

MINUTES OF THE ISLE OF PALMS
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
March 12, 2014

The Isle of Palms Planning Commission met in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard on March 12, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. Members attending included Bev Ballow, Ron Denton, Penny Lewis, Lisa Safford, Don Smith and Noel Scott; the Director of Planning Douglas Kerr was present as well. Richard Ferencz 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 Noel Scott called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Scott noted that the next item on the agenda was the approval of the February 20th, 2014 minutes. Mr. Denton made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted and Ms. Ballow seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

UPDATE ON BIKE PATHS

Mr. Scott explained that he was aware of several different bike path routes that were being discuss as well as progress on beach visitor parking being made by Stantec, so he asked that Mr. Kerr update the group on these two issues.

Mr. Kerr explained that there were three different bike path projects being discussed in different venues. He stated that each year the City submits a list of priorities to the Charleston County Transportation Committee (CTC) for funding through their "C" fund. He explained that in the past years, the City's top priority has been funding for drainage improvements in the area between 42nd Avenue and 57th Avenue and the second priority has been bike path improvements. He stated that historically only the first priority has been funded, so money has not awarded for bike path improvements.

The first bike path project submitted for CTC funds is to begin survey and design work for a future bike path on both sides of Palm Boulevard from Breach Inlet to 57th Avenue. The second bike path project submitted is to extend the inbound cycling lane from the bottom of the Isle of Palms Connector to Palm Boulevard. The existing path in this area merges into the right turn. The land adjacent to this path is owned by the City and it is thought that the City could allow for the right-of-way to be widened for the addition of the connecting bike path.

Mr. Kerr explained that a separate effort is a bike path called the Battery 2 Beach route that is conceived to run continuously from the County Park on Folly Beach to the County Park on the Isle of Palms. He explained that the portion on the Isle of Palms is conceived to have an additional spur that would connect the County Park to the Isle of

Palms Marina via Waterway Boulevard. He stated that the inbound path would go from the Breach Inlet Bridge onto Ocean Boulevard and to the County Park and the outbound traffic would use the existing bike path on Palm Boulevard.

He explained that currently there is not an identified source of funding for these paths, but that the effort was to identify where the route should be and find funding sources as it becomes available through road widening and other projects.

The group generally discussed how improving paths for cyclist would ultimately improve congestion for vehicles and potentially could improve some of the beach parking issues.

UPDATE ON BEACH VISITOR PARKING

Mr. Kerr explained that the City had entered into an agreement with Stantec to work on several items including developing a parking permit implementation plan, an on-street parking review and field verification.

He showed the Commission a draft illustration that would be the basis for the on-street parking analysis and explained that Stantec was developing a map that will show the amount of area available to parking given the right-of-way widths, pavement widths and encroachments. Additionally, he explained that Stantec would be working this summer on analyzing the traffic patterns and congestion issues on the busy beach traffic days. This analysis will be used to develop a plan to manage the issues associated with beach visitor parking.

Mr. Smith asked the status of the replacement of the traffic counters. Mr. Scott explained that he had been contacted by Councilman Bettelli and informed that the purchase of those counters had been authorized by City Council. Mr. Kerr explained that he believed that the counters would be installed prior to the arrival of the beach traffic. Mr. Scott stated that he believed that Councilman Harrington was able to relay the Planning Commission's concerns regarding the traffic counters to Council, which he appreciated.

Mr. Scott explained that in reviewing the scope with Stantec, he had hoped that the Planning Commission could be included in a working session. He noticed that there were a finite number of meetings that Stantec would attend, so he would not want to exceed that number, but he was hopeful that the Commission would have a chance to have a discussion with Stantec. Mr. Kerr explained that he would try to ensure that the Commission members were aware of the public meetings that are scheduled with Stantec.

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ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Noel Scott, Chairman