

PLANNING SERVICES

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING BOARD

April 9, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Paul Ritz, Nathan Monk, Kurt Larson, Danny Grundhoefer, Ryan Wiggins

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nina Campbell, Laurie Murphy

STAFF PRESENT: Brandi Deese, Assistant Planning Services Administrator, Leslie Statler, Planner, Sherry Morris, Planning Services Administrator, Gregg Harding, Historic Preservation Planner, Don Kraher, Council Executive, Laurie Byrne, Constituent Services, Derrik Owens, Public Works Director, Brian Cooper, Parks and Recreation Director, Marcie Whitaker, Housing Administrator, Dan Flynn, Airport Director

OTHERS PRESENT: John Hutchinson, Bob Greene, Ron Martin, Rob Pettitt, Lindsey McIntosh

AGENDA:

- Quorum/Call to Order
- Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 12, 2019.
- **New Business:**
 1. **Conditional Use Permit Approval for 110 W. Strong Street**
 2. **Evaluation and Appraisal Review (EAR) Based - Comprehensive Plan Amendments**
- Open Forum
- Adjournment

Call to Order / Qorum Present

Chairman Ritz called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm with a quorum present and explained the Board procedures to the audience.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Wiggins made a motion to approve the March 12, 2019 minutes, seconded by Mr. Larson, and it carried unanimously.

New Business

Conditional Use Permit Approval for 110 W. Strong Street

J. Nixon Daniel, III, on behalf of Martha's Vineyard, has requested a Conditional Use Permit for a Board and Lodging House for the property located at 110 W. Strong Street. The applicant indicates the purpose of the conditional use request is to provide charitable housing to families whose friends and loved ones are in the local hospitals. This property is currently zoned PR-2, North Hill Preservation Multi-Family, which permits the land use of Bed and Breakfast by right but grants the land use of Boarding and Lodging House as a Conditional Use Permit.

EVERYTHING THAT'S GREAT ABOUT FLORIDA IS BETTER IN PENSACOLA.

The applicant is proposing to modify the existing structures to increase the number of units and will no longer qualify as a Bed and Breakfast.

Chairman Ritz stated he had researched the background of Martha's Vineyard and noticed there was a Euclid address also owned by Martha's Vineyard. He became more and more confident in the mission purpose, and personally, it hit close to home with his own family. He felt it had a benefit to the community and advised he would support his kind of approach. Mr. Larson asked what would happen if the property was no longer owned by Martha's Vineyard, and Ms. Deese explained the Conditional Use Permit runs with the land, however, they would have to adhere to the standards provided within the approvals. She stated the idea of a Conditional Use Permit was that it might be a good use within the district with conditions attached to it, and this Board and Council could add to those conditions.

Mr. Hutchinson further explained that Martha's Vineyard provided free accommodations and meals to out-of-town families who were here in town because of a medical crisis, and they currently operate in Pine Glades neighborhood. Marti and Dennis Tackett opened up their home for this purpose after observing the need. He clarified the guests were referred by hospital staff, and they did not take walk-ins. He said they averaged around 100 guests per year, and 40 percent of the guests come by plane, so there are no automobiles so parking would not be an issue. He also advised the visual aspect from the street would not be changed.

Ms. Wiggins was impressed by their board members and their mission and thanked Mr. Hutchinson for providing the service. Mr. Monk asked for the difference with the Ronald McDonald House, and Mr. Hutchinson explained this organization accepted all families, not just those with children. He also indicated their doors were open to gay couples, any religion and any lifestyle; he explained the only counseling performed was upon request. Mr. Grundhoefer recused himself from voting because of his firm's relationship with the ministry. Mr. Larson asked that if Martha's Vineyard ever sold the property to someone who would turn it into a bed and breakfast, this use would be addressed again by the Planning Board. Ms. Deese explained one of the differences in a bed and breakfast and a boarding and lodging house was that the owner was required to stay onsite, and the Board might want to add that language if they felt more comfortable; Mr. Larson accepted that suggestion. Mr. Monk did not want to do something which prohibited the ministry from expanding.

Mr. Robertson, the present owner, stated they had managed Noble Manor for 14 years. They had been concerned that in North Hill you could only have four rooms, and you must also live onsite. He confirmed they were not an Air BNB and had no previous issues with neighbors. He stressed this request was a good fit for the community.

Mr. Larson made a motion to approve with a condition that if Martha's Vineyard ever sold the property, this would be addressed again by the Planning Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Monk. Ms. McIntosh, who lives next door, agreed with the mission, but had concerns with selling her property and the fact that her husband was a physician and wanted to stay under the radar. She also was concerned with runoff from the concrete since her property is downhill from the site. She pointed out a massive add-on and a concrete yard, and if the owners waited, they could possibly find the right buyer for the home. She suggested property on Cervantes for the more industrial buyer suited the needs for a home like this.

Chairman Ritz explained that on the runoff issue, the neighbors would have recourse since the City would not allow them to dump their stormwater onto other properties. As far as price drops, this Board could not tell the homeowner what to sell the property at. However, the Board does take into consideration the neighbors, the property owners themselves, and the ideas of where the City should move forward. Regardless of the Board vote, this item would go before the Council, and concerns could be addressed at that time. Mr. Monk pointed out he had been working with people for the past 15 years helping them to move out from homelessness, and explained anyone who interacts with the public is not guaranteed anonymity unless they are living in a gated community.

He indicated the Waterfront used their Victorian homes as rehab facilities, and when it came time to sell, they sold very quickly at a good price, and did not believe this project would do any damage to the aesthetics of the neighborhood. **The motion then carried unanimously.**

Evaluation and Appraisal Review (EAR) Based - Comprehensive Plan Amendments

As provided in Florida Statute 163, all local governments within the state of Florida are required to participate in a state coordinated review for an Evaluation and Appraisal Report Based Comprehensive Plan Update. The proposed amendments within this update reflect changes in state requirements and local conditions.

Chairman Ritz had noted the changes in the name of the airport, Master Plan dates and did not find anything offensive or egregious to the betterment of the City. Ms. Deese confirmed that with the Board's approval, the amendment would proceed to Council, the State and then back to Council. Mr. Monk also did not see anything out of the ordinary. Mr. Grundhoefer asked where the document originated, and Ms. Deese advised it came from Planning Services as a requirement of the State for every five to seven years; the amendment was due to the State by November 2019. She also indicated that the document would be reviewed by the Department of Economic Opportunity, but it was not a means to measure success or to be reprimanded for not reaching goals.

Ms. Whitaker addressed housing assessments being performed somewhat annually, but changed the language to periodic to be broad and give them that leeway for obtaining grants; she indicated some of the language had been relocated in the document for a better placement. She further explained the incentives as homebuyer incentives, City-owned lot discounts for new construction, and also went with broad definitions so different strategies could be included.

Mr. Cooper explained the recreation open space and providing one pool per 25k residents and stated we meet most of the national standards. He indicated we were deficient in rectangular fields, but we were trying to build three at Hitzman Park with the possibility of three more in the future. Regarding conservation easements, he advised at this point, the city has 93 parks, and acquiring new land for a new park would be nearly impossible. Ms. Deese explained that any areas with conservation zoning were already addressed in the LDC. Mr. Grundhoefer then addressed co-sponsoring activities language being removed, and Mr. Cooper stated the language was specific, and advise they did not co-sponsor baseball or softball since those were sponsored by other organizations who just use our facilities.

Mr. Grundhoefer also asked why the Mayor was not included in the internal review for Capital Improvements. Mr. Owens explained that capital projects could be multiple departments across the city, but agreed the Mayor should be on the list. Most of the revisions in this section involved changes in personnel and titles.

Mr. Grundhoefer felt the document was good for Pensacola and made a motion to approve the amended document and recommend it to Council, seconded by Mr. Larson, and the motion carried unanimously.

Open Forum – Ms. Wiggins addressed saving some of the buildings downtown from demolition. She explained she was in a renovation process, and it was almost as expensive to remodel as to build new; with no incentive to remodel, we were losing the charm of the older structures. Chairman Ritz explained his own home in East Hill was almost 100 years old, and there were some things he could not update at all because of the cost.

He asked if incentives were something the Board could accomplish, and Ms. Deese advised that was outside of the scope in recommending proposed changes in the LDC, however, an overlay in a historic community such as East Hill would be more in line with what the Board could recommend to Council. Mr. Monk pointed out there should be some type of incentive. He also suggested looking at the barriers that were placed on people. He pointed out everyone gets upset about regulating paint color, but when they try to upgrade their electrical, it really gets invasive. Ms. Wiggins explained everyone looked at the overlay as a "stick" and she was opting for a "carrot." Ms. Deese advised the Board members to speak to the Mayor as residents to see if there was any interest. Mr. Grundhoefer explained he did not dislike density, but some of the projects were not done nicely. If East Hill had some regulations, it might stop some of the property selling with one house demolished in order to build four houses. Chairman Ritz pointed out there were some instances where the primary structure was torn down, leaving the garage apartment which was now the primary structure. He explained the Board needed to be careful with what time period they chose, since in some years, there was more density while in others just farmland. Ms. Wiggins restated she was coming from the point of incentivizing people to do what would be better and not enforcing codes. Chairman Ritz offered there was nothing they could do about the Florida Building Code, but an overlay would be the purview of this Board.

Ms. Deese explained there were two different ordinances being considered by Council. The one which passed second reading involved the notification in protecting the health of citizens so that the contractor has the burden to notify property owners within a certain distance if they were going to demolish certain structures. The demolition ordinance recommended by this Board had not yet been reviewed by Legal, but could possibly be scheduled in May of this year. She also advised the CRA overlay was being reconsidered on May 16 at Council.

Adjournment – With no further business, Chairman Ritz adjourned the meeting at 2:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brandi C. Deese', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brandi C. Deese
Secretary to the Board