

**PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING
JULY 25, 2011**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Edward Zapke, Chairman
Donna Aveck, John Burrage, Massey Loughman,
Bill Schindler, Charles Thomas, Charles Zajicek

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lynne Matthews

OTHERS PRESENT: Lisa Hannon, Zoning Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting
- 1. August 22, 2011

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Meeting of June 27, 2011
 - Mr. Burrage MOVED, Mr. Loughman SECONDED approval of the June 27, 2011 minutes.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

- Recording Secretary Kelly swore in all participants.
- A. City of Punta Gorda Strategic Plan – Fiscal Year (FY) 2012
 - Ms. Lisa Hannon, Zoning Coordinator, drew members’ attention to the FY 2011 Strategic Plan Progress Report, as delineated in the agenda material, stating City Council was seeking input from the public relative to development of a potential list of strategic objectives for FY 2012. She noted City Council wished to have all input by August 31, 2011, adding same could be submitted by individuals or by the Commission as a whole.
 - Mr. Zapke mentioned the South Charlotte County Coalition (SCCC) would be discussing the Strategic Plan at their next meeting, adding input was also requested from the Punta Gorda Isles (PGI) Civic Association (CA).
 - Mr. Burrage commented the issue of annexation was addressed under Business Development on page 4, stating he understood any annexations would be by invitation only. He asked if this should be specified.
 - Ms. Hannon suggested Mr. Burrage contact Mr. Dennis Murphy, Growth Management Director, regarding annexation.
 - Mr. Loughman recalled a discussion relative to moving people, particularly children, across U.S. 41, particularly where it intersected Olympia and Marion Avenues; however,

he noted there was nothing included within the Strategic Plan regarding same. He explained the issue arose when children who resided in the Historic District were no longer being bused to school.

- Ms. Hannon confirmed she would pass on Mr. Loughman's comments.
 - Mr. Loughman stated improvements to the Carmalita Street/U.S. 41 intersection were moved up as a priority by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).
 - Mr. Schindler interjected Mr. Loughman's comments may be addressed in Phases 2 and 3 of the Linear Park project.
 - Mr. Zajicek then questioned whether the issue of reviewing business location setbacks in the Highway Commercial (HC) zoning district was appropriate for the Strategic Plan.
 - Ms. Hannon responded Ms. Teri Tubbs, Zoning Official, would be bringing same to the Land Development Regulation (LDR) Review Committee and City Council for discussion. She stated staff would await City Council direction on whether or not to move forward.
 - Ms. Aveck expressed hope a way could be found to attract pedestrian type shops, stating same encouraged people to walk from store to store.
 - Ms. Hannon responded she believed same was addressed under Quality of Life on page 6.
- B. ZA-09-11 – An Ordinance of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, Amending Chapter 26, Punta Gorda Code, known as the Land Development Regulations, amending Article 8, Section 8.5, Subsection (b), re-establishing the permitted fence heights in Single Family Residential Zoning Districts outside of the Special Residential Overlay District; providing for conflict and severability; and providing an effective date.
- Ms. Hannon announced maximum fence height permitted in residential districts was inadvertently omitted when Ordinance #1676-11 was adopted on April 6, 2011. She explained ZA-09-11 corrected the error through reinstatement of the previously permitted fence heights in residential districts. She recommended approval of ZA-09-11, offering to answer any questions.
 - Mr. Zapke confirmed only residential districts outside of the Special Residential Overlay districts (SROs) would be impacted, there would be no change to current regulations in the SROs, and there were no differences between the proposed regulations and those which existed prior to April 2011. He clarified this was truly a housekeeping issue.
 - Mr. Schindler commented there were numerous, existing violations, stating he believed the 120 days from the effective date of the ordinance which property owners were allowed before being required to bring their property into compliance was excessive.
 - Ms. Hannon responded many of those situations were likely existing non-conformities.
 - Mr. Zapke called three times for anyone to speak on ZA-09-11.

- Mr. Zajicek MOVED, Ms. Aveck SECONDED to close the public hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Mr. Burrage MOVED, Mr. Schindler SECONDED to find ZA-09-11 consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and to recommend approval of same based upon the evidence and testimony presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

STAFF COMMENTS

- A. Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Project Status Report
 - Mr. Zajicek questioned the amount of use of the East Mooring Field (EMF) since its establishment, other than the 4th of July.
 - Mr. Schindler replied very little.
 - Mr. Thomas commented he understood municipalities were establishing mooring fields and then restricting anchorage outside of same.
 - Mr. Zajicek pointed out the increased number of boats anchored on the west side of the U.S. 41 Bridge since the EMF was established.
 - Mr. Zapke opined anchoring must be allowed if Punta Gorda wished to become known as a boater friendly destination.
 - Discussion ensued with regard to anchorage restrictions.
 - Ms. Aveck then commented on the Strategic Plan, requesting the City's homeowners associations be specified under Stakeholders on page 7.

COMMITTEE/BOARD COMMENTS

- Mr. Burrage mentioned one of the new Wayfinding System signs included a misspelling, Herald Court "Center" instead of "Centre."
- Mr. Thomas questioned whether any signs had been eliminated after the Wayfinding System signage was installed.
- Mr. Burrage replied he did not believe many signs were taken down.
- Mr. Schindler interjected a number of signs were removed in the SROs.
- Mr. Zapke announced he would not be present at the Commission's August 2011 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned: 2:20 p.m.

Edward Zapke, Chairman

Mary Kelly, Recording Secretary