

Ocracoke Planning Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2014 at 5:30PM
Ocracoke Community Center

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

Board members absent: None

Also present: Commissioner John Fletcher, Inspector Jerry Hardison, PIO Sarah Johnson, one member of the public

Pre-meeting discussion

- General discussion of the legality of grandfathering leads to the Board informally requesting that Commissioner Fletcher speak with the County Attorney about grandfathering in the Outdoor Sales Ordinance

Meeting called to order by Chairman Pentz 5:50 PM

Review of February 20, 2014 Minutes

- Tom motioned to approve minutes with the added clarification that the Board discussed Inspector Hardison's January comments, he was not actually at the February meeting. Second by Amy, all in favor and none opposed.

Consideration of Agenda

- No changes necessary.

Discussion of potential Board projects for the future

- Non-street legal vehicles
 - Discussion of visitors bringing over vehicles similar to golf carts that are not street legal. Mention that the ordinance allowing golf carts on Ocracoke did not go through a public forum.
 - Question about ticketing drunk golf cart drivers
 - Police officer can give tickets for driving drunk on a golf cart on state roads, but not on private roads
- Mosquito control ditches
 - Amy wants to establish specific meets and bounds for mosquito control ditches in the new CAMA land use plan.
- Travel trailer ordinance
 - Commissioner Fletcher wants to the Board to revisit the camper ordinance.
 - Inspector Hardison says the previous Board spent a lot of time re-writing the ordinance. Everyone seems to be under the impression that campers were grandfathered but the language says those grandfathered still need to comply with previous regulations but a lot of campers were never permitted.

Public Comment

- None

Chairperson's Report

- Professor J. Rogalsky's student's report
 - Corky leads by clarifying he only provided Professor Rogalsky generic information about the topic of signs. Corky thinks it's important to note the bottom line of the report is to focus on Ocracoke's historic character.
 - Jerry and Butch agree that it's unnecessary and foolish for people from New York to say Ocracoke is going to turn into a combination of Coney Island and Key West.
- New Business
 - Question from Corky - How do you feel about sustainable tourism?
 - Amy says it seems like when sustainability pops up in grants, etc. it involves the community selling its soul to meet the requirements of the grant and she sees the lack of competition between businesses as a bad thing.
 - Butch thinks people will visit Ocracoke regardless and the community needs to focus on staying true to its roots, not trying to become an example of sustainable tourism.
 - Discussion of signs within the ODO & the Outdoor Sales Amendment
 - Butch says the signs that only bother him are the ones that force people out onto the sidewalk and those that block your view when driving.
 - Jerry thinks the original ordinance is fine, but the Outdoor Sales Amendment is not.
 - Discussion of the ODO section on signs (Sec. 36-176 Signs)
 - Section c.4. is repetitive of the language in section b3 on illuminated signs.
 - Discussion of Outdoor Sales Amendment (Sec. 36-185 Regulation of Outdoor Sales)
 - Jerry would like to amend section c.1. to remove the grandfather clause.
 - The Board agrees to go through the signs sections more thoroughly at next meeting, before which Commissioner Fletcher will look into the issue of grandfathering.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday April 10, 2014 at 5:30PM.

Jerry motions to adjourn at 7:08PM. Second by Sharon. All in favor and none opposed.