

MINUTES OF THE ISLE OF PALMS  
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
August 12, 2009

The Isle of Palms Planning Commission met in the Building Department conference room, 1301 Palm Boulevard on August 12, 2009, at 4:30PM. Members attending included Pat Campbell, David Cohen, Ron Denton, Sandy Stone and David Stevens; also the Director of Planning, Douglas Kerr was present. Lisa Safford and Dick Watson 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 Ron Denton called the meeting to order.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The next item on the agenda was the review of the minutes of the July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 meeting. Mr. Stone made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

#### DISCUSSION OF PARKING MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr. Denton explained that the Commission had been discussing ways of improving parking, traffic flow and pedestrian access on the island and asked for discussion. Mr. Stevens provided a large aerial photograph a typical block of Palm Boulevard and explained that he had drawn in site distance clearances to show the areas where parked cars could block a driver's ability to see oncoming traffic. Mr. Cohen stated that he felt that parking only four feet off the edge of the pavement appeared to create a very unsafe situation with pedestrians darting out from parked cars. After discussing the issue, the Commission generally agreed that it would be advantageous for cars parking on Palm Boulevard to pull farther off of the pavement.

The Commission discussed ideas including: installing sidewalks on the ocean side of Palm Boulevard to better define the public area and to provide better pedestrian circulation in the area, installing multi-space parking meters to off-set the cost of parking improvements, allowing parking only on the ocean side of Palm Boulevard to reduce pedestrian traffic crossing the street and reduce visual clutter on half of the roadway, installing a center driving lane to reduce traffic back-up and provide a safe half-way point for crossing pedestrians and methods of getting cars to pull further off the pavement to improve sight distances including the installation of parking stops close to the sidewalk.

After generally discussing a wide range of ideas, the Commission agreed that it would be helpful to focus on one particular area to determine what the possibilities would include. The Commission agreed to look at the area between

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21<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mr. Stevens stated that he could provide some visual aids at the next meeting and Mr. Kerr explained that he could take measurements in the area and take inventory of obstructions.

#### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mr. Kerr explained that City Council was working on setting a date for discussing the issue of short term rentals and that members of the Planning Commission would be welcome to attend. He stated that tentatively the date had been set for September 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.

Mr. Kerr explained that the City Attorney had reviewed the Comprehensive Plan and felt that the title of the document should be "The Amended Comprehensive Plan". A motion was made, seconded and approved to recommend that the document be titled as the City Attorney has suggested.

Mr. Kerr mentioned that the Public Safety Committee of City Council had discussed revising the placard that is posted inside short term rentals to be a more concise document, giving more attention to the bigger issues.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15PM.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Denton, Chairman.