

MINUTES OF THE ISLE OF PALMS
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
September 9, 2009

The Isle of Palms Planning Commission met in the Building Department conference room, 1301 Palm Boulevard on September 9, 2009, at 4:30PM. Members attending included Pat Campbell, David Cohen, Ron Denton, Lisa Safford, Sandy Stone, David Stevens and Dick Watson; also the Director of Planning, Douglas Kerr was present. 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 August 12th, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT- NOEL SCOTT, 6809 BACK BAY DRIVE

Mr. Denton explained that Mr. Noel Scott had requested to be recognized by the Commission to make comment on the issue of parking. Mr. Scott addressed the Commission and explained that he was a resident of Wild Dunes and he has been concerned about the impact the Wild Dunes Village could have on traffic flow. He explained that he became involved with the change made at the intersection of 41st Avenue and Palm Boulevard and stayed involved with the City and the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) during the process of changing this intersection. He explained that during this process he became aware of issues with Palm Boulevard that he wanted to share with the Planning Commission.

He suggested that the Commission look at the option of putting the few remaining overhead power lines, around 41st Avenue, underground. He suggested that the Commission look at the lack of a drainage system for the roadway. He added that the properties on Palm Boulevard are still primarily serviced by septic systems and he thought that the Commission should investigate the feasibility of extending the public sewer system down Palm Boulevard. He suggested that installing a center lane, which would allow turning traffic to pull out of the flow of traffic, would improve the traffic flow in the summer months. He added that the palm trees may have to be shifted to accommodate a wider roadway. He stated that the Charleston County Roadwise program had money available to look at traffic studies, which may be useful to the Commission as they move forward. He added that Wild Dunes still had capacity to grow in

terms of dwelling units and hotel rooms, which could compound the problem in the future.

Mr. Watson asked Mr. Scott if he would please provide the Commission with a written document summarizing his ideas and concerns. Mr. Scott agreed to do this. Mr. Watson asked Mr. Scott if he was representing any particular group, and Mr. Scott answered no, he was only speaking for himself. The Commission thanked Mr. Scott for sharing his thoughts.

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 Palm Boulevard and had specifically asked Mr. Stevens to provide a schematic of a typical block near 21st Avenue to help analyze how a new parking configuration might work. Mr. Stevens presented an aerial with a proposed parking configuration on one side of Palm Boulevard. He explained that the plan showed parking stops being installed for perpendicular parking well off the roadway to increase the visibility for cars pulling onto Palm Boulevard from the side streets and to give the cars parking on Palm Boulevard room to maneuver into position before pulling into traffic. He explained that this plan showed no parking on the ocean side of Palm Boulevard, because there were so many encumbrances including a drainage swale and landscaping. The plan showed parking spaces being located a safe distance away from intersections, fire hydrants and palm trees and the plan would not include a change in parking surface as it would significantly change the appearance and maintenance requirements for the area. He estimated that approximately 16 cars per block could park with this plan.

The Commission generally discussed the plan and issues were raised including: would the plan call for eliminating parking on the ocean side of Palm Boulevard and the side streets, would SCDOT would approve the elimination of parking spaces and would the plan include a requirement to pay to park. The Commission generally agreed that the organization proposed by the plan would be a benefit to the area. Mr. Stevens explained that he felt that if the Commission thought the plan was worth investigating, that the next step would be to meet with the SCDOT and see if they perceived problems with the plan. The Commission agreed that it would be useful to have Mr. Stevens meet with representatives of SCDOT and Mr. Stevens agreed to do so.

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MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mr. Kerr explained that a date had been set for a workshop with City Council for September 16th at 5:30pm. Additionally, he explained that the public hearing and second reading for the Comprehensive Plan was scheduled for September 22nd at 6:30.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55PM.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Denton, Chairman.