

MINUTES OF THE ISLE OF PALMS
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
August 11, 2010

The Isle of Palms Planning Commission met in the Building Department conference room, 1301 Palm Boulevard on August 11, 2010, at 4:30PM. Members attending included Bev Ballow, Pat Campbell, David Cohen, Ron Denton, Diane Oltorik and Noel Scott; also the Director of Planning, Douglas Kerr was present. Dick Watson was 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 14th, 2010 meeting. Ms. Oltorik noted: the omission of the word "to" in the fourth paragraph on page two; that the word "from" should be changed to "to" in the last paragraph of page two; and the addition of the letter "d" at the end of the third paragraph on page three. Mr. Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes with these amendments and Ms. Oltorik seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

DISCUSSION OF SIGN ORDINANCE

Ms. Oltorik explained that she had gone to the ACME Cantina and prepared a sketch that shows the building and where the owner was interested in displaying a banner. She explained that he would like to use banners that are approximately three feet by five feet and secure the corners onto hooks permanently affixed to the building.

Ms. Ballow questioned whether the group should look at changes to suit one individual owner or should they be considering a comprehensive approach to looking at the entire sign ordinance. After discussing the options of how to approach the issue, the group generally agreed that the immediate need for signs to attract day-trippers is about to be over and the group should take a broader look at the entire sign ordinance.

The group generally discussed ways of modifying the ordinance. Mr. Cohen stated that if the group wanted to allow banners, he thought that an easy way of modifying the ordinance might be to change the "Temporary signs" section to include temporary banners.

The group discussed the need to acquire a permit for each temporary sign and how burdensome this might be and Mr. Kerr explained that this was not currently

happening and this should be addressed in the future recommendations on the issue.

The group discussed the offer of an architect, Dan Sweeney, to share his thoughts on the City's sign ordinance. Mr. Kerr explained that he was an architect who had worked extensively with the City of Charleston sign ordinance and he has recently had reason to review the Isle of Palms ordinance in his work with the marina site and he has offered to make a presentation on what amendments to the ordinance the Commission might want to consider. The group generally agreed that it would be useful to talk to him in the next few months.

DISCUSSION OF PARKING MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Ms. Oltorik distributed a sheet summarizing her thoughts on the meeting that the Planning Commission had recently held with City Council. She summarized her thoughts to being that Council wanted to take a comprehensive approach to the issue, not just a select area; that not allowing parking on the ocean side of Palm Boulevard was undesirable; that thought should be given to allowing parking on Ocean Boulevard; keeping signage consistent; and to begin meeting regularly to work through the issue.

Ms. Bellow added that she felt that detail needed to be provided to everyone, for the record, that shows that the City will be able to reduce parking in certain areas and remain in compliance with the Beach Management Plan and OCRM's provisions for being open and accessible. She also stated that she thought it would be useful to be able to estimate the cost of the services the City provides to day-trippers; specifically in trash collection, emergency services and public works projects on paths and roadways. Mr. Kerr answered that it would be very difficult to estimate, because the City's workforce is the size it is to deal with day-trippers, so the only way he could think of to estimate this would be to compare the budgets of other cities that generally offer the same services that have the same year around population.

Mr. Denton explained that he was clear from the meeting that the Commission needed to work on a much broader plan and that he saw the need to begin looking at all of the roadways on the island that are impacted by day-tripper traffic. He agreed with the notion that the group should look at alternatives that include opening Ocean Boulevard to parking and to allowing parking on both sides of Palm Boulevard. He also mentioned that it was clear that the Commission would need to find ways of gathering input from the public.

Mr. Kerr explained that his impression of the meeting with Council was that the Commission was generally proposing to start small and incrementally work towards addressing all of the areas on the island and that City Council favored starting with an island-wide comprehensive approach.

The group generally discussed how a program that would require payment to park could work. The discussion included ideas of paying for annual passes, seasonal passes and daily passes; taking payment online; and prohibiting non-resident parking in certain areas. The group asked Mr. Kerr to attempt to have a representative from a company that manages parking management programs for other communities come to the next Planning Commission meeting. Mr. Kerr answered that he would try to set something up for the next meeting and in the meantime, he would begin working on revising the written plan that the Commission had been working on and developing a map of potential parking districts.

DISCUSSION OF COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY ON THE BEACH

Mr. Kerr explained that at the last meeting the Commission recommended an amendment that would allow photography on the beach and directed him to have the City Attorney draft an ordinance to achieve this objective.

He explained that the Commission's motion included the following language: "However, nothing in this section shall be deemed to prohibit a commercial photographer, who is not soliciting on the beach, beach access, public lots, or the Breach Inlet Bridge, from implementing a prior contract to take photographs on the beach for a fee."

Mr. Kerr stated that the City Attorney had proposed an additional sentence that states: "The use of the beach to take photographs for a fee shall be limited to no more than one hour on the beach per day for this activity and shall include no more than 20 people total."

He added that the City Administrator also suggested the inclusion of the word "still" photography to clarify that video would not be allowed and she suggested adding a reference to Section 7-3-10 of the City Code, which prohibits nudity on the beach.

The Commission discussed the newly proposed suggestions and determined that they did not support establishing a finite limit of 20 people, as this might limit a photographer's ability to shoot a wedding, which would defeat one of the primary objectives of amending the ordinance. They generally agreed that they approved

of including a time limit of one hour on the beach, as this was consistent with what the photographers have requested and this would help control the use from becoming obtrusive. They agreed that it would be useful to include the word "still" to clarify that video should be treated differently. They concluded that they did not feel it was necessary to include a reference to the section on nudity as it is already in the code and they would prefer to be as succinct as possible.

Ms. Oltorik made a motion to recommend that City Council approve an amendment to the section that would state: "However, nothing in this section shall be deemed to prohibit a commercial photographer, who is not soliciting on the beach, beach access, public lots, or the Breach Inlet bridge, from implementing a prior contract to take still photographs on the beach for a fee. The use of the beach to take photographs for a fee shall be limited to no more than one hour on the beach per day for this activity." Ms. Ballow seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40PM.
Respectfully submitted, Ron Denton, Chairman.