

Ocracoke Planning Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2014 at 5:30PM
Ocracoke Community Center

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

Board members absent: None

Also present: Commissioner John Fletcher, PIO Sarah Johnson, four members of the public.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Pentz

Review of January 16, 2014 Minutes

- Tom Pahl clarifies that FEMA sets minimum building elevation at 6ft and Hyde County has elected to add an additional 1 ft.
- Motion to approve January minutes by Sharon, second by Amy, all in favor, none opposed.

Consideration of Agenda

- No changes

Public Comment

- None

Old Business

- OCBA meeting regarding signage:
 - Tom Pahl's report from the OCBA meeting last week. 10 community members met representing 10 businesses. The group reviewed the ODO in terms of signage and agreed that planning for the future is good. The group didn't feel they represented all facets of the local business community, so OCBA is handing the issue back to OPAB. OCBA will continue to be a resource and be part of the discussion.
- Ferry Toll Hearing
 - Comment from Benji Hart that people need stop worrying about signs and focus on the ferry toll issue.
 - Mr. Fletcher suggests the idea of putting slot machines on the ferries. Right now there is no place in eastern North Carolina to gamble. The slot machines would create year around business and help pay for the ferries. Mr. Fletcher asks the Board to consider supporting of the idea.
 - BJ – is this really part of the jurisdiction of the Planning Board?
 - Amy – I don't like the idea, I think we have enough problems without gambling.
 - Tom – I question how much money could actually be generated.

- No action made.
- Mr. Fletcher suggests the Board pass a resolution against increased ferry tolls.
 - Resolution:
 - WHEREAS the Ocracoke Planning Advisory Board believes increased and/or additional tolls on the ferries serving Ocracoke Island will negatively impact business and quality of life.
 - SO BE IT RESOLVED that on the 13th day of February, 2014 by unanimous vote the Ocracoke Planning Advisory Board passed the following resolution: The Board is opposed to the implementation of ferry tolls on the ferry between Hatteras Island and Ocracoke Island as well as the increase of ferry tolls between Swan Quarter, NC and Ocracoke Island and Cedar Island, NC and Ocracoke Island.
 - The Board hereby directs the secretary of the Board to send a copy of this resolution to our local NC Representative Paul Tine and our County Manager Bill Rich.
- Discussion of Jerry Hardison's comments about ODO from January meeting
 - Much discussion about lack of enforcement.
 - Butch says that folks who have moved here, need to understand that historically there has been a lot of discrepancy about who received building permits and who didn't. There are a lot of places on Ocracoke that aren't in compliance and will never be.

New Business

- Discussion of beach access. The Board requests Mr. Fletcher, as their County Commissioner, to see if the Board of Commissioners would draft a resolution to request the Federal Government to offer a daily ORV pass for the Hatteras National Seashore.
- Butch says he wants to tackle the signage issue next meeting starting with clarifying the language. General agreement from Board members about the need to move past superficial conversation regarding the issue.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday March 20, 2014 at 5:30PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00PM