

MINUTES OF THE ISLE OF PALMS  
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
February 10, 2010

The Isle of Palms Planning Commission met in the Building Department conference room, 1301 Palm Boulevard on February 10, 2010, at 4:30PM. Members attending included Bev Ballow, Pat Campbell, David Cohen, Ron Denton, Diane Oltorik, Noel Scott and Dick Watson; also the Director of Planning, Douglas Kerr was present. The press had been notified of the meeting and the agenda for the meeting was posted in City Hall and the Building Department to comply with the Freedom of Information Act.

Chairman Ron Denton called the meeting to order.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The next item on the agenda was the review of the minutes of the January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 meeting. Mr. Scott noted that his name was omitted from the list of attending members in the first paragraph, which was inaccurate. Mr. Scott made a motion to approve the minutes with his amendment and Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

#### DISCUSSION OF PARKING MANAGEMENT PROGRAM WITH SCDOT REPRESENTATIVE MARK NESBIT

Mr. Kerr explained that at the last meeting, the Commission agreed that it would be useful to have a representative of SCDOT present to discuss the options the City had in terms of regulating parking and Mr. Nesbit is present to discuss issues with the Commission. Mr. Kerr asked Mr. Nesbit to summarize, if he could, when the SCOT would allow a community to limit parking. He explained that at the last meeting the Commission discussed the idea of eliminating all parking on Palm Boulevard on the side away from the ocean. Mr. Nesbit answered that a community would have to be able to show a safety or health issue existed that the parking is causing or a maintenance issue, such as the shoulder of the road constantly eroding. He explained that he had brought a copy of the statutes and case law that the staff attorney had compiled to share with the Commission.

Mr. Kerr explained that he imagined that the primary health concern the congestion would cause would be delayed EMS response times and he asked if this would be something SCDOT would consider. Mr. Nesbit answered, yes they could look at this if the City provided some data.

Mr. Scott asked if cyclists had to use a bike lane if it was provided. After some discussion, Mr. Nesbit clarified that if the lane is a designated lane, attached to

the driving lane, the cyclists had to use it; but if it was detached and considered a recreational path, cyclists did not have to use it.

Mr. Scott asked if the Isle of Palms could implement a system similar to the City of Charleston, where residents needed to have a pass to park and otherwise the parking would be restricted for visitors. Mr. Nesbit stated that many of the roads downtown were not SCDOT roads, so he was not sure how they operated, but that he felt that this was generally a policy only in areas where it was predominately residences and not in areas heavily used by visitors, like the beach.

Mr. Campbell stated that there were many instances on the island where residents had blocked the public use of the right-of-ways, which has the effect of pushing visitors into other areas and he asked whose responsibility it was to keep the right-of-ways clear of such obstructions. Mr. Nesbit answered that on State roads, the SCDOT has a municipal agreement in place with each jurisdiction that allows for a joint effort between SCDOT and the municipality to keep the obstructions cleared.

Mr. Watson asked if there was a document or statute that dictated what the City could do on these roads. Mr. Nesbit answered that the compiled information he referenced earlier established the legal framework for Cities parking programs and that the SCDOT ARMS manual established the criteria for physical improvements within the right-of-ways.

Mr. Denton asked if there were members of the audience that would like to speak. Ms. Peggy Whitaker, 801 Ocean Boulevard, addressed the Commission and distributed a letter and pictures. She explained that adjacent to her property, visitors trash the right-of-way and she asked that the SCDOT limit the parking in the area to parallel parking only, there is currently enough area for visitors to parked perpendicular to the road or alternately install a sidewalk along the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which would provide a break between the private property and the area used for parking.

Mr. Danny Austin, 403 Carolina Boulevard, addressed the Commission and explained that the situation was getting worse every year and that he felt that the policy of restricting parking on Ocean Boulevard was pushing the traffic onto the secondary roads, such as Carolina Boulevard.

Mr. Jim Covington, 807 Ocean Boulevard, stated that he felt that the City did have a real safety issue with the way visitors park and he felt that an aerial photo of the island on a busy summer weekend would prove this point. He stated that

he felt that the visitors should be parking in the public parking lots in the commercial area.

Ms. Gale Brown, 901 Carolina Boulevard, explained that she felt like the Commission was discussing restricting the parking in one area and she asked that the Commission members keep in mind that when one area is restricted it increases the pressure on other areas. The Commission members assured Ms. Brown that they were aware of this effect and it was being considered throughout their discussions.

The Commission thanked Mr. Nesbit for coming and Mr. Denton closed the discussion for this issue.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION- ANNUAL LEGAL BRIEFING

Mr. Denton explained that the next item on the agenda was to go into executive session for the Commission annual legal briefing by the City Attorney. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to go into executive session.

#### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mr. Denton explained that he had some information regarding the previously issued request for proposals to study parking, the state statutes on bicycle paths and rental data given to him by the Mayor. Mr. Kerr explained that he believed all Commission members were present, but that the Council considered their recommendation to amend the zoning districts on the island and rejected the recommendation. He explained that the Council would be looking at their other recommendations in their next meeting.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Denton, Chairman.