

Town of Indian Trail



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PLANNING AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

November 18, 2014

06:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cowan called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The following members of the governing body were present:

Board Members: Patricia Cowan, Larry Miller, Jan Brown, Cathi Higgins, Steve Long, Sidney Sandy, and Dr Shamir Ally.

Members Present but not Voting: Jorge Aponte.

Absent: Kelly D'Onofrio, and Alan Rosenberg.

Staff Members: Pam Good- Board Secretary, Rox Burhans-Interim Planning Director, and Lindze Flowers-GIS Technician, Planner I

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 21st. Member Higgins made a motion to accept as written. Seconded by Member Long. Minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC ITEMS Case: ZT 2014-004 Amendment to UDO Chapter 1710 Related to Trees and Shrubs This amendment was requested by the Indian Trail Tree Board October 21, 2014.

The primary purpose of the proposed amendments is to ensure that the width of the street tree planting bed is taken into account by land developers when selecting specific tree species to plant. The proposed amendments ensure smaller trees will be planted in narrower planting beds and larger trees will be planted in wider planting beds. Taking into account the planting bed width when selecting street trees to plant will minimize damage to public infrastructure like sidewalks and roads, while ensuring a suitable planting space for trees to thrive. Other housekeeping changes were also incorporated into the updated street tree list. The Indian Trail Tree Board unanimously supported the proposed amendments. The following points below outline the specific changes proposed:

- Addition of tree spread information
- Correction of tree height information, where applicable
- Removal of invasive or threat species from the list
- Addition of invasive and/or threat species to the invasive and threat lists
- Addition of more native species so as to add more native tree variety for developers
- The categorization of small, medium and large trees based upon mature height and spread
- The creation of a minimum planting bed standards based on the tree size categories above
- the removal of trees that are not easily obtained in this area.

Required Consistency Findings- The Town Planning Board has a requirement of two consistency findings, regarding both the benefit to the public and the consistency with respect to adopted plans. The proposed UDO amendment is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. Staff is of the opinion that the following consistency findings may be made: The proposed UDO amendment is consistent with the goals of the Comprehensive Plan outlined below:

1. **Natural Environment Goal 4:** This Amendment provides for more variety in the tree selection process and encourages trees to grow to mature height and spread.
Infrastructure Goal 2: This Amendment helps minimize infrastructure damage to town roads through the use of planting bed spaces to support mature growth.
2. This UDO amendment is in the best interest of the public because it allows more variety of tree and shrub species and ensures an appropriately sized planting bed space is provided based on the anticipated mature growth of the planted street tree.

Staff Flowers recommended that the Planning Board make the required consistency findings and recommend adoption of this UDO Text Amendment ZT2014-004 as presented.

Chair Cowan opened the board for questions.

Member Higgins mentioned that some of the trees she noticed, some drop sticky items, leaves, were items such as these from the list removed from the updated list as for parking lots and areas where cars would be parked.

Staff Flowers replied that she tried to keep with integrity of list, but did remove some of those.

Member Sandy stated that Greensboro, Charlotte, Raleigh have adopted this earlier, have we selected and incorporated some of those trees and learned from them. Ms. Flowers answered that she used a cross section of municipalities from the Southeast.

Member Long asked if Urban Forester Bill Smith looked over the updated list. Ms. Flowers stated that the current list does reflect his findings.

Member Ally asked have we made an effort to get the information out to the public of invasive trees so they know also. Ms. Flowers replied that a digital copy of the Unified Development Ordinance is available on the website for the public to use.

Chair Cowan asked who are the top tree sellers in the Town. Staff Flowers stated she could research this as she didn't know immediately. Staff Rox Burhans interjected that these were state lists that were produced. Staff Burhans felt all would have more success in reaching individuals with information. He suggested adding to the list a suitable alternative to some troublesome species.

Member Ally requested such information in brochure or flier form such as the solid waste information. Staff Burhans replied that it could be worked on.

Member Long asked for a brochure format to be able to be handed out at Town events, but also in digital format.

Chair Cowan asked, in the Town's parks, do we have printed material available or do we encourage people to sign on to our website or facebook page for more information. Staff Burhans stated that nearly

every event has staff available for persons to sign up if they are interested in learning more about Town areas of interest as well as in the lobby of the administration building.

Staff Burhans stated that he would be willing to speak with Jason who is the Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation in the Town for the possibility at sporting events.

Chair Cowan mentioned the Town's movie nights; could there be town advertisements.

Member Long stated that we don't have a digital type formatting to be able to do that at this time, but spoke that he is addressing some of that now and suggested having tabs on the Town's website with park information. Some of the invasive species will be addressed through the natural wildlife habitat program for the Town's parks.

Chair Cowan asked if we have text to reply. Staff Burhans said he would be happy to broach the subject regarding how to apply technology to connect citizens with Town information.

Chair Cowan opened and closed the public portion as no one was signed up to speak.

Member Long made a motion to approve ZT 2014-004 as read into the record. Seconded by Member Ally. Vote was unanimous.

Decision

Member Miller stated if we recommend something, we want to make it plain that the direction is coming from an action from the planning department not the planning board.

OTHER BUSINESS

Staff Flowers added some requested additional planning acronyms and passed out the updated acronym list to the board to keep at hand for reference.

Member Higgins asked that the acronym for Comprehensive Plan and the Unified Development Ordinance be added to the list.

Chair Cowan asked that future revised list be dated to identify the most current update.

Member Miller asked for acronyms to be added to the Town's website.

Staff Burhans replied that perhaps the list can be made available on the website and handed out at the Citizen's Academy.

Staff Burhans opened the recognition presentation noting that several board members had achieved 5 and 10 year milestones in their service on the planning board. He also stated that the Town would recognize members in 5 year increments here forward. Mr. Burhans then recognized Chair Patricia Cowan with a certificate for 10 years of service.

Chair Cowan then presented Member Sydney Sandy with a certificate of 10 years of service. Lastly, Chair Cowan presented Member Cathi Higgins with a 5 year certificate.

PLANNING REPORT

A sample envelope was passed to board members that now has a blue stamp marked "Public" on it to identify it more specifically for various recipients.

The status of wayfinding signs is that citizens should start seeing them installed mid-December. There were some issues between the manufacturer and designer. This has been resolved and will be moving forward.

Staff Kelly Barnhart will be scheduled for January 2015 meeting to present economic development updates.

The Town has hired a new code enforcement supervisor, Frank Barrera. He has previously worked for Charlotte. He is also bilingual in Spanish which will be a great resource as well as a wealth of code enforcement experience.

Chair Cowan asked about update on Old Monroe widening expansion. She was asking for clarification if it was going to be classified as a superstreet.

Staff Burhans replied no one has made a final decision for the road. Improvements from Indian Trail Road to Wesley Chapel is not a currently funded project area. The 485 section to Indian Trail Road is a funded section.

This road project is broken into A, B, and C sections, section B is funded, unsure of the funding of A, but section C is not funded. Discussion followed to clarify the term superstreet and an example of a super street was presented on the screen which showed an intersection restricting smaller streets and maximizing green time at traffic lights. Staff Burhans also stated the developers do meet with emergency service providers to work together to not compromise safety. Also, there are other methods including technologies that can help these services navigate roads.

Chair Cowan asked if there are webinars available on the various town meetings. Staff Burhans answered that there are no audios available from the more informal town hall meetings. Department of Transportation has handouts about superstreets and Staff Burhans stated that he would provide a copy for the board. Old Monroe Rd plans are still conceptual; I-74 plans are more defined and are coming.

Member Long asked for the web address for the interactive example of the superstreet. Example is www.texasturf.org/superstreet. Staff Burhans stated that he would send the board the link.

Staff Burhans finished the report with information regarding the Town Council who is processing the possibility of a new municipal center, looking at the site across from Chestnut Square Park. Three informal community meetings are being held at the Cultural Arts Center. The architects are there to provide info and get feedback from citizens with various initial plans. The next community meeting is November 20th from 5:30-7:30pm.

Member Miller gave a brief report on his involvement with the Stormwater Committee that been bogged down for the last year and half to accomplish projects. Things are moving now. Citizens will start seeing the results. Larry Miller went before Town Council and spoke honestly, now things are rolling forward.

Chair Cowan commented that she was so pleased at the early voter turnout at the Cultural Arts Center for the November elections.

Member Brown asked for an update about the Chestnut Parkway extension. Staff Burhans stated that the work was being finished up to the tie in to I-74. He said he didn't know the opening date but would find out.

Staff Burhans also stated that Chestnut Square Park is open for use. The Grand Opening was October 24th.

Member Sandy stated his concerned about Monroe having planted medians and would like Indian Trail to also appear aesthetically pleasing. Nissan Dealership that has Monroe on its sign. Staff shares disappointment but freedom of speech protection is in place.

Member Long stated that with vegetation in medians, DOT provides a based model, but if we want extras it starts to cost us. We must figure out how we want the superstreets to work.

Member Higgins mentioned that the Chairperson of Public Safety Committee is inviting all committees to a cross committee meeting December 4th for the purpose to hash out overlaps and brainstorm ideas.

ADJOURN Member Long made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Member Sandy, unanimous in favor of adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm.

Chairman:

Patricia S. Lewis

Secretary:

Pamela Davis

