

CITY OF COCOA
PLANNING & ZONING BOARD MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
January 10, 2018

A meeting of the Planning & Zoning Board of the City of Cocoa was held on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 in the Council Chambers at 65 Stone Street, Cocoa, as publicly noticed.

OPENING MATTERS:

Chairman Mike Dobrin called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M. The Board Secretary called the roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Dobrin	Chairman
Al Washington	Vice Chairman
Aleck Greenwood	Board Member
Jack Moore	Board Member
Sherry Ervin	Board Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jake Williams	Board Member
Todd Anderson	Board Member
Russell Sengel	Board Member
Jeri Blanco	Board Liaison

OTHERS PRESENT:

Cindy Thurman	Planning & Zoning Manager
Kristin Eick	Board Attorney
Torri Edwards	Board Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES:

1. Approval of Agenda: January 10, 2018.

Motion by Jack Moore, seconded by Al Washington, to approve the agenda of January 10, 2018. The vote on the motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: October 26, 2017.

Motion by Jack Moore, seconded by Al Washington, to approve the minutes of October 26, 2017. The vote on the motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Ordinance 32-84 was adopted October 23, 1984 to protect and preserve trees within the City. The City Council amended Chapter 13 of the City Code on February 14, 1995 to include the establishment of a Tree Board. The Planning and Zoning Board was

designated as the Tree Board with the adoption of Ordinance 3-2003 on February 25, 2003.

Cindy Thurman, Planning and Zoning Manager, provided a brief presentation on the tree ordinance timeline and past tree surveys. Permits are required to remove trees on private property. The permits are reviewed and approved by the City Arborist, Public Works, and Planning and Zoning Staff. The Tree Board will advise City Council on any removal or replacement for trees on city property and city right of ways.

Ms. Thurman noted the City has one (1) arborist and some staff trained to identify and treat tree diseases. She presented a list of trees unsuitable for planting over utilities and sidewalks due to the invasive root systems. Ms. Thurman stated there are species of trees exempt from board approved removal that are non-native, invasive, or harmful to native vegetation. Any trees deemed a nuisance can be reported to Code Enforcement.

Ms. Thurman discussed the duties of the Tree Board. She noted the exemptions to the tree approval removal.

Ms. Thurman reported that the City was once designated as a "National Tree City USA." Currently, there are no cities in Brevard County registered as a National Tree City. The requirements for a National Tree City are:

1. Tree Board
2. Tree Care Ordinance
3. Annual Budget
4. Special Annual Arbor Day Observance

Ms. Ervin inquired if there is an advantage to being designated as a National Tree City USA. Ms. Thurman responded that the advantages are that the City of Cocoa would be recognized in the national registry and receive special National Tree City USA signs and flags to display in the City.

Ms. Thurman stated tree removal items will be added to regular meeting agendas. She requested the board to consider that there are no financial resources to provide an annual update to the Tree Plan with the appropriate GIS mapping and hazardous assessment. Ms. Thurman suggested the Sustainability Advisory Board and the Tree Board work together to create easily maintained planting processes for the City. She noted that clustering native plants can be more beneficial than planting a single tree.

Mr. Dobrin inquired if trees that are old and have been in place will remain there until considered a danger to which Ms. Thurman replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Moore requested a copy of the city ordinance.

Mr. Dobrin opened the discussion to Mr. Greenwood.

Mr. Greenwood stated the Tree Ordinance concern being shared with the Board is not toward a particular person or group. He noted in 1995 the City Council discussed the Tree Ordinance and voted in 1996 that tree removal must have a purpose. He discussed a previous experience when the City Arborist declared the

removal of all the Oak Trees in downtown Cocoa. The City Council decided to obtain a second opinion which resulted in only one (1) tree being removed. Mr. Greenwood noted the Tree Ordinance needs to be addressed and not forgotten. He stated the correct process for tree removal is to have the Tree Board discuss the issue and submit the decision to City Council for a final decision.

Ms. Ervin inquired if the Public Works Department is removing trees without City Council approval. Mr. Greenwood confirmed.

Mr. Greenwood noted the City Council once stated Oak Trees are not appropriate in the Cocoa Village area due to the invasive root system. He reported that the sidewalks are easy to move and replace as needed. He stated Cocoa Village is known for the Oak Trees.

Mr. Dobrin inquired whether the Public Works Department is supporting the tree removal. Mr. Greenwood confirmed. Mr. Dobrin inquired the last time Mr. Greenwood addressed the City Council on the Tree Ordinance and the Chain Link Fence Ordinance. Mr. Greenwood responded that the ordinances were addressed at the December 2017 meeting and the City Council requested a report from Mr. Greenwood. Mr. Dobrin inquired whether Mr. Greenwood spoke to the City Manager regarding the Tree Ordinance. Mr. Greenwood confirmed and stated he will still be reporting at the next City Council meeting. Mr. Dobrin stated he understands the existing Tree Ordinance needs to be enforced by the Tree Board.

Mr. Moore discussed a tree removal issue that occurred two (2) months ago involving a resident that stated a tree was interfering with the sprinkler system. Mr. Greenwood reported the sprinkler system was fixed and the tree was not removed.

Ms. Ervin noted that all of the trees were removed from SR 528 and Highway US1. Mr. Greenwood reported that the DOT was involved with tree removal at that location.

Mr. Washington inquired whether the Tree Board has control over the tree removal on private property. Mr. Greenwood replied that the Tree Ordinance does not control tree removal from private property and requires a tree removal permit. He provided Ms. Thurman with the number and email for the Arborist, Dana Sussman.

Mr. Moore requested the Board received Dana Sussman's information.

Mr. Washington inquired how this Planning and Zoning meeting will prepare Mr. Greenwood when he addresses the City Council. Mr. Greenwood responded that the Tree Board support of the Tree Ordinance will be presented to the City Council. Mr. Dobrin explained that the Board has not read the Tree Ordinance. Mr. Washington noted the current Tree Ordinance is the only option for the Board.

Ms. Kristin Eick, Assistant City Attorney, provided the section of the Tree Ordinance being addressed. She suggested the Tree Board make a recommendation to amend the Tree Ordinance.

Ms. Thurman noted information from Public Works, the Arborist, and anyone that works with the trees will be presented to the City Council. She stated a Tree Update will be added to the regular meeting agenda. Ms. Thurman stated she will contact the Arborist and report to the Tree Board on all active tree removals. Mr. Greenwood requested contacting the Agricultural Arborist as a second opinion. Ms. Thurman stated that request will be discussed further.

Ms. Ervin requested copies of all the City Ordinances and a Planning and Zoning map. Ms. Thurman stated she will provide Ms. Ervin a Planning and Zoning Board package.

Ms. Thurman suggested creating a letter from the Board addressing concerns of the Tree Ordinance and presenting to the City Council. Mr. Greenwood agreed that a letter from the Board will demonstrate support for the Tree Ordinance. Mr. Dobrin stated he will create a letter with Ms. Thurman to address the City Council.

The discussion was closed to the Board.

Mr. Dobrin inquired on other projects coming up. Ms. Thurman stated there are several projects coming up.

Mr. Dobrin inquired if there are any updates on the marijuana issue. Mr. Greenwood stated the City Council did not approve the Marijuana Ordinance.

Mr. Washington noted the location of the new Fire Station on SR 524 was not zoned for a fire station. Ms. Thurman stated she will research the SR 524 zoning and welcomes all Board members to email her with any questions.

Mr. Washington inquired if there are any plans for the former Winn Dixie building on SR 524. Ms. Ervin stated the property was sold by Home Depot and the new owners plan on developing a small shopping center. Mr. Moore stated that Home Depot did not develop the former Winn Dixie building due to no outside storage.

Mr. Greenwood suggested replanting the trees removed from SR 528 and Highway US1. Ms. Thurman stated the trees died and needed to be removed. She will research the tree removal for this area further.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

NEXT MEETING:

The Board members established that the next meeting would be held on February 14, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT:

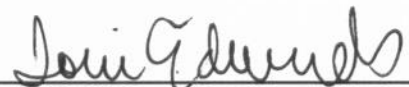
Motion to adjourn by Al Washington, seconded by Sherry Ervin.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:08 P.M.

Approved on this 14 day of February, 2018.



Michael Dobrin, Chairman



Torri Edwards, Board Secretary