

MINUTES OF THE ISLE OF PALMS
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
May 25, 2011

The Isle of Palms Planning Commission met in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard on May 25, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. Members attending included David Cohen, Ron Denton, Pete Doherty, Diane Oltorik and Noel Scott; the Director of Planning Douglas Kerr was present, as well. Bev Ballow and Don Smith were absent. 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 David Cohen called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The next item on the agenda was the review of the minutes of the April 6, 2011 meeting. David Cohen noted a typo on the second page (the word "me" should be "be" in the second paragraph). Mr. Doherty made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Mr. Cohen seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

DISCUSSION OF PARKING WORKSHOP WITH COUNCIL

Mr. Cohen explained that the primary objective of the meeting was to discuss the workshop that was held with City Council on the issue of parking on May 11, 2011. Mr. Kerr summarized his impressions of the workshop with City Council and explained that the staff has been working on getting together information to try to help City Council make a decision on the concept of parking nodes at the end of the avenues between Breach Inlet and the commercial district. He explained that he felt that the next steps for the Planning Commission would be to focus on the areas of Palm Boulevard and the ends of the avenues beyond 41st Avenue.

Ms. Oltorik stated that she still feels that the parking on Palm Boulevard should only be allowed on the ocean side of the road. She explained that she misunderstood the Mayor at the workshop, but she has consistently believed that prohibiting parking on the waterway side of Palm Boulevard was the best alternative.

Mr. Scott distributed a datasheet of parking counts and maps of beach accesses. He explained that between the parking spaces that exist on 42nd Avenue and 25 parking spaces on Palm Boulevard at the 56th Avenue beach access path, the entire area between 41st Avenue and Wild Dunes would be compliant with the Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plan (LCBMP) standards. Mr. Scott mentioned that the areas could include golf cart parking spaces and asked if the City Administrator, Linda Tucker, would like to comment of how OCRM views golf cart parking in terms of the LCBMP.

Administrator Tucker answered that golf carts are allowed to park in regular car parking places; however, spaces dedicated to golf cart parking only could not be counted towards compliance with the LCBMP standards.

Mr. Doherty explained that he liked the idea of promoting golf cart parking for residents, as a golf cart is not as obtrusive as a car.

Mr. Scott explained that he had discussed the option of honor boxes with the City Administrator and that she had reservations about their use and he asked if she would explain that to the group. Administrator Tucker explained that while honor boxes may be less expensive to purchase, she felt that the ongoing staffing cost and the increased chance for fraud and risk made the honor boxes more costly in the long run. She added that she believed that in parking lots with very limited usage, honor boxes probably make sense, but she explained that she felt that the parking demand and frequency on the Isle of Palms were so high, she believed that a more sophisticated system was more appropriate.

Mr. Scott explained that he remained convinced that it would be unwise to issue annual parking passes, as there will be no way of guaranteeing that a space will be available on busy weekends.

Mr. Kerr explained that he felt that the direction he understood the group wanted to pursue on the avenues between 41st and 57th was to try to provide nodes of parking at the end of the avenues that have a count similar to what has traditionally been used on each avenue. He added that each avenue would have to be dealt with independently, as each was different.

Mr. Denton added that the plan may need to have some flexibility and that in some areas, which are lightly used; there may not be justification for investing in expensive or sophisticated parking meters for only a few cars.

The group looked at the traffic counts for the area of Palm Boulevard between 21st Avenue and 41st Avenue. Mr. Scott explained that he had average nine days (three weekdays and six weekend days) and the average of these dates was 277 cars. Mr. Doherty added that if you remove the weekdays from the data, the average weekend day would be 355 cars.

Mr. Scott proposed that the group determine what an appropriate number of cars would be for this stretch of road and then divide those cars evenly between 21st Avenue and 41st Avenue. He explained that routinely about 15 cars park at the curve at 21st Avenue and if the plan called for 15 cars at each of the 20 remaining beach paths this would result in 315 cars for this stretch of road, which he thought was reasonable.

Planning Commission minutes
May 25, 2011
Page 3

Mr. Cohen stated that he was thinking that 20 cars per beach access would be reasonable (415 cars total). Mr. Scott stated that he felt that this would not achieve much, because this was close to what is happening already on busy weekends.

The group discussed the issue more and agreed that they would give the issue some thought and be prepared to discuss the idea at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Cohen, Chairman.