

CHATHAM COUNTY-SAVANNAH METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

MPC PLANNING MEETING MINUTES

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

April 14, 2009

1:00 PM

Members Present:

Jon Todd, Chairman
Shedrick Coleman, Vice-Chairman
Adam Ragsdale, Secretary
Susan Myers, Treasurer
Russ Abolt
Michael Brown
Ellis Cook
Ben Farmer
David Hoover
Stephen Lufburrow
Timothy S. Mackey
Lacy Manigault
Tanya Milton
Jon Pannell

Staff Present:

Thomas Thomson, P.E. AICP, Executive Director
Charlotte Moore, AICP, Director of Special Projects
James Hansen, AICP, Director of Development Services
Amanda Bunce, Development Services Planner
Geoff Goins, Development Services Planner
Melony West, Finance and Systems
Julie Yawn, Systems Analyst
Sabrina Finau, Administrative Assistant

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Todd called the April 14, 2009 MPC Planning Meeting to order at 1:00 PM. He requested everyone to stand for the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. He explained the agenda and asked all in attendance to be sure to record their attendance on the sign-in sheet. All who wished to speak on a petition before the Board were encouraged to fill out the blue speaker cards provided.

II. NOTICES, PROCLAMATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A. Notice(s)

Chairman Todd introduced and welcomed Ms. Tanya Milton and Mr. Jonathan Pannell as new MPC board members. The City of Savannah appointed Ms. Milton and Mr. Pannell.

B. Acknowledgement(s)

There were no acknowledgements.

III. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 10, 2009 MPC PLANNING MEETING MINUTES AND BRIEFING MINUTES

Mr. Lufburrow **moved** to approve the February 10, 2009 MPC Regular Meeting Minutes and Briefing Minutes as submitted. Mr. Ragsdale seconded the motion.

MPC Action: The motion carried with none opposed. The motion was to approve the February 10, 2009 MPC Meeting Minutes and Briefing Minutes as submitted carried with none opposed. Voting were: Mr. Todd, Mr. Coleman, Mr. Ragsdale, Ms. Myers, Mr. Abolt, Mr. Brown, Mr. Cook, Mr. Farmer, Mr. Hoover, Mr. Lufburrow, Mr. Mackey, Ms. Milton, Mr. Pannell, and Mr. Manigault.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

None.

V. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Unified Zoning Ordinance Status Report

Charlotte Moore provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the status of the Unified Zoning Ordinance (UZO).

Ms. Moore mentioned that five community meetings are scheduled in April and May to educate the public about the various functions of MPC, zoning in general, and to introduce them to the Unified Zoning Ordinance. Dates and locations were provided.

A new website dedicated to the UZO is about to be launched and a new UZO logo has been created for better public recognition of the project. Additionally, an UZO brochure has also been prepared to explain the purpose and approach to the project.

UZO staff met with city staff whose departments may have some role in the UZO. The purpose of the meeting was to educate them about the proposed ordinance and to solicit their input regarding zoning-related functions.

Two new members have been added to the UZO Technical Committee. They replace former members.

Remapping of the unincorporated county and city is 70% complete. Of the 25 maps created for this task, 18 have been completed.

Ms. Moore mentioned that the Historic District ordinance for the Landmark District has been drafted. This ordinance will build upon the proposed interim ordinance that focuses on specific issues, such as large-scale development. The draft for the UZO addresses a wider array of procedures and standards.

The Access Management ordinance will formalize existing policies into an ordinance. For example, it will include a requirement to reduce the number of curb cuts the serve multi-use developments. Ms. Moore showed a graphic of the SouthChase shopping center to illustrate this example. She added that staff is working with engineering staff from the County and City to develop the ordinance.

The Open Space ordinance is close to completion. Development of a technical manual will assist in completing this project.

Work on a Solar Access easement is still in progress. The goal is to facilitate an agreement between neighboring property owners in order regulate the height of vegetation and other site improvements that could impede sunlight.

Street cross sections are proposed to be introduced into the UZO. The type of cross section will determine the type of streetscape.

Work is also underway to create standards for outdoor storage areas and drive-thrus.

The Planning Commission did not have any questions for staff.

B. Board Training: E-Agenda System

Julie Yawn conducted a real-time training session with the board members, assisted by Roger Beall and Shanale Booker. She reminded the members to utilize training booklets presented to them previously. The features of the system were highlighted and a mock meeting was held for the members to become familiarized with system. The public will still be able to see the individual vote of each board member in attendance by viewing the projection screen.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to come before the Commission, the April 14, 2009 Planning Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas L. Thomson
Executive Director

Note: Minutes not official until signed.

/bf