

MINUTES OF THE ISLE OF PALMS  
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
January 11, 2012

The Isle of Palms Planning Commission met in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard on January 11, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. Members attending included Bev Ballow, David Cohen, Ron Denton, Pete Doherty, Patrick Harrington and Noel Scott; the Director of Planning Douglas Kerr was present, as well. Don Smith 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 David Cohen called the meeting to order.

#### NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Cohen asked for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Denton nominated Noel Scott, but there was no second. Ms. Ballow nominated David Cohen and Mr. Doherty seconded the nomination. With no more nominations Mr. Cohen called for a vote. The vote was four to two, with Mr. Scott and Mr. Harrington voting no, Mr. Harrington explained that because it was his first meeting he did not feel qualified to vote for a Chairman.

Mr. Cohen asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Ms. Ballow nominated Noel Scott and Mr. Harrington seconded the motion. With no other nominations, Mr. Cohen called for a vote, which was unanimous in favor of the nomination.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The next item on the agenda was the review of the minutes of the October 12, 2011 meeting. Mr. Doherty made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Ballow seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

#### DISCUSSION OF PARKING MANAGEMENT

After generally discussing their impressions of the parking forums that had been held, the Commission agreed to go through their list of previously identified options and prioritize each option as a short term goal, a long term goal or no longer a viable goal.

The first option discussed was creating an annual parking pass system. Mr. Denton explained that he felt that this was a viable option for getting some control over the parking issues and made a motion to consider this a short term goal. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The next option discussed was constraining parking to key areas like beach paths. Mr. Denton he explained that he felt that if such a system were to be adopted, he would suggest that it be considered in the long term. Mr. Scott explained that he agreed. A

motion was made, seconded and approved five to one with Ms. Ballow voting against the motion, because she stated that she thought it should be a short term goal.

The next option discussed was to allow parking on the ocean side of Ocean Boulevard. Mr. Denton made a motion to consider this as a long term goal and Mr. Harrington seconded the motion. Mr. Denton explained that he did not necessarily agree with the goal, but that he felt that it was better to deal with it in the future. Mr. Doherty stated that he felt that beyond political hurdles, this is one of the easiest changes to implement as it would just require removing signs. Mr. Scott explained that he struggled with the issue of fairness when he considering that Ocean Boulevard was closed to parking, but Palm Boulevard is open to parking. Mr. Harrington explained that in the interest of getting something done, he was in favor of not bogging down the process by adding a controversial recommendation. Mr. Cohen called for a vote on the motion to consider parking on the ocean side of Ocean Boulevard as a long term goal and the vote passed four to two, with Patrick Harrington and Pete Doherty voting against the motion.

The next item to be discussed was a recommendation to block parking at the intersection of roads in compliance with the state's site distance criteria. Mr. Denton made a motion to make this consideration a short term goal and Mr. Scott seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The next item discussed was the idea of limiting parking to the ocean side of Palm Boulevard. Mr. Denton made a motion to make this consideration a long term goal and Mr. Doherty seconded the motion. Mr. Harrington explained that he supported the idea of keeping parking off the inland side of the road. Mr. Denton explained that he felt that, if it were the will of the City to restrict the areas of parking, he felt it would be better to center the parking around the beach access paths. Mr. Scott explained that he believed that this would create too much pressure on one side of the road and it would become too densely crowded with cars. Mr. Cohen stated that he felt that it would be better to leave this on the list, but deal with it in the future. The vote was four to two in favor of keeping this objective on the list as a long term goal.

The next item considered was to provide 25 spaces on 42nd Avenue, provide 25 spaces on the Palm Boulevard right-of-way at 56th Avenue, provide a small number of spaces at the end of each of the avenue right-of-way where feasible, and attempt to add a path at the Citadel Beach Club with associated parking. Mr. Doherty made a motion to strike the language dealing with creating parking spaces, as this concept was covered elsewhere in the ideas being considered, and make working with the Citadel Beach Club a short term goal. Mr. Denton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The next item to be considered was requiring non-resident/ non-owners to pay to park, if economically feasible. Mr. Doherty made a motion to move this consideration up to be combined with the parking pass system. Mr. Denton seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The next item to be considered was prohibiting parking in the residential areas outside of the areas approved for parking. Mr. Denton made the comment that he did not know whether this would be necessary if the annual pass system is implementing and less people are parking on the island. Mr. Denton made a motion to make this consideration a short term goal. Mr. Doherty seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The next item for consideration was to provide bike racks and golf cart provisions at the parking areas. Mr. Harrington made a motion to make this a long term consideration and Ms. Ballow seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The next item for consideration was to consider removing obstructions in the right-of-way in the long term. Mr. Denton made a motion to strike this consideration altogether and Mr. Doherty seconded the motion. Mr. Denton explained that he felt that this was too controversial. The vote was two in favor and four against the motion with Mr. Denton and Mr. Harrington voting for the motion. Ms. Ballow made a motion to keep this as a long term goal and Mr. Scott seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Doherty stated that he would like for the Commission to consider blocking parking on Palm Boulevard just before the curve at 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue. He explained that at one of the forums an owner explained that the road widening that happened at this area has made pulling out of the driveways unsafe. He added that when cars are parked adjacent to these driveways the owner claims it is even tougher to pull out. The group agreed to look at this prior to the next meeting.

The Commission directed Mr. Kerr to consolidate the ideas of this meeting into a rough draft of a recommendation to be considered for sending forward to City Council.

#### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mr. Kerr explained that at the next meeting, the City Attorney would be present for the annual legal briefing. The group generally discussed changing future meetings to accommodate Don Smith's schedule and agreed to send Mr. Kerr an e-mail regarding their availability.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, David Cohen, Chairman.