PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 15, 2021 4:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Tiffany Secka, Chair
Rachel Ciliberti, Member
Tom DeYampert, Member
Bev Jackson, Member
Greg Premer, Vice Chair

STAFF PRESENT: Andrew Dickman, City Attorney
Ginny Keeter-Bodkin, Deputy City Clerk
Wesley Wright, Community Development Director
Brandon Berry, Planner II

Chair Secka called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Changes to the Agenda – There were no changes to the agenda.

2. Audience Comments - There were no audience comments.

3. Approval of Minutes a. 2/22/2021

In item 6, FEMA Flood Maps, the decrease of Base Flood Elevation should read from 11 to 9 feet.

Motion: Member Ciliberti moved and Vice Chair Premer seconded the approval of the minutes from the February 22, 2021 with the change to Item 6; the motion carried 5-0.

4. Discussion Items

a. Bicycles on the Beach: In a continuation from last month's meeting, Mr. Wright directed the Board members to the meeting packet page which included the Land Development Code definition of "vehicle", the Code of Ordinances section on "skateboards and motorized vehicles" and criteria for permitted operation of vehicles (public works and safety, commercial activities, special events, and mechanical beach cleaning) on the beach. There are some discrepancies in the verbiage of both documents that need to be made uniform. At their November meeting, the Beach Stewardship Committee voted to recommend to the City Commission that bicycles and all wheeled conveyances, including motorized, be prohibited from the beach; this will be on the next Commission agenda.

Board discussion followed regarding vehicles on the beach and safety, including partially motorized e-bicycles and Onewheels. Electric scooter and e-bike use are increasing rapidly within the City. The City's Transportation Director is working with other cities to see what policies they have planned. The City Attorney added that a bill passed the Florida Senate which subjects e-bikes to all of the rights and duties of regular bicycles but does not preempt local governments from regulating them.

John Kurzman of Bahia Honda Way gave public comment on being respectful of pedestrians while e-bike riding on the beach and provided handouts to the Board on motorized bicycles and

public beach access. The City Attorney added comment that local police have powers to regulate municipal areas for public health and safety.

Motion: Member DeYampert moved and Member Jackson seconded a recommendation to the City Commission that beach policing be kept simple for the Sheriff's Office and all bicycles and Onewheels, motorized or not, be eliminated from the beach. The motion carried 4-1 with Member Premer voting No.

b. Fishing on the Beach: Mr. Wright could not find, in his research, any local beaches that prohibit fishing on the shore. Our City's ordinances only prohibit fishing on the Vina del Mar and Boca Ciega Isle bridges. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regulates fishing on the shores. Board discussion followed on safety issues of shore fishing in proximity to swimmers; the City Attorney's office is researching the legalities of designating certain areas.

John Kurzman of Bahia Honda Way provided public comment suggesting signage vs. laws.

c. St. Pete Beach Height Standards: Mr. Wright explained that work is being done on how to regulate height in the Land Development Code as related to Base Flood Elevation which is changing with the new FEMA maps and must be adopted by August 24, 2021. The Base Flood Elevation of most areas of the City will be decreasing by two to three feet; the City can use the most restrictive elevation in regulating height. Mr. Berry reviewed a presentation on some of the elevation updates since the last meeting. He reviewed the current definition of "height" in the Land Development Code and two proposed additions to that verbiage for the purposes of standardization, as well as two new definitions – "Design Flood Elevation" and "Freeboard". The proposed definitions are made part of these minutes. He continued to review examples, using recent site plans, of the two height standardization proposals in Vina del Mar, Brightwater Estates, and Pass-a-Grille. Other examples will be brought to future meetings.

The Board discussed the two proposals and the consensus was that basing height from grade makes the changes equitable across the City. Mr. Berry added that Pass-a-Grille has its own height standards and appropriate care would be paid to that.

At the Chair's request, Mr. Wright gave an update on the Substantial Improvement Ordinance that has passed and ways in which the City will work to inform the public, realtors, builders, and architects on these changes.

Mr. John Kurzman of Bahia Honda Way provided public comment on the Ordinance and when it takes effect. He provided a print-out on a scale of water levels.

5. Adjournment – Next Meeting 4/19/2021

There being no further business, Chair Secka adjourned the meeting at 5:20 PM.

These minutes were approved at the April 19, 2021 Planning Board meeting.