

**MINUTES
BROOKINGS PLANNING COMMISSION**

March 3, 2009

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Brookings Planning Commission (PC) was called to order by Chair Markham at 7:00 in the Council Chambers at the Brookings City Hall on the above date with the following Commission members and staff in attendance.

Commissioners Present: Steve Bismarck, Hedda Markham, Ken Bryan, Cheryl McMahan, Randy Gorman, Juliane Leighton

Commissioners Absent: Bruce Nishioka

Staff Present: Planning Director Dianne Morris, Senior Planner Donna Colby-Hanks, and Secretary Alex Carr-Frederick.

Other: Two participants in the audience and no Curry Coastal Pilot reporter

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

THE PLANNING COMMISSION TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTION ON WRITTEN REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None

THE PLANNING COMMISSION TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTION ON FINAL ORDERS

None

THE PLANNING COMMISSION TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTION IN THE PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Chair announced at 7:01 pm that the public, legislative hearing regarding a City initiated amendment to Land Development Code Chapter 17.94-Landscaping, (File No. **LDC-4-09**), was opened. The criteria used to decide the matter is found in Chapter 140-Amendments, of the BMC.

No ex parte contact, personal bias, personal interest, conflicts or objections were declared by the Commission. There was no challenge from the audience as to the jurisdiction of the Commission to hear the request.

Planning Director Morris reviewed the staff report and stressed the importance of not only water conservation but reducing our storm water run off, the new landscaping code is designed primarily to address those two issues. Commissioner Bismarck expressed concern over the definition of drought resistant plants and the public's ability/willingness to water appropriately. Director Morris pointed out that resources would be available to the public and it was decided that a standardized reference, (To Be Decided), would be made available to the public. Commissioner Leighton suggested a language change to Section 17.94.050 Recommendations with Incentives that would clarify that all citizens who implemented these suggested landscaping changes would receive benefit.

Commissioner Gorman recommended that efforts made to mitigate storm water runoff by citizens be rewarded and that easement square footage be addressed in some manner also. Director Morris agreed about removal of easement areas from the square footage calculations. She also reminded all that this is a living document and putting the code into practice will be the best determiner of what is working and what is not.

Betty Bezzerides of 720 5th Street drew the Commission's attention to two portions of the proposed code. She pointed out that the current language does not require developers to abide by the new code, only builders and she also pointed out that the current language does not provide for any ongoing oversight of projects to ensure compliance. Director Morris indicated 17.94.070 requires all vacant land to retain a certain number of trees making it applicable to developers. Additionally, any violations of this chapter would be dealt with by the existing enforcement language in the code. Discussion was closed at 7:55 pm.

By a 7-0 vote (Motion/Second: Commissioners Bismarck/Gorman) the PC moved to continue the discussion of BMC Chapter 17.94 Landscaping to the April 7, 2009 PC Meeting.

COUNTY REFERRALS

None

APPROVAL of MINUTES

By a 7-0 vote (Moved/seconded: Bismarck/Gorman) the PC approved the minutes from the February 10, 2009 PC Meeting.

UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCE

Yvonne Maitland of 15676 Oceanview Drive expressed concern over the Citizen Involvement Questionnaires turned in at the end of 2008. The City Council Agenda Report of 1/12/09 stated that 7 questionnaires were received, yet 8 went to the City Council, the DLCDD and the LWV. The 8th questionnaire was blank except for the authors personal comments regarding specific citizens of Brookings and his praise for the new Mayor and current City Council. Ms. Maitland took exception to the fact that this questionnaire was included and passed on when none of the specific questions on the survey had been answered. Director Morris indicated that survey is an effort to get public feedback on land use planning. Commissioners Gorman and Bismarck indicated that it was included to avoid the appearance of censorship.

REPORTS/COMMENTS by the PLANNING STAFF

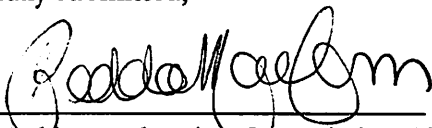
None

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the PC, the meeting closed at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Hedda Markham, Planning Commission Chair
(approved at April 7, 2009 meeting)