

**MINUTES
LAKE COUNTY
MT. PLYMOUTH-SORRENTO
PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

JULY 11, 2007

The Mt. Plymouth-Sorrento Planning Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, July 11, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. at the Sorrento Christian Center, 32441 CR 437N, Sorrento, Florida. The Mt. Plymouth-Sorrento Planning Advisory Committee is an advisory committee for continued planning efforts within the Mt. Plymouth-Sorrento area as defined in Ordinance 2004-67.

Members Present:

G. Curtis Duffield, President
Priscilla Bernardo-Drugge, Vice-President
Betty Ann Christian, Secretary

Tim Bailey
Jeanne Etter
Clark Morris
Judy Weis

Minnie Bollar
Dr. Ronald Holman
Jeff Richardson

Members Absent:

Scott Taylor

Staff Present:

Kimberly Williams, Assistant County Attorney
Alfredo Massa, Chief Planning, Planning and Community Design
Donna Bohrer, Office Associate, Planning and Community Design
Karen Ginsberg, Senior Planner, Planning and Community Design
Grant Wenrick, Landscape Architect, Planning and Community Design

Guests:

Commissioner Linda Stewart, Lake County Board of County Commissioners

G. Curtis Duffield, President called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and noted that a Quorum was present. He confirmed that Proof of Publication was on file in the Planning and Development Services Division and that the meeting had been noticed pursuant to the Sunshine Statute.

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AGENDA DESCRIPTION

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Approval of Minutes

Landscape Discussion – Grant Wenrick

MOTION by Dr. Holman, SECONDED by Jeanne Etter to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2007 and May 9, 2007 meetings.

FOR: Duffield, Bernardo-Drugge, Bailey, Bollar, Christian, Etter, Holman, Weis, Richardson, Morris

ABSENT: Taylor

AGAINST: None

MOTION PASSED: 10-0

President Duffield said today's meeting would probably be shortened as Mr. Bennett and the consultants were unable to attend. He said staff was present to discuss the landscape ordinance that the County is in the process of revising. He said the Committee would be able to ask about landscaping issues relating to this area.

President Duffield said staff is continuing their efforts to schedule Department of Transportation (DOT) representatives to meet with the MPSPAC to discuss transportation issues, particularly SR 46.

Grant Wenrick, Landscape Architect, Planning and Community Design said the County is currently updating and revising the landscaping ordinance. He said some of the changes will include upgraded regulations such as improved landscape buffers, requiring more trees in parking lots, enhanced preservation of trees and requiring larger trees to be planted. He said the County is considering the establishment of a tree mitigation bank.

Mr. Wenrick said he had driven through the community and he discussed how landscaping could enhance the Main Street District and help to slow traffic.

There was brief discussion regarding the landscaping of parking islands, including safety versus screening, water requirements, reducing the number of allowed parking spots between parking islands and requiring canopy trees. Mr. Wenrick thought there was the potential to do some interesting and beneficial landscaping along SR 46.

Jeanne Etter said she would support the use of more native plants and encouraging drip irrigation systems. Tim Bailey discussed reducing the amount of grass by substituting native plants. Commissioner Stewart said she supported a reduction of the amount of grass in residential lots and thought Lake County might be taking a leadership role in conserving water through landscaping.

Priscilla Drugge was concerned about the effect of invasive plants particularly within the Wekiva River Protection Area (WRPA). Mr. Wenrick said the new ordinance would encourage the removal of invasive plants. He said the County is now inspecting recently installed landscaping and moving to ensuring their survival.

Ms. Etter raised the issue of individual residential construction, outside of residential developments, because those homeowners don't have to submit landscape plans. Mr. Wenrick said the County was moving towards better regulation of the amount and type of sod.

There was discussion about enhancing traffic/parking safety with landscaping, slowing traffic with landscaped round-a-bouts and by moving landscaping closer to the roadway.

There was a consensus with Betty Ann Christian's suggestion to send a sympathy card to the pastor of the church on behalf of the committee.

Clark Morris discussed moving the meeting to a later time to allow more of the public to attend these meetings. Tim Bailey suggested twice a year evening meetings similar to town meetings. Ms. Etter said it could be difficult for people to attend evening meetings.

MOTION by Tim Bailey, SECONDED by Dr. Holman to coordinate two evening meetings a year, with posted signs to notify the public, presentation of a progress report from MPSPAC and to be coordinated with Commissioner Stewart.

FOR: Duffield, Bernardo-Drugge, Bailey, Bollar, Christian, Etter, Holman, Weis, Richardson, Morris

ABSENT: Taylor

AGAINST: None

MOTION PASSED: 10-0

President Duffield suggested using Round Lake facilities for the evening meetings and asked Comm. Stewart contact the school.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Etter said the School Board had recently placed construction of an elementary school in this area on a priority list. She said this would utilize the land provided by Sorrento Village and said this was brought up as a public interest item.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Drugge said she would like to discuss further Focus Question #2 at a future meeting.

Mr. Bailey said he had met with Chairman of the Aviation Authority and they would be making an effort to direct as much commercial air traffic as possible away from this area.

Dr. Holman said he was waiting to hear about scheduling a work session for the committee. President Duffield said they are waiting for a decision regarding the Sunshine Law requirements for work sessions. Kimberly Williams, Assistant County Attorney, said a workshop could replace a regular meeting or could be in addition to the regular meeting but not all meetings could be workshops that did not allow time for public input. There was discussion about scheduling a workshop in the month of August.

MOTION Judy Weis, SECONDED by Jeff Richardson to adjourn.

FOR: Duffield, Bernardo-Drugge, Bailey, Bollar, Christian, Etter, Holman, Weis, Richardson, Morris

ABSENT: Taylor

AGAINST: None

MOTION PASSED: 10-0

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Donna R. Bohrer
Public Hearing Coordinator

Betty Ann Christian
Secretary