
TREE & LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE MINUTES

On this the 14th day of October, 2013 the Tree and Landscape Committee of the City of Rockport held a Meeting at 5:00 p.m. at the City Hall, 622 E. Market Street, Rockport, Texas and notice of meeting giving time, date and subject having been posted as described in V.T.C.A., Government Code § 551.041.

Members Present

Chairman – Alex Johnson
Ron Helmke – Vice Chairman
Diana Severino-Saxon
Ginger Easton Smith
Bob Shoemaker

Members Absent

Turf Overturf – (EX)

Staff Members Present

Mike Henry, Director Building and Development
Angie West, Assistant to Director

Guest(s) Present

Four (4)

Call to Order

1. Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m.
2. Deliberate and act to approve the Monday, February 11, 2013 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to accept minutes from meeting held February 11, 2013. Member Severino-Saxon moved to accept the minutes as presented. Member Easton Smith seconded the motion. All voted in favor – motion carried unanimously.

3. Deliberate and act on the August 26, 2013 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to accept minutes from meeting held August 26, 2013. Member Shoemaker moved to accept the minutes as presented. Member Severino-Saxon seconded the motion. All voted in favor – motion carried unanimously.

4. Deliberate and act on a request from Castaways Thrift Shop, Inc., for tree and landscape plan review for pending development of a shop/store to be located at 211 W. Market Street; also known as Lots 1 thru 16, Block 151, Doughty & Mathis, Rockport, Aransas County, Texas.

Chairman Johnson asked for comments from the representative. Mr. Robert Gignac, landscape architect for Castaways, spoke. The Castaways Thrift Shop has purchased the entire block for this project. What is happening here is these are big areas of existing live oak mot (clustered trees) that we are going to leave undisturbed. What we tried to do is get the building located in this area here and tried to save as many trees as possible. There are some trees that will remain on the city right-of-way. The landscape plan is a very simple plan. There will be trees in the parking lot and landscaping trees along in the front of the building. This all complies with the landscape ordinance.

After some discussion, Member Shoemaker stated; have you thought of taking the building and turn it 90 degrees to save some of the large trees in the back area. You could almost do the same parking. Mr. Gignac stated; the client has requested the building face Market St. Also, some issues with electrical service from AEP is a factor as to the orientation of the building.

After additional discussion, Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to table the item so that the developer could research all issues as to orientation of the building and relate their findings to the City Staff.

MOTION:

Vice-Chairman Helmke moved to table the item. Member Shoemaker seconded the motion. All voted in favor – motion carried unanimously.

5. Deliberate and act on a request from Manaki Management, LLC, for tree and landscape plan review for pending development of a motel to be located at 106 S. Eleventh Street; also known as Lot 11-R, Block 11, Fulton Townsite, Rockport, Aransas County, Texas.

Chairman Johnson asked for comments from the representative. Mr. Robert Gignac, landscape architect for the Motel 6 project, spoke. This is the plan for the Motel 6. We have tried to save as many trees as possible in the parking lot. Overall the biggest problem is there is an abundance of trees in this area. We have six 9” caliper trees we are removing here. He discussed all the replacement landscaping and the deficiency of the true replacement value. We are at 111 caliper inches and they are requesting 356 in caliper inches. The other problem is having a location to put additional trees.

After some discussion, Mr. Henry stated; the cover brief explains that he has satisfied the landscaping portion of this for points and in fact far exceeds that but there are approximately 50 trees that would need to be mitigated or approved as part of the landscaping plan. If you approve the landscaping plan as is with no mitigation then it is an approved plan. The city’s other departments do not have locations and cannot guarantee survivability of any trees at this time.

After additional discussion, Chairman Johnson asked for a motion.

MOTION:

Member Easton Smith moved to accept the plan with the recommendation that one or two parking stalls be taken out so that more trees can be saved. Member Shoemaker seconded the motion. All voted in favor – motion carried unanimously.

6. Hear and deliberate on orientation from staff regarding Tree & Landscape Committee action for tree and landscape plans.

Mr. Henry stated; this falls on the same lines as the motion that was made tonight. When you make a motion for these projects you must either make a motion to approve, deny or table. If you approve with a condition you need to be specific in the conditions and that the applicant agrees to the conditions. We do not want them walking out with any questions as to what is expected of them.

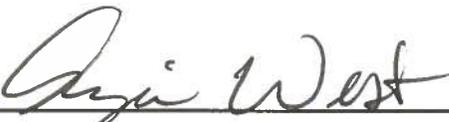
7. Hear and deliberate on announcement of the retirement of the Building & Development Department Director.

Mr. Henry stated; I think the copy of my retirement letter explains everything. My retirement date is scheduled for January 31, 2014. It is time to retire.

8. Adjournment.

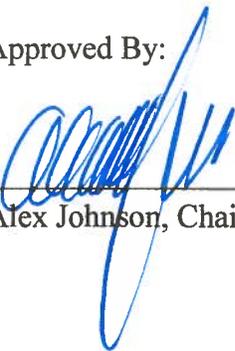
There being no further business, Chairman Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:47 p.m.

Prepared By:



Angie West, Assistant to Director

Approved By:



Alex Johnson, Chairman