

MINUTES OF THE ISLE OF PALMS
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
March 14, 2012

The Isle of Palms Planning Commission met in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard on March 14, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. Members attending included Bev Ballow, David Cohen, Ron Denton, Pete Doherty, Patrick Harrington, Noel Scott and Don Smith; the Director of Planning Douglas Kerr was present, as well. 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 February 8, 2012 meeting. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Scott seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE PROJECTS

Mr. Kerr explained that at the workshop with the City Council, the Mayor assigned parts of the Planning Commission's recommendations regarding parking to various committees of City Council. He explained that several of the committees have met, but he felt that they were still getting familiarized with the recommendations. He stated that he felt that it was advisable for the Planning Commission members to stay attuned to the committee discussions as there may be a need to assist or give input. The Planning Commission members generally discussed whether it was advisable to assign members of Commission to attend the committee meetings. It was decided that the members would attend committee meetings on a basis of personal interest, not as an assignment.

Mr. Denton explained that he felt that it would be prudent for the Planning Commission to look at the commercial zoning district criteria and ensure that the code allows reasonable commercial development. He explained that he had analyzed a shopping center for a client and it became apparent that certain provisions were very limiting. He added that his analysis led him to believe that the parking criteria dictated the size of the development and he felt it was too limiting as it is rare that the parking lots for the commercial sites are fully utilized. He stated that years ago, the Planning Commission worked with a consultant to analyze the district and their suggestion was to allow mixed-use development and maybe the Planning Commission should review the standards and the study and determine if some changes might be appropriate.

Mr. Kerr stated that he would distribute the pertinent zoning codes, the zoning map and a copy of the work from the consultant for the next meeting.

Ms. Ballow explained that she would like to investigate the possibility of creating new pocket parks on the island. She stated that there may be parcels that are already public that would be suitable for a new park or there may be parcels that could be acquired to create new parks. The group generally agreed that they would discuss this initiative further.

Mr. Doherty explained that he had taken a trip to Tybee Island and taken photographs of their parking areas and associated signage. He stated that he would distribute them for future reference of how neighboring beach communities are handling the issue of beach parking.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The group agreed to move the next meeting to April 18th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, David Cohen, Chairman.