

CHATHAM COUNTY-SAVANNAH METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

MPC PLANNING MEETING MINUTES

**ARTHUR A. MENDONSA HEARING ROOM
110 EAST STATE STREET**

August 12, 2008

1:00 PM

Members Present: Jon Todd, Chairman
Robert Ray, Vice Chairman
Susan Myers, Treasurer
Russ Abolt
Douglas Bean
Michael Brown
Timothy Mackey
Lacy Manigault
Steven Lufburrow
Adam Ragsdale

Members Absent: Shedrick Coleman, Secretary
Ben Farmer
David Hoover

Staff Present: Thomas L. Thomson, P.E. AICP Executive Director
Melony West, Finance & Systems
Jim Hansen, AICP, Director, Development Services
Courtland Heyser, Comprehensive Planner
Ellen Harris, Historic Planner
Charlotte Moore, Special Projects Director
Constance Morgan, Administrative Assistant
Sabrina Thomas, Administrative Assistant

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Todd called the August 12, 2008 MPC Planning Meeting to order at 1:10 PM. He asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. He explained the agenda and asked all to be sure to have signed in on the sign-in sheet. All that wanted to speak on a petition before the Board were encouraged to fill out the blue speaker cards provided.

II. NOTICES, PROCLAMATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

There were no Notices, Proclamations, or Acknowledgements to present to the Board.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Ms. Myers **moved** to approve the June 10, 2008 Planning Meeting Minutes and Briefing Minutes as presented. Mr. Bean **seconded** the motion.

MPC Action: The motion carried with none opposed. The motion was to approve the June 10, 2008 Planning Meeting Minutes and Briefing Minutes as presented. Voting members were: Mr. Todd, Mr. Ray, Ms. Myers, Mr. Abolt, Mr. Bean, Mr. Brown, Mr. Farmer, Mr. Lufburrow, Mr. Mackey, Mr. Manigault, and Mr. Ragsdale.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to discuss.

V. REGULAR BUSINESS

Ms. Myers **moved** to suspend the rules to move an agenda item. Mr. Brown **seconded** the motion.

MPC Action: The motion to approve suspending the rules to change the agenda carried with none opposed. Voting were: Mr. Todd, Mr. Ray, Ms. Myers, Mr. Abolt, Mr. Bean, Mr. Brown, Mr. Lufburrow, Mr. Mackey, Mr. Manigault, and Mr. Ragsdale. Final Agenda Item B was heard in place of Item A.

A. Unified Zoning Ordinance Status Report

Charlotte Moore presented the status of updating the Ordinance. Ms. Moore distributed a handout of the working table of contents, which was explained to the Board. Ms. Moore noted that 12 of 13 chapters were completed or underway. The updating process was also discussed. Mr. Mackey suggested consideration of the public be of utmost concern, especially as related to informing and simplifying the language for general understanding. Ms. Moore stated that input from members of the Chamber of Commerce or Savannah Area Board of Realtors would be helpful to this process. City and County staff have been very active.

B. Savannah Tree Foundation

Diane Houston thanked the Board for the opportunity to present her organization. The Savannah Tree Foundation was privately funded. Contributions of this organization were highlighted. In addition, benefits that trees provide to the community were also outlined. Ms. Houston explained the concern of the Foundation about the gradual tree loss due to redevelopment in the City and County. She stated the Foundation's objective is to retain as much tree canopy as possible, even though many developers plant trees, that benefit is not yielded for at least 15 years. The Board thanked Ms. Houston for coming before them.

C. MPC 2010 Sustainability Initiative

The status report was postponed until October 2008.

D. Discussion: MPC Board question regarding hearing testimony from the public for continued items, based on Robert's Rules of Order.

Mr. Thomson introduced Ronald Cohen, an independent advisor, who explained the process as follows:

“The duty of this public Board, per Georgia Law, if the meeting was properly advertised the meeting must be held. However, the meeting can be continued by motion and vote of the Board. The public that attends due to proper advertisement have a right to be heard; they took of their time. Interaction or feedback from the Board would not be required. Full staff report as normally presented would not be necessary due to the meeting being postponed to another definite date. When that date is expressed in the meeting, additional public notice or advertisement will not be needed since it was provided at the meeting.”

The Board thanked Mr. Cohen for his time and expertise.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no Other Business to discuss.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Lufburrow **moved** to retire into Executive Session. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Ray.

MPC Action: The motion to approve retirement into Executive Session carried with none opposed. Voting members were: Mr. Todd, Mr. Ray, Ms. Myers, Mr. Bean, Mr. Brown, Mr. Lufburrow, Mr. Manigault, and Mr. Ragsdale. Mr. Abolt, Mr. Farmer, and Mr. Mackey were not present for the Executive Session.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting reconvened at 4:35 PM. Mr. Todd stated that there were no motions were made, nor were any votes taken during the Executive Session

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the August 19, 2008, MPC Comprehensive Planning Meeting was adjourned at 4:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Thomson
Executive Director

NOTE: Minutes not official until signed.