

MINUTES OF THE ISLE OF PALMS
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
December 8, 2010

The Isle of Palms Planning Commission met in the Building Department conference room, 1301 Palm Boulevard on December 8, 2010, at 4:30PM. Members attending included Bev Ballow, David Cohen, Ron Denton, Diane Oltorik and Noel Scott; the Director of Planning Douglas Kerr was present as well. Pat Campbell 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 first item on the agenda was the review of the minutes of the November 10th, 2010 meeting. Ms. Ballow made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Oltorik seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

DISCUSSION OF SIGN ORDINANCE- SANDWICH BOARDS

Mr. Kerr explained that at the last meeting, the Commission directed the staff to prepare an amendment to the sign ordinance that would allow sandwich boards under certain circumstances; specifically that there only be one board per business, that they be no larger than six square feet, that they be removed during non-business hours, that they be setback at least five feet from the property lines and that they not obstruct pedestrian ways or create hazards to the traveling public. He explained that a draft ordinance was circulated that included these provisions.

Ms. Oltorik explained that she had not been able to participate in the discussion the Commission previously had, but she would like to make one more plea for the Commission to consider making a recommendation that would allow banner signs. She explained that she felt that if the amendment included specific requirements, including that they be made of heavy duty materials, that they be of a normal four-sided shape and that they be firmly attached, she believed that it would be helpful to the businesses and not detrimental to the community.

Ms. Ballow explained that she too had thought about certain banners that would not necessarily be objectionable, but she had come to a personal conclusion that banners do not generally fit the character she envisioned for the commercial areas.

Mr. Denton explained that he had concluded that businesses can meet their advertising objects and comply with the existing ordinance, especially if the

ordinance is relaxed to allow sandwich boards. He added that he feared that the temporary nature of banners and their deterioration over time would ultimately be unappealing for the community.

Ms. Oltorik stated that if the will of the group is to not allow banners, she understood, but she wanted to make a final plea as she was not able to contribute at previous discussions.

The group generally discussed the sandwich board amendment which had been prepared by the staff and they agreed that it met the intent of the previous discussions. Ms. Ballow stated that she felt that a maximum height would be appropriate and Mr. Kerr explained that the existing ordinance included a maximum height for rental signs of 40 inches, which he thought would be appropriate for this application.

Mr. Cohen made a motion to recommend that Council adopt the ordinance amendment as proposed with the inclusion of a maximum overall height of 40 inches. Ms. Oltorik seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The Commission discussed setting a date for a future public forum to discuss parking management and the group collectively agreed that it would be better to set the date of the forum while the newly appointed members are present.

Mr. Kerr explained that the all members need to complete the training required each year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20PM.
Respectfully submitted, Ron Denton, Chairman.