Community Issues (aka Future Initiatives)

Beyond the umbrella of goals to be accomplished, citizen input and the Plan Forum’s discussion led to the identification of several specific issues that must be addressed to protect and enhance the character of the Town in the future. For several of these, the Town is in a position where lack of attention will inevitably lead to lost opportunities; however, immediate attention and commitment to addressing these issues will yield benefits for years to come. These issues address many of the preceding goals and are wide-reaching in their potential impacts on the community.

These Community Issues are:

1. The Urban Corridor Overlay District
2. Housing Diversity & Affordability
3. Settlement Communities
4. **The Cultural Core**
5. The Mount Pleasant Way
6. Financial Health/Resilience
7. Open Space Network
4 - Cultural Core

The identification of the area referred to as the Cultural Core came out of discussions about the plight of settlement communities and other historic and natural areas within Mount Pleasant, as well as identification of the need for a cultural or community center. This core of Mount Pleasant includes a range of special sites including Boone Hall (now protected by a 2019 conservation easement over the property); the Charles Pinckney National Historic Site; Christ Church; the Palmetto Fort fortification line; the Six Mile, Seven Mile, and Hamlin settlement communities; and Hamlin Farms.

Much of the area has resisted the growth pressures of recent years and exhibits the historic ownership and land patterns. This area provides is an unequaled opportunity to create a cultural center for Mt Pleasant that builds upon its history, to provide cultural opportunities for future generations.

Recommendations

1. Undertake a joint study with Charleston County and representatives of landowners in the area to create a Special Area Plan for the future of the cultural core, as well as to address future land use needs, opportunities, and concerns about development in this part of town.

2. Support a cultural center to tell the story of the whole Mount Pleasant area - past and present. This should be an inclusive cultural arts facility to blend the history and culture of Mount Pleasant with the contemporary arts for the enrichment and education of the Mount Pleasant community.

3. Design and construct, in conjunction with the Mount Pleasant Way, historic trails and markers to tie these historic sites together, as well as to nearby parks and other recreation facilities.