

Media Release



bluffton
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

February 21, 2018

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Town of Bluffton and Celebrate Bluffton, Inc. Partner for Historic Preservation Education & Advocacy

Bluffton Town Council approved a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) at the February 13 Town Council meeting between the Town and Celebrate Bluffton, a local historic preservation non-profit. This MOA will enable both organizations to work together for the preservation of Bluffton's heritage and history through advocacy, research, education and community involvement.

"The Town has been grateful for the historical education Celebrate Bluffton has already contributed to our community through its free app and lecture series," Mayor Lisa Sulka said. "This agreement strengthens our relationship and the Town looks forward to partnering more with this organization as we work together to preserve Bluffton's unique history."

According to the MOA, Celebrate Bluffton, Inc. will maintain its free mobile application known as "Bluffton Buddy" and continue to research and develop additional "stops" on the app's Heritage Trail which details Bluffton's past. In addition, Celebrate Bluffton will use the resources of The Don Ryan Center for Innovation to advise them on new ways to promote and enhance the application. The non-profit will also continue to research Bluffton's history and make that information accessible to residents and guests through public lectures and exhibits. Members of the organization will also act as historic preservation advisors on an as-needed basis for the Town of Bluffton.

As for the Town's role in this agreement, Town staff will continue to identify public locations which are suitable for Town-approved history exhibits, provide technical and research assistance for historic preservation projects and grants as well as provide publicity and promotion for projects which advance the collective historic preservation mission of both organizations.

Town Manager Marc Orlando said the agreement with Celebrate Bluffton, Inc. bolsters the Town's objective to preserve its history and capitalize on Bluffton's character.

"Bluffton's Historic District is the heart of the Town," Orlando said. "The District has provided numerous opportunities for tourism and economic development because the Town has maintained its history and character," Orlando said. "The Town is pleased to have another organization at the table investing in our objective to preserve historic sites and educate others about what makes us different from other municipalities."

Carolyn Coppola, founder of Celebrate Bluffton, Inc., said members of the organization are proud to be an official partner with the Town of Bluffton.

"Bluffton is so unique in that the town has so many structures and sites which still exist and that makes the story-telling of our history so exciting. As with many historical preservation projects, it is the forces of many which save our structures and stories and working with the town makes both of us stronger in our mission," Coppola said.

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