

Town of Colonial Beach Planning Commission Minutes

Date: May 3rd, 2012 – Town Center, 22 Washington Avenue

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Present:	Maureen Holt, Chairwoman David Coombes Ed Grant Desiree Urquhart
Absent:	Kent Rodeheaver
Staff:	Director of Planning and Community Development, Gary Mitchell Planning Manager, Josh Frederick Town Attorney, Andrea Erard

Item 1: Call to Order

Chairwoman Holt called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Member Rodeheaver was absent.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

Chairwoman Holt asked for a motion to approve the minutes from April 5th, 2012 regular meeting. Member Urquhart made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 5th, 2012 regular meeting. Member Coombes seconded the motion.

Chairwoman Holt called for a voice vote; it was unanimously resolved:

That the minutes of the April 5th, 2012 regular meeting be approved.

Item 3: Public Comment on Planning Commission Matters

There was no public comment.

Item 4: Final Capital Improvements Plan review for FY 2012-2013

Mr. Mitchell opened the item. He informed the Commission that this was the final draft of the document, based on comments the Commission provided during their last regular meeting, and summarized the line items that each department had included in the document.

Member Urquhart clarified the amount for stormwater management, for which there was an error in the draft document.

Member Coombes had a question about the formatting of the document. He also questioned why the CIP spreads funding for a new government building over 5 years, but does not do the same for a new school building.

Mr. Mitchell explained that the school system operates under an independent budget, and subsequently controls their own CIP.

Chairwoman Holt asked for a motion to approve. Member Coombes made a motion to recommend approval of the CIP to the Town Council. Member Grant seconded the motion.

Chairwoman Holt called for a voice vote; it was unanimously resolved:

That the CIP be forwarded to the Town Council with a positive recommendation.

Chairwoman Holt added that the Town should include regular disaster management funding in the CIP to include water storage, shelters, and similar provisions.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Commission that the VA Department of Emergency Management offers grant funding for things of this nature, but funding is tied to their own budget cycle.

Item 5: Public Hearing – To Consider an Amendment of Article 1 of the Zoning Ordinance

Mr. Mitchell opened the item. He highlighted the changes proposed to Article 1 of the Zoning Ordinance, based on prior drafts and comments by the Commission.

Chairwoman Holt opened the public hearing.

There being no public comment, Chairwoman Holt closed the public hearing.

Item 6: Approval of the Amendment of Article 1 of the Zoning Ordinance

Member Coombes commented about the nature and applicability of provision #9 of Article 1-3 of the Zoning Ordinance which states "...Protect approach slopes and other safety areas of licensed airports, including United States government and military air facilities;...".

Mr. Mitchell informed the Commission that this provision was pre-existing; the only addition to Article 1-3 was provision #12.

The Commission proceeded to discuss possibilities for the rewording of this provision.

Ms. Erard stated that the language of Article 1 is just setting forth the purposes of the ordinance; it doesn't prohibit or inhibit applicability of the code, but rather is just prefatory language.

Member Coombes made a motion to remove provision #9 from Article 1-3 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Chairwoman Holt called for a voice vote:

Member Coombes voted aye; Chairwoman Holt and Member Urquhart voted nay; Member Grant abstained. The motion failed.

Member Urquhart requested a slight revision to the alphabetizing of acronyms in Article 1.

Member Coombes made a motion to rewrite provision #9 of Article 1-3 of the Zoning Ordinance to read "...Protect aircraft approach slopes and other safety areas;..." and to recommend approval of Article 1, as amended. Member Urquhart seconded the motion.

Chairwoman Holt called for a voice vote; it was unanimously resolved:

To recommend approval of Article 1 of the Zoning Ordinance, as amended, to the Town Council.

Item 7: Informational Item "City Trees and Property Values" Article

Mr. Frederick opened the item. He provided a summary of the research article which primarily addressed the various benefits of trees in urban areas. He stated this was in light of the recent passing of Arbor Day.

There was further discussion regarding the Commission's attendance at the upcoming joint meeting with the Town Council. It was determined that there will not be a quorum.

Item 8: Adjournment

Chairwoman Holt asked for a motion to adjourn. Member Coombes made the motion to adjourn.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Chairperson, Colonial Beach Planning Commission