

**WORKSHOP MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF REDINGTON SHORES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2007 – 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

Present upon Roll Call: Commissioner Branch, Commissioner Wojcik, Commissioner Hotlhaus, Vice Mayor Adams, Mayor Armstrong, Steve Andrews, Building Official

Jim Smith, Pinellas County Property Appraiser, and Charles Dye, Assistant Deputy for Land Records, demonstrated new software for Pinellas County disaster preparedness that is designed to use computerized aerial views, oblique imagery and GPS to pinpoint problem areas in a designated County site, as well as project the possible damage due to flooding from a hurricane. Mr. Dye said the County would update aerial photographs every year to maintain accuracy. Mayor Armstrong asked what the initial cost to install such a system would be to the Town; Mr. Smith said that initial software would cost about \$2,500, and total cost could reach up to \$4,000 for complete installation and training. The Town could piggyback off of the Countywide system. As a first community to initiate this system, the Town could possibly recoup some of the expenses by training other communities' staff in its use.

OLD BUSINESS

Combine Planning and Zoning and Board of Adjustment

Mayor Armstrong reviewed the recent discussion among the Board of Adjustment and Planning & Zoning members regarding combining both boards, and said the decision was split for and against. Tom Kapper, Chair of the Board of Adjustment, was present and explained that one of the problems is getting enough people to fill both boards, and sufficient representation from each district. After some discussion among the Commission it was agreed that a 5 member combined board with 2 alternates – one regular member from each district – would be a good idea. The Commission will make a decision at the March 13 regular meeting.

Visitor Center Town Hall

Mark Neter, President of the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce, presented his plan for a Visitors' Center, to serve the beach communities, and to be placed in Redington Shores Town Hall reception area. Mr. Neter said there are 3 visitor centers being staffed now, but the need is great to promote Pinellas County beaches. Mr. Neter explained that signage outside the building is essential to invite people into the visitors' center. Mayor Armstrong asked whether this would be a "passive area" – stating that the Town Hall staff does not have time to handle extra duties for such a kiosk; Mr. Neter said he would prefer volunteer participation and possibly computer access as well as informational materials. It was agreed to further discuss the proposed center at the March 27 Workshop.

Discussion Turtle Protection Ordinance

Mayor Armstrong said that the next Big-C meeting February 28 at North Redington Beach will have a presentation from Clearwater Marine Aquarium on turtle nesting safety. Mayor Armstrong opened the discussion of the proposed Turtle Lighting Ordinance by asking if there is any existing lighting standard for the Town's beachfront. Steve Andrews, Building Official, said that the condominiums try to enforce their own areas, and the County's Gulf Beaches Coastal Code has some specifications. Vice Mayor Adams expressed

concern over the 5 year conformity time frame, and that the Ordinance may encroach on residents' privacy

issues. Commissioner Wojcik said the wording of the Ordinance is too interpretive, and explained that his own property is on the beach with 2 sides facing the beach. The lighting on his property helps prevent intruders, and provides a level of safety for his family. Commissioner Branch also expressed concern over the wording, as did Commissioner Holthaus. Mayor Armstrong explained that this Ordinance applies to exterior lighting only, and did not understand the resistance to its adoption. The discussion was tabled until the March 27 Workshop.

Old Town Hall Property

Mayor Armstrong explained that after discussing the use of the old Town Hall lot with Attorney Denhardt, it was agreed that the Town could use the lot for additional parking, but would be liable if it is used for local resident or visitor parking. Mayor Armstrong then said that the local business community would be willing to maintain the lot for business employee parking only, and then the liability would go to the business owners. There is proposed space for 20 parking slots. Vice Mayor Adams asked if there would also be room for a dumpster; Building Official Steve Andrews said there would be. Commissioner Branch said that the dumpster would be convenient for the beach raking machine to use as a dumping spot for beach debris as well. Further discussion included the need for employee permits on cars, and no overnight parking. Parking bumpers and possibly a layer of shell over the lot was also discussed. It was agreed to vote on the parking project at the March 13 meeting.

Holiday Decorations

Mayor Armstrong asked the Commission whether they preferred to continue to own the Town's decorations, or would prefer leasing them from some company. Vice Mayor Adams added that the Town has a large artificial tree stored in the maintenance garage that needs to be given away; and that Madeira Beach may want to take it. The Commission agreed that the labor expended by the maintenance crew, as well as the fact that the decorations have to be replaced periodically, would be alleviated by hiring an outside company to take over the responsibility. After further researching other local towns' use of outside companies, the Commission will decide whether to lease decorations at the March 27 Workshop.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Canvassing Board

Mayor Armstrong explained that the Town's Canvassing Board for elections has been comprised of Commission members. A quorum is always needed for the Board; but if several Commission members are up for re-election it would not be possible to have a quorum, since running for an election exempts that person from participating on the Canvassing Board. Mayor Armstrong suggested using Mary Palmer, Town Clerk, and 2 local residents as members of the Board. Further discussion will be placed on the March 27 Workshop.

Update – Parks

Steve Andrews, Building Official, said that he received word from the County that the grant request for the Spitzer Park improvements was denied. Mr. Andrews also reported that the State grant request for the expansion and improvement for Spitzer Park may have been approved in the amount of \$335,000, based on a letter the Town had received referencing the application number and an amount for the grant. Mr. Andrews will call the State to verify the status.

Mr. Andrews said that the floating dock for the Del Bello Park kayak launch has been ordered, and that sources for the gangway are being sought.

Vice Mayor Adams said that an insurance check for \$9,225.00 has come in for the fire damage to the playground equipment at Spitzer Park, and that repairs will begin soon.

Commissioner Holthaus reported that he and Mary Palmer will visit Constitution Park on February 28 to mutually discuss renovations or changes to the large grill area, and he will have estimates and some specific suggestions for the March 13 Commission meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Branch said that there are several new telephone poles being replaced at the south end of Town, per an original contract with Verizon; but that they will be removed for the undergrounding. Several residents had expressed concerns about this.

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, March 13, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.

Workshop Meeting – Tuesday, March 27, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Herr

Administrative Secretary