



MINUTES
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MAY 3, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS 116 FIRST STREET
NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA 32266

Pursuant to proper notice a training session of the Community Development Board for the City of Neptune Beach was held May 3, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Attendance:

Board members in attendance:
William Hilton, Chair
Aaron Evens, Member
Ryan Dill, Alternate Member
Tony Mazzola, Member
Alan Martin, Member
Bob Frosio, Alternate Member
Diana Kelly, Alternate Member
Nia Livingston, Alternate Member

Absent:
Christopher Goodin, Vice Chair

The following staff members were present:

Mayor Elaine Brown
Andrew Hyatt, City Manager
Amanda Askew, Community Development Director
Patrick Krechowski, City Attorney
Piper Turner, Administrative Assistant to the Building Official
Colin Moore, City of Jacksonville Grant Writer

Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairperson Hilton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Brown thanked everyone for serving on the board. While campaigning there was a lot of talk about the board and how some people felt the board was being too hard on them while other people thought the board did a great job. Fred Jones of Kings Road was selected as the newest Councilor.

City Attorney Krechowski focused on the board's role and the Sunshine law. The board sets as the triers of fact. Sometimes the board will make the final decision like in the case of residential variances and sometimes the board will be making recommendations to the City Council who will render the final decision. It is very important for the board to make their visions clear. The Council is dependent on the boards finding of fact and minutes to make the final development order or to grant a special exception.

Variances by their very nature should be hard to get. The code allowed what was being asked for they would be no reason for a variance. If there is not a unique hardship, then the variance should not be granted. The board must decide what the facts are. The findings of fact sheets are to be filled out by each member based on their own decisions. Fill them out completely, if someone appeals a decision of the board, this is what the Judge will be looking at. You never know what might be appealed. Even after the board has made their final decision, member should not discuss it among themselves or with a city council

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person. A judge could send a case back to the board to be reheard. Tallahassee takes violations of sunshine law very sincerely.

Members should limit their comments to items on the agenda and what is presented at the meeting. If someone has an issue with the condition of a property or trash cans, that person needs to speak with staff during regular business hours. The meetings are taped and placed on the website for the public to listen too. Speak clearly and stick to the information presented.

The board was given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Krechowski updated the board on the Driver's case. The judge went through the testimony and even quoted some more of the comments made by the board members. This is why it is so important to do the finding of facts and base your decide on substantial evidence presented at the meeting.

Dune Walkover

Discussion of the Florida Blvd. dune crossover.

Mrs. Askew explained that a grant was available to extend the Florida Blvd. dune walkover.

The City is seeking a grant to rebuild the existing walkover and extend it over the remainder of the dune. Currently the walkover only goes eastward part of the way and it is in disrepair. The dunes protected the City during the last hurricane and we need to protect them as much as possible. Will allow beach goes to walk over the dune and no through it, The material being used is marine grade wood which will last longer. Will be replanting the sea oats. The city is asking for public input.

A Community Development Board member indicated that the ants at the Florida Blvd. walkover have always been a problem. Would use this access more if the decking went over the dunes. It would be safer, especially if the ant problem was solved. They support applying for the grant.

Discussion of all the dune walkovers ensued.

Ms. Askew stated that the Davis and Hopkins Street crossovers were damaged by Hurricane Matthew and were being repaired. The piers were being installed for the Davis Street, these piers would be driven into the sand to support the structure. The rest of the crossovers would be refurbish as money or grants come available.

Open Discussion

The regular meeting will May 10th at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

William Hilton, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Piper Turner, Board Secretary

Date

