

Holden Commissioners Say 'No' To Rezoning Boulevard Tract

BY BILL MCGOWAN

Holden Beach commissioners Monday night turned down one rezoning request, gathered public opinion on another, and set a public hearing date for proposed changes to the town's zoning ordinance.

Public comment on two proposed zoning ordinance amendments will be heard at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 9. The changes deal with setback regulations for commercial and residential properties and the establishment of a time limit for action on proposed zoning ordinance amendments.

West-End Rezoning Fails

Failing to gain a positive vote from council was a request to rezone property at 110 Ocean Boulevard, West from R-1 (residential) to C-1 (commercial). The commission postponed action on the matter at its July meeting to allow Planning and Zoning Board members an opportunity to offer further comment.

Commissioners in July expressed concern as to whether applications for rezoning in Block 'A', in which the property is located, should be treated individually or the block treated as a whole.

The Planning and Zoning Board met July 16 and recommended that Block A be treated as a whole.

"Let's do it all or let's not do any of it," Commissioner Hal Stanley advocated in offering a second to Commissioner Graham King's motion to deny the rezoning request.

King said that because 107 Ocean Boulevard, West lies in Block A, which he said is totally residential, he felt the request should be denied. There is no commercial property "adjoining, abutting, or contiguous" to the tract in question, he said.

The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Jim Griffin was absent from the meeting.

Rezoning Faces Objections

Just prior to the opening of Monday night's meeting, commissioners conducted a public hearing on the rezoning of property at 110 Ocean Boulevard, East from R-1 to C-1.

Commissioners were told by town Administrator Bob Buck he had received some six letters in opposition to the rezoning and one letter in favor from the individual requesting the change.

One of two letters presented to commissioners at the meeting came

from Robert B. Rankin of High Point, who owns property two doors east of 110 Ocean Boulevard, East.

Rankin, who wrote he feels his property will be "adversely affected," said honoring the request would amount to spot zoning.

"Spot zoning only opens the door to further abuse," Rankin wrote, "and that is exactly what I feel would take place if this change were to be approved. I did not take exception to the recent rezoning of the major commercial tract.

"What bothers me is that after one zoning decision was made another rezoning request follows on its heels," he wrote. "Do not start making zoning exceptions here and there, for there is never an end before the real damage is done."

Another east-end property owner, Nancy N. Wright of Raleigh, wrote, "The families who have built on the edge of the sea knowingly risk their houses and property to nature's violence. Town authority should not impose upon them the man-made disaster of commercial enterprises in a distinct residential area."

Holden Beach resident John Clarke, a former commissioner, ask-

ed how the rezoning would tie in with the town's land use plan.

"It's consistent with the plan as being commercial," Buck told him. The lot is located in Block A between Quinton and Rothchild streets.

Council agreed to act on the request at its next meeting, as Commissioner Gloria Barrett requested time to read through all of the letters received.

Hearing Set On Amendments

At its July meeting, the commission requested that the Planning and Zoning Board consider two amendments to the zoning ordinance.

One amendment deals with whether or not setback restrictions should be the same in commercial zones as in residential zones. The planning board has recommended that the setback restrictions be the same.

Should the amendment be approved by council, commercial zones would carry the following setback restrictions:

•Front yard minimum required, 25 feet.

•Side yard minimum required, five feet; open porches, steps, or overhangs shall not be within five

feet of the property line.

•Rear yard minimum required, 20 feet.

•Buildings constructed or converted to commercial use after the effective date of this ordinance shall provide off-street parking as required in Section 5.7 and off-street parking as required in Section 5.1-5.6 in this ordinance.

•All signs or billboards must meet the requirements set forth in Section 5.8 of this ordinance.

•Every building hereafter erected or structurally altered shall not exceed 35 feet in height.

Also to be considered at the September 9 public hearing is the question of whether a time limit should be established for a decision to be made on any proposed amendment to the zoning ordinance following a public hearing held on the proposed change.

The time limit question recently surfaced when commissioners approved a controversial rezoning matter some two years after a public hearing on the matter had been conducted.

The town's Planning and Zoning Board has recommended that com-

missioners "shall decide upon any proposed amendment within 90 calendar days following the public hearing."

Other proposed changes in the zoning ordinance recommended by Buck for inclusion in the public hearing deal with corner visibility, location of auxiliary buildings and uncovered stairways.

Commissioner Stanley requested that only the setback restriction and time limit issues be discussed at the September 9 meeting. In addition, Stanley saw his request approved to conduct a separate public hearing on each of the two items.

Brunswick Buddies Pair Up To Help Juveniles

BY TERRY POPE

For ten Brunswick County juveniles last year, help came in the form of a friend through the Brunswick Buddies One-On-One volunteer program.

"We're real pleased with the program so far," said Tami Miller, director of Brunswick Buddies, which has been active for six months. "The only problem we've had is in recruiting volunteers, mainly males."

Brunswick Buddies is one of 34 state and locally-funded programs

that match volunteers to work with troubled youths recommended for counseling through the juvenile justice system. Brunswick County's program is actually able to accommodate 25 to 30 juveniles, which is the number Ms. Miller would like to see matched with adult volunteers.

During the first three years of the program, the state has provided \$922,386 in Social Services Block Grant funds for the 34 programs while local communities and governments have provided \$369,057 to support the program.

Last year, the Brunswick Buddies received \$25,945 from the state and \$3,800 in local appropriations, Ms. Miller said. The project also raised \$9,134 in donations in Brunswick County, a state report issued on June 30 stated.

Volunteers for the program, three males and seven females that are now active, come from a variety of backgrounds, Ms. Miller said. They include a professional photographer, a driver's education instructor, retirees and school teachers.

"We have actually worked with 14 juveniles this year," Ms. Miller added. "We're pretty pleased with that number."

Volunteers must complete a training session and spend at least 16 hours a month with their matched youth, "doing anything they'd like to do," she added.

All participants in the Brunswick Buddies program get together for group outings as well, such as trips to the beach or cookouts. On August 16, a conference with members of the Cape Fear Substance Abuse center in

Wilmington will be held at the Brunswick County Courthouse for youths and volunteers, followed by a small awards ceremony for the previous six months of service.

"So we do a lot of things that are group activities," Ms. Miller added. "We try to get together at least every other month."

Ms. Miller said she expects the program to grow along with community support. With more exposure, residents will realize that the program is not "some fly by night deal," she said.

"We're getting good community support for the small amount of time that we've been around," she said.

Of the youths involved in the program, close to 90 percent are recommended through the juvenile justice system, courts or law enforcement agencies, Ms. Miller said. Another 10 percent come from school counselors, other organizations or parents that request help in dealing with a child.

Ages range from 8 to 16, but usually it is "very rare for us to take a 16-year-old," she said. There is a 16-year-old youth in the program now that has been placed on probation by the courts.

Since the governor's project was organized in 1982, across the state 764 children have benefited from one-on-one relationships, the state report shows.

DSS: Still No Word On Director

BY SUSAN USHER

There's still no word on when the Brunswick County Department of Social Services will have a new director.

Social services board members closeted themselves behind closed doors for nearly four hours Tuesday morning, taking no action when they emerged into open session. They met in a former administration building conference room that now doubles as the county manager's office.

Chairman Frankie Rabon said the agency was "closer" than before to hiring a director. "We hope to have a director in three weeks or a month, but I really don't know."

Board members discussed the director's post and other personnel items at length with Ted Bowen, Greenville region personnel officer with the N.C. Department of Human Resources.

"We discussed Mr. Orrock along with the other applicants today," Rabon noted.

The board also discussed, but took no action on the assignment of a proposed assistant finance officer. The position could be assigned initially to either the social services department—a preference expressed by that agency—or to the county finance office—a preference of the county commissioners and county administration, at least for the first year.

Social services board members have said for several months that

they are ready to hire a director, filling a vacancy that has existed since the Nov. 30, 1983, firing of Jamie Orrock.

Rabon said Tuesday that part of the reason for delay is that 1) members wanted to make sure it was within their authority to hire a director; and 2) they wanted to hire the best possible director.

Five applicants have been screened earlier for the post. While Rabon said he didn't anticipate the board readvertising the position, he added that members don't know if any of those top applicants are still available.

Meanwhile, Orrock's status with the department remains in limbo.

Based on a recommendation from the State Personnel Commission that he be reinstated, Orrock has filed

legal action seeking his old job back. The agency's board rejected the state recommendation. It has since offered to settle out of court. Rabon said the board still has not "officially heard" Orrock's response to that offer.

For one member, Tuesday's marathon session was an introduction to the board. Malcolm Grissett was appointed last month by fellow board members; Tuesday's was his first meeting.

"It was exciting," he told reporters. He added that "it was a lot of information to have thrown at you at one time—a lot of surprises."

Cooler Temps Likely To Stay

Temperatures are likely to remain a little below normal this week in Brunswick County, according to Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady.

Temperatures will range from 60 at night to near 80 in the daytime with about three quarters of an inch of rainfall expected.

Temperatures from July 30 to Aug. 5 averaged about five degrees below normal with the maximum high of 90 on the first day of August and the low of 59 on the morning of Aug. 4.

Average daily high during this period was 85 degrees and the average nightly low was 67, for a daily average of 76 degrees.

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