

Ocracoke Planning Advisory Board
November 14, 2013 5:30PM
Ocracoke Community Center

Board members present: Jerry Midgett, Sharon Justice, Corky Pentz, Amy Johnson, BJ Oelschlegel, Butch Bryan, and Tom Payne

Also present: Public Information Officer Sarah Johnson and three members of the public.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Pentz

Pre-meeting discussion of the Ocracoke Civic & Business Association (OCBA) meeting from the following night:

- Recap from Connie Leinbach of budget allotment for Hyde County's Regional Planning Organization (RPO) with specific talk about changes to ferry tolling
- Connie says the head of the transportation committee Mr. John Torbett, Co-Chair of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee, will be on the island next Thursday and Friday November 21-22. There will likely be some kind of gathering for community members to meet casually with Mr. Torbett.

Consideration of Agenda

- No changes

Review of September Minutes

- Motion to approve by Amy, second by Butch, all in favor, none opposed.

Review of October Minutes

- Motion to approve by Amy, second by Butch, all in favor, none opposed.

New Business

- Simple plan for future of what we want to look at and what we want to get accomplished
 - Butch says the future of Ocracoke depends on the Ferries and transportation
 - Corky wants to think about the next 3-6 months. What method should the Board use to go through the ODO?
 - BJ recalls a previous decision to go over what Inspector Jerry Hardison has a hard time interpreting/enforcing and what contractors have a hard time interpreting. BJ asked 3 contractors for their top 10 complaints and got one response. The contractor said the ODO's wording is unclear and enforcement is uneven providing specific examples about signage.
 - Butch thinks the Board should go through one piece at a time and work out the kinks by clarifying language and "putting some teeth" in the ODO.
 - Jerry Midgett says the Board should make a list of what is being enforced and what isn't and then take out what isn't being enforced.
 - BJ questions this by asking why aren't the regulations being enforced? If we have a county that isn't willing to go up against court cases, that is a problem. If we have an officer that doesn't

have enough time to enforce the regulations, that's a problem. It may not necessarily be the ordinance.

- Surveyors
 - Corky says that there is no survey requirement for projects. Most people who build a house get a survey, but for smaller projects a hand drawing is all that is required and can easily be incorrect.
 - Jerry Midgett says there was a decision not to require surveys to make it easier on property owners.
 - Many Board members agree that for a small project like building a shed, a survey could be an unnecessary expense.
 - Tom says when he worked as a builder surveys were always required before and after a project.
 - BJ thinks a survey requirement of some type would help cut down on issues with property lines and unenforced building regulations.
- Signage
 - BJ says OCBA plans to meet with all the businesses to discuss the issue.
 - Butch believes that since the businesses create most of the issue, they should be the ones to deal with solving the signage issue.
 - Jerry makes a motion to turn the signage issue over to the OCBA, second by Butch, all in favor, none opposed.
- Make sure all Board members have an updated version of the ODO
 - All Board members have the most updated version.
 - Amy is still looking for a copy of the ODO map.
- Jerry Hardison is rescheduled to brief the Board about problems with the ODO during December meeting
- Copy of Mr. Ducker's return letter to Tom Pahl with some of Mr. Ducker's thoughts on the ODO
 - Corky says further communication with Mr. Ducker needs to wait until the Board starts working through the ODO
- How to get word out to community about signage and address other concerns and community may have?
 - Tom asks about the cost of mailers, BJ thinks it's about \$230 bucks.
 - All agree that once the Board starts dealing with "hot topics" people will show up.

Old Business

- Was there a dialogue established with OCBA?
 - Topic discussed earlier in the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45PM

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday December 12, 2013 at 5:30PM