number could be around 700. Ms. Myers felt that the target of 600-800 people was a good target to aim for. Mayor Young agreed. He said, we don't have to use it all.

Council Member Bridge reemphasized the outside areas for the amphitheater. She said, I love the natural wooden features. Grouped with Council Member Bonds, Ms. Bridge noted that they had ended up with more examples of outdoor space. We felt like anything outside that we could do is a great use of the money for that spot. It lends itself to different kinds of activities and groups. So, we like natural looking things, like the wood and the grass. We had one in here that had screens, like you would use in some areas outside that you want to have groups or activities going on in different places. Then, we liked this exhibit in there, because it is an interactive thing and I am thinking about a group of kids coming through. They don't want to just look at screens and have areas where all you do is walk through and look. They want hands on. They want to be involved. If you get them involved, they are going to come back. So, in addition to classrooms, we want families coming to our center with the kids wanting to come back and do things. So, we liked the idea to have activity areas in the exhibit area. Council Member Bonds pointed at a display and said, we liked this one because this one looked like any other interpretive center that you've been to, but we think that it's one that you may be able to use and put different things on the way and change them out. Just from a financial standpoint moving forward, we thought of that as something you might want to look at.

Mayor Young then said, going back to the amphitheater stage again. The other thing was if we had a naturalist or other people who might bring in birds of prey or animals of some kind, then we would also want to use the stage for demonstrations that can't go on inside the building. Mr. Stever then said, I am guessing that you are going to want some type of easy access, vehicular access, to the stage, so that if the Marine Band comes, they can unload all their instruments and things, and have some access to it. Council Member Bridge reminded that there is a street right behind there, and it would be close to where the stage would go down the hill. Mr. Nick Galizia then said, I think that you could have access from the top or the bottom without going all the way through the site.

Council Member Bridge and Ms. Myers briefly discussed outdoor movies and the use of movie projectors. Ms. Myers reminded that quite often when people come in to use the park, they bring in their projector. Mr. Charlie Sweat then made a suggestion on the amphitheater. He said, when you are putting your seats up there, you could have a module there that might have power and a platform seat that you could go ahead and stick the display or projector there and control it from downstairs. The Mayor added, this would be some kind of rear screen projector that sometimes could be housed up on the stage. I don't know what they do in Fort Mills and Rock Hill. I do know they are really successful in having summer movies. I tend to think that they might bring the screen and the projector in for those movies. Ms. Myers added that the ones she has attended, they always bring the screen and the projector in quite often. She added, a lot of times when I have seen the projector

**Page 6**

**Walterboro City Council**

**Work Session**

**Kickoff Design Work for Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary Discovery Center**

**December 12, 2016**

**4:00 P.M.**

used in amphitheaters, they are usually built in and not housed very well for the weather. So, we would have to build in housing that's really good or something that gets inserted in order to use it. Mayor Young said, we know we don't want it stolen, so it might need to be something that we could lock up and then take down if we needed to. Mr. Stever added, usually you accommodate it with whatever infrastructure you need. It comes and goes. Ms. Myers added, it seems to be safer that way.

Councilman Syfrett then asked, how much of this has to be ADA compliant? Ms. Myers responded, everything. It doesn't mean every road has to be compliant. It means we need to provide seating, etc., so we will work that in, including the building, and the ramp. Everything has to be compliant.

Council Member Siegel then spoke on the suggestions for his group. He said this shows an interior and it shows a ramp. The ramp replicates our ramps in the Wildlife Sanctuary. It would be nice if we had something to relay it back to our ramps down there so it brings things back together.

Council Member Lohr then spoke on the suggestions for his group. He said most everybody I have talked with, most of the time they have asked about the outside. The one up there, kind of in the middle at the top, I think that's about the first one I saw. I could never express anything real concrete to them to describe it. I guess I am not that creative in my expression. I kept thinking what could I say, and I think it was a Supreme Court Justice who was debating another one on something and he said, my vocabulary just won't let me describe it without embarrassing somebody, most especially myself. So, I think I would just rather say, I'll know it when I see it. Seriously, I always wanted to know is it going to be chopped off, that's my best term there, you know where it would look neat. I liked where the grass was in-between and all the other stuff. That's my contribution. I know everybody would be interested in what's on the inside, but they just can't take what's there now and use any creativity.

Council Member Bonds then said, we could do the stone rock instead of the rock. You know we have these type of sidewalks downtown that could blend in, the oyster shell. But I don't know how, but if you back up against that, you could rip your shirt, but you don't sit on it. I am saying have something that would be different. The oyster shell blends in with the whole Lowcountry theme. I think that could give you a softer look and it certainly blends in with the Lowcountry and our sidewalks. Mayor Young then said, as long as you had the flat surface, you could still have the tabby. I think that's a very creative idea.

Ms. Myers thanked everyone for participating in the exercises. She then moved into the Programming. She said, we would like to show you what we presented previously and then you can give us some feedback.

Ms. Myers then talked about the outdoor classrooms. It was suggested that the outdoor classrooms could kind of surround the building. Once again, that was just an idea to bring a new life to the building as you come down the street and you see something other than that store front which is existing now. I believe you talked about this one with the trees. It doesn't have to be trees, but it could be something else. It could be something to do with the swamp. Mayor Young then said, I hadn't thought about putting the slats all the way around the building or across the front of something, but that would be a different look. Ms. Myers suggested, maybe we could use a little bit of enclosure, but you could still see out. The tree one is interesting, but it doesn't have to be trees. Mayor Young then said, driving in on Hampton Street, some of those things could be pretty attention getting. Mr. Galizia said, it was our attempt to provide a way to dress up the building without having to address the building. I don't think you want to spend a ton of money redoing the facade, but if we are using an outdoor structure, whatever form that takes, it could be the thing that says this is a new place.

**Page 7**

**Walterboro City Council**

**Work Session**

**Kickoff Design Work for Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary Discovery Center**

**December 12, 2016**

**4:00 P.M.**

Mr. Sweat then said, one thing that just hit me - that building toward the front and main part, has a roll up door. You could turn around and roll up the door and incorporate something similar to this as far as bringing it out, so you can expand your display area, but do something similar to this.

Mr. Nick Galizia then said, so the first thing we did, we actually went back to the minutes from March, and I was curious to see what the other architect had originally presented, because we wanted to see where some of the thoughts and comments had originally come from. So, we started looking at the program that he had outlined, which is a lot of the same thing. He talked about not really doing much out front, except leave this as it was, these would become exhibit spaces, incorporating the ramp here with a raised area. He had a stage on the interior with the exhibit hall here, and then the addition of a bathroom going outside with the stage, so that you could utilize this garage door to bring that indoor space outside. I think it is interesting that we arose in our presentation to a lot of the same conclusions. Square footage wise, I think we are all kind of thinking about the same thing. He had a little warming kitchen down here. There were some storage and office and exhibit space here, with an exhibit hall down below as well. I pulled this so that we could start looking at the square footage for each of these phases as we move forward and to nail down as we talk about programming how big we think some of those spaces need to be. Again, we are looking at how that original setup for that space was going to work, and what elements from this plan do we really want to pull into the new design.

Ms. Myers then said, so now that we have you here as a group, does anyone remember what it was in the elaborate plan, that is really important that we should remember to focus on in those exhibits? There is an alligator slough and there is also the river. Maybe, there is some way to incorporate that. Maybe not a live river, but maybe there is still some way to incorporate that river.

Mr. Charlie Sweat then said, I think Bill touched on that. Instead of actually putting that there, you can turn around and either paint or dye the floor, so that you superimpose down on the floor itself, rather than up. I think you showed one picture where it had half an alligator coming out of the concrete floor.

Mayor Young then asked, are you asking us to comment on live exhibits? Ms. Myers responded, or on any exhibits. Any exhibit that you think is important that we need to start thinking about. Mr. Stever then added, yes anything worth retaining from these ideas, such as I really liked the idea of having a whole forest built in the middle of the room or something.

Council Member Bridge then said, I think it is so important for people here to understand and realize that we are a part of the Ace Basin, but the perception of what the Ace Basin is, I don't think it is realized by a lot of people. I can visualize (I don't know what superimposed or maps on the floor), but think about the Ace Basin concept of the rivers coming together.

Mr. Sweat then said, one of the big things about this was the sound. The sound was very important in this particular perception here. Not so much, the anatomic guy standing in the stream talking, but I am talking about the splashing, the gators. It was the noise factor. It transported your mind, as you stood there with your eyes shut, it transported you into the swamp, because of the sound.

Mayor Young added, the water rose and fell and things changed according to the life cycle of the swamp as you walked through it. You start at a higher elevation and as you walk through it, you know that the elevation decreased and of course there was an otter in there, and there was an alligator slough, and there was a heated area there that you could turn up to make the alligators active. Mr. Stever asked, so this is all like a lifelike habitat? Mr. Sweat and Mayor Young agreed. Mayor Young added, this had a lot of live displays in it and I don't think Council has talked about this a whole lot, but the Friends of the Great Swamp Sanctuary had kind of gotten away from trying to do mammals,

**Page 8**

**Walterboro City Council**

**Work Session**

**Kickoff Design Work for Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary Discovery Center**

**December 12, 2016**

**4:00 P.M.**

but we thought we might still be able to do some reptiles and some amphibians. You know we have salamanders in the swamp. There is a Lowcountry coastal salamander of some kind that inhabits the swamp. I think some live exhibits probably would be a good thing. I don't know how excited people are going to get about going in and looking at everything that's static. We were told that small alligators were not too big a problem to have. If they grew, you could swap them in and out. Of course, snakes and things like that we would have to have somebody to manage and take care of.

Mr. Stever said, right, definitely there is a kind of maintenance in it.

Mr. Sweat then said that we were looking at some of the vegetation. Of course, in that display you showed the rack of plants on the wall. Well, we were thinking you would do something a little different. It would be a little bit more incorporated into a set design, rather than just a planter with plants in it. Because I know, we have a very extinct orchard that grows beside one of the paths down there that the fellow from Salkehatchie found, and talks about when we tour it. So, there are different things that we have in the swamp. What we could try to do is to bring some of that in there. That would encourage people to go from the center to the sanctuary.

Mayor Young then said, the future plans for this design were to have an area as you went out the back of the Discovery Center, you would walk through that and into the sanctuary, and I don't know whether there would be a way to have, and I don't mean live birds, but some kind of birds in that main meeting room, somewhere you know that it wouldn't distract from the appearance. There might be ways to have stuffed dead birds in there.

Ms. Myers then said, I think I heard minor small reptiles and we could have some live plant displays. I think I just heard that. Maybe, that could be maintainable? Council Member Bridge then said, I mean when you do that, don't you have to have it temperature controlled? Ms. Myers responded yes.

Council Member Syfrett then said, I think we might be able to add the live animal exhibits years down the road. I am not sure what we budgeted for staffing to keep up stuff like that right out the gate. It could be planned so that you can expand into that, which would be good.

Council Member Bonds then asked if the old the stage coach line go right through the swamp. Mr. Charlie Sweat responded, yes. Mr. Bonds then said, I think that is actually part of history of the swamp and Walterboro. Mayor Young then said, I think we found that we were wrong about that. David Hiott tells us that we were mistaken about that. We have always said that was our story and we are sticking to it, but some of the historians did not agree.

Mr. Bonds then said, if it were true that could be added. I think that would be neat and we would not have to pay a lot of money as far as an exhibit.

Mr. Sweat then said, as you go down into the sanctuary, you will notice that what was there was created by man. Whereas, would you have that much dirt up in a pile to create some type of thoroughfare through there. If you haven't ever been in there, you really need to physically walk it and look at it. It's amazing. It's a marvel. Remember the year we had all those white birds in there. It was the talk of the town, and everybody who would go to the sanctuary would see all these white birds.

Mayor Young then said, going back to the live exhibits, one of the things we have always hoped to do was to have school groups to come in and for those teachers to want to bring them in. So, I would hope that we would be able to do, even if it's not on a grand scale, that we would be able to have some live exhibits. I know we'll have to see what we can afford and what we can manage,



**Page 9**

**Walterboro City Council**

**Work Session**

**Kickoff Design Work for Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary Discovery Center**

**December 12, 2016**

**4:00 P.M.**

but I'd at least like for us to consider that in the beginning. You know there is a fine line between building something and people saying, oh, what a great job you did with this and this is a great facility, and I don't know why they spent that much money on this facility and this is all we have. So, I don't want the latter, I want us to do it well enough that people look at it and this Council. This is going to be your accomplishment when you finish and it is going to be here forever probably. So, it needs to be the best that we can do and pay for.

Mr. Stever responded, obviously, I think just to the point of the live exhibits, I do think that is achievable, but I do think on a smaller scale having worked with other facilities that have that, there are definitely some requirements involved, but it's not unattainable. Mayor Young then said, a compromise for that might be to build a space where these different things can go, and then we would bring them in and out from other places. I know we have that exhibit at Edisto Beach, and there is a turtle sanctuary in Berkeley County and the Bee City in Cottageville. I don't know, but we might be able to bring things in that we wouldn't have to take care of. Maybe, there could be a live exhibit that could be there for two weeks or a week or something. Maybe, there is a way to do that which would work for us.

Mr. Charlie Sweat then said, of course, I don't know whether this is part of your design or not, but if you would go back to the area with the roll up doors, this is where we conceived putting in portable displays, like the bee city and the rapture center and places like that. You could use that space for those portable displays. It wouldn't be a permanent part of what you'd have to worry about. Of course, you would have the availability for school kids to come and see those portable displays at those particular times.

Mr. Galizia then showed Council a proposed drawing of the Discovery Center site. Mr. Galizia stated, this is the amphitheater. We are showing kind of on axis through the front of the building, with the idea that because the building is on an axis with the street that you'd come down the street and there would be this kind of way to move through the building. This is that enclosure that we were showing before, where this was the outdoor learning lab, and then you move the ramp down, there is display area in the middle. We have the classrooms and office space set off to the side with a big open gallery space down below. Then there is the wrap around porch. Because the site does fall off, it's relatively flat, so you hit this area here and it starts sloping off. We've got this big garage door here. So, in our initial layout, this big wrap around porch gives you visibility from the street. It also overlooks the amphitheater. So, if there were an event here, you could actually be up on the terrace, straight from the parking lot, never have to go any farther than that, and still be able to look down over the site.

Mr. Galizia then showed some of the stills from the presentation. He said that this was the screening element. Here is the new building that created the outdoor learning space.

Council Member Bridge then asked Ms. Myers to address the rolling doors, if we were thinking about bringing in live exhibits? Mr. Galizia said, you could see one right here. Here is another shot of this space inside. One of the roll up doors is right here. You could open up this and all this space could flow into this outdoor learning lab for temporary exhibits. Ms. Bridge then asked, could you actually back a truck into there? Mr. Galizia responded, not to this line. But you can see how the deck is here, there is a roll up door right here, so this would have all parking here. You could actually bring the truck in, off a load onto the deck and roll it straight into that door to the lower area.

Ms. Myers then said, do you think that is important to be able to bring a truck into this space. Council Member Bridge responded yes, if you are having an event. Mr. Sweat then said, I don't think she is particularly talking about bringing it into the building, but accessible. Like if you bring stuff there, it needs to be close enough so you don't have to carry it. Mr. Galizia and Ms. Myers pointed

**Page 10**

**Walterboro City Council**

**Work Session**

**Kickoff Design Work for Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary Discovery Center**

**December 12, 2016**

**4:00 P.M.**

out that the back door would give great access to the lower level. He said, there is actually another door right here, so if you need access to the upper level, you can access that space from that door. But there is a big garage door, I think you can back the truck right here. They could drop off a load onto the porch and carry it straight into that large gallery space. Ms. Myers said, it's a good idea to kind of change that a little next time to make sure we have direct access.

Mr. Galizia then said that this is the shot from the interior that faces the street. I found that image that everyone thought looked like every other space, and it was funny how much that resembled our setup. It had the kind of base and map, maybe some graphics of the wall, what the sanctuary was, what the Ace Basin was. I mean, we can do things with graphics to help introduce what it feels like and creating some kind of structure inside with displays. This was the outdoor space that gives you that connectivity, and gives you basically the extension of the interior space.

This was the gallery space where we were looking at the possibility of having a mezzanine there and what that would look like? We talked about it in our original presentation and heard a lot about how things would need to be mobile, or temporary so things could come in and out, so that people could use this space.

This is the other garage door that opens onto this terrace that would overlook the amphitheater. So, it's that extension of the gallery space, back to the outside and then that view down to the amphitheater. This is from the stage looking back up.

Mr. Galizia said, one of the things that we did not show in our initial presentation was any kind of structure at the back of the amphitheater. So, that is something we would need to incorporate for the stage. There was no canopy or overhead structure. So, our thinking is that all the parking would be up here to get to the amphitheater.

Council Member Bridge then asked, what kind of surface is the parking? Mr. Galizia responded, we didn't render the parking, but it would be asphalt. Ms. Bridge then asked, do you have any flow through from street to street? Ms. Myers said, I was just going to say that. We need to have sidewalks so you don't have to go through the building.

Ms. Bridge then said, I was just looking at the property and thinking there is not enough room to have traffic coming in and going out onto Jefferies Boulevard. That's just a point I wanted you to address. Ms. Myers responded, we are looking into that right now. We realized that we didn't show any traffic access during this study, but we understand you are going to have buses. So, we need to be able to get buses through the lot so it will be able to turn around and get back out. It sounds like buses are important to bring school groups in. We need to decide if we will go all the way though the site, then exit out the back or if you bring them in and then circle them back out onto Jefferies Boulevard.

Council Member Bridge then mentioned that there is a possibility that the buses coming through that back road, if they could unload, it would have some accommodations so that they could get off the bus and come up the amphitheater area that way, instead of bringing them off of Jefferies Boulevard. Ms. Myers responded, we could do that. We could come through the rear as well. We just started looking at the site layout. As long as we can get them up close to the building so we can drop them off and they can run in. Get them close enough to the back. Mayor Young suggested having the children to unload in the parking lot and then they could just walk through.

Ms. Myers then talked about the offices. She said, when we went over our floor plan, we saw we had a couple of offices. I think we talked about the fact that you don't really need the offices. We need the warming kitchen. These are the things I think is part of that. We could do the Discovery

**Page 11**

**Walterboro City Council**

**Work Session**

**Kickoff Design Work for Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary Discovery Center**

**December 12, 2016**

**4:00 P.M.**

Center in the front part of the building and the larger space, which is just an open space, you can have rentals or you can bring in exhibits, and have classroom space. How many people do you think might be in a classroom? Are they bringing 30 children? Like how large should we think this space should be?

Mr. Charlie Sweat answered, sometimes school groups will come, and they don't bring one bus, they bring one, two maybe three buses. Ms. Myers said, well then, you would have to do it in your exhibit space. Mr. Sweat then said, so what you need to do is you need to worry about putting them off at the street, then coming through and going out the back.

Ms. Myers then said, but they could be in a smaller classroom, or they could go to the amphitheater or they could go into the big open space? Mayor Young then said, they would have to be in a group that we could manage. Then the groups could move from one area to the other, as we went through there.

Ms. Bridge then said, I was just thinking that Jeff Molinari might be able to answer this. Are we going to need an office space up in the front, so if somebody is housed in the facility, so that they would be accessible to the people coming in? I mean the entry way is going to be upstairs, right? Ms. Myers replied, I think you need that. You need a secured office space behind, like in the front when you come in. I know we talked about retail. We haven't talked about whether or not you are going to have anything to sell there. Then, you would need a place to lock things up in that office right behind the Discovery Center.

Ms. Myers then said, do you see this admin support space here kind of behind the reception desk. It seems like that is still important to have some kind of space there. I think that is important, I just don't know if you really need these offices in the back, at the top when you come in.

If you see up there, we have admin support. I assume that's really important if we have that, at the top when you come in. Then we talked about the mezzanine idea. We are just doing a little bit more feel for it. I am not sure if it's space that you will need anyway. If not, then there is no need to build it.

Ms. Myers then said, right now we are only showing bathrooms at the center, but we know we need to add toilets that can be used by the exterior and interior. We talked about those before being accessible to the exterior.

Mayor Young then asked if the office area and the classroom space would all be located on the mezzanine level? Ms. Myers said those were below the mezzanine area.

Mr. Galizia then talked about the mezzanine. He said one thing we need to consider with the mezzanine is that we didn't show any ADA access to it. So, the inclusion of a mezzanine means the inclusion of an elevator or some kind of lift or some other way to get up there. Mayor Young then said, there is not enough room to have a mezzanine. We are just not going to have that.

Ms. Myer then said, the other idea, is something coming down the ramps, some large exhibits and maybe some type of map with a leaf. I still think that's a viable exhibit to do that. Mayor Young then said, that's neat.

Ms. Myer then asked if there were any other programming ideas besides office classrooms? Is there anything else you can think of?

Council Member Bridge then said, I am just thinking about the aquarium in Charleston - the

**Page 12**

**Walterboro City Council**

**Work Session**

**Kickoff Design Work for Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary Discovery Center**

**December 12, 2016**

**4:00 P.M.**

big thing at the entry, when you put your hands in the water (touch tanks). If there were some way we could come up with something where the students would have an opportunity to do some hands on or something, which would be good.

Mr. Galizia then said, absolutely; I think a touch tank itself might be in there along with the live exhibits. It's on a different scale, but I think there is definitely an opportunity for it and I will certainly push for a lot of hands on, especially having artifacts or things like that, which kids could look at and experience. I think that is important - not necessarily a live thing, but having that touch trait.

Ms. Myers then said, it's 5:30 p.m., and I don't want to keep anybody too late. Our next step is to go back and do a schematic design or a conceptual plan, and bring it back to Jeff. Then, he will share it. That's what we think our next steps are. I think maybe if there are any conversations between then and if you have more comments, let's figure out a way to filter them back to us.

Mr. Galizia then said I'd just like to ask is there anything in the presentation and what we showed you in the interview that anyone think that you really liked or something that you really disliked about the direction that we have guessed at?

Mayor Young said, I really liked the way you built the deck around the back and it overlooked the amphitheater down the hill. Jeff and I were just talking about it. We thought that was really sporty.

Council Member Bridge stated that she liked the porch feature, too. She then asked about the fabric used, whether or not it was durable? Ms. Myers noted that they had not figured that out yet. She added that they will need to investigate that more to figure out what is the best material to use that is maintainable.

Mr. Syfrett then asked, so are we in favor of scrapping the mezzanine? Mayor Young then said, the mezzanine is not tall enough. I mean, you need to have a really low ceiling in the office areas or would be bumping your heads up on the mezzanine. The Mayor said, I don't think we need to worry about the mezzanine.

The Mayor also said, you could do a lot of stuff in that little area there, beside the ramp. I mean, you could put the map in there, you could put turtles in, or you could put fish in there. You could put the touching exhibit there. I mean you have all kind of options. Do you have enough room to get the grade right for a wheel chair to go down the ramp there? Have you measured all that? Mr. Galizia said this is actually modeled in our 3D software. This is the right slope to get from here to here.

Mayor Young then said, I know something that was in the original plans that I thought would be neat. I don't know where you would put it, but it's the beaver hut. We originally had that beaver hut designed so that children could crawl into it and they could see what a beaver hut looks like from the inside and maybe they could stick their head out, here or there or something, but I think the beaver hut for a small child or a younger child would be a neat thing. Council Member Bridge thought it was called a beaver den.

Mr. Stever then said I just want to talk to you about the exhibits, to think about the specific exhibits. I have prepared these quickly to talk about the various topics and things you want to cover, because this really is from the exhibit design standpoint. This is where we would start in a lot of ways. You want to know the stories you want to tell and then how to tell them. We talked about the Ace Basin, the Discovery Center and what is a braided swamp. Answering a lot of these questions,

**Page 13**

**Walterboro City Council**

**Work Session**

**Kickoff Design Work for Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary Discovery Center**

**December 12, 2016**

**4:00 P.M.**

it might even seem obvious to a lot of us, but the average person might want to know. Also the history, we touched on that.

Mayor Young added, and this is part of the head waters of the Ace Basin which are in our Sanctuary.

Mr. Stever said, I think we could incorporate all of that information into what is on display. I had some other images of specific exhibits from various nature centers, and again something to think about in terms of laying out the information to what you addressed in terms of having things you can touch, things you can look at and can hear.

We have done some very simple hands-on features that are not complicated and are robust and will last a long time, but are interesting. They are not electronic and do not require power. I think that is always a good feature to have.

Mayor Young then said, one thing that we mentioned today and it's something that you showed us in your presentation was the touch screen kiosk type thing. I thought at the time, that was one of the things that impressed us about your firm was that you could do that. I don't want that to fall through the cracks since we hadn't mentioned it today. Mr. Stever agreed this was a great tool to use. He said, I want to include that idea and these low tech ways of making the exhibit interesting in addition to things like touch screens.

Council Member Bonds then said, I want to bring out two things. One, I think you ought to go to the museum here in town. They have a nature area. My point is I don't want our nature area to look like their nature area. You walk over there, then you can say, okay that's what Bobby doesn't want. We don't want to have something that looks like what they have. The other thing is, you may want to go to the Edisto Beach Interpretive Center, because a lot of our school kids will ride on the bus and go to their interpretive center, which actually is really nice. We want ours to look different, because I don't want somebody saying, we already have this in Colleton County. We don't want to repeat what they have.

Mr. Charlie Sweat then said, the thing is there is so much to choose from to put in an exhibit like this that you could be very selective. So, if they've got something, then we want something different, because we want people to come here to see something unique.

Council Member Bridge then said, they have had a lot of things given to them because of the displays they have. So, that might happen in our situation too - where our people will say they have something at home they would love to give us.

Mayor Young then said, that projection thing they had in Pittsburgh, it was like looking at a flat screen TV, but it was as big as that wall back there. I could see us having the wild turkeys and things that we have in the sanctuary, with ducks and other kinds of wildlife that you could project onto that wall that would be very vivid and colorful.

Mayor Young then asked about the seating in the amphitheater. He asked, can we do that in such a way that it won't scratch kids legs if they are sitting there in shorts in the summer time, or is that going to be a problem? Ms. Myers responded, I think we need to do a little research there. There is a park in Beaufort and they have a lot of those type of things. Mayor Young then suggested that we could use stucco, too. Council Member Bridge then said, we've got to have something smooth. I think we just need to stay smooth if it were going to be in contact with a person. The Mayor then said, well it is something to think about, but I do think that the idea of having it match the sidewalks is neat. I think people would see that and recognize it.

**Page 14**

**Walterboro City Council**

**Work Session**

**Kickoff Design Work for Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary Discovery Center**

**December 12, 2016**

**4:00 P.M.**

Mr. Stever then said, one thing that popped into my head was maybe it's not used as a surface, but maybe you could use the idea, you know how you take an oyster shell and you press them in? Maybe you could do little areas inside the amphitheater that carried out through the park where you have leaves or a salamander outlined or something like that, so it gives that feeling of the tabby sidewalk, but yet it is done in more of a design character of what you are trying to convey to children. That's a way of bringing that material in, without a whole lot of expense.

The Mayor then announced that if anybody had any more suggestions to give them to Jeff to compile and send to Ms. Myers and her group.

No further input was received and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Betty J. Hudson  
City Clerk

**APPROVED: February 21, 2017**