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**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
July 30, 2010
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
9:00 AM**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM. Councilmembers Blair, Childs and Dodge were present. Adhoc member Mr. Truett was also in attendance. Staff present Clerk Pinnell.

DISCUSSION

There was some discussion regarding the proposed new width of Surfside Drive and the concerns of traffic flow. There was discussion of traffic coming off of Glens Bay and 17. Ms. Blair stated that she recalls a plan where the crosswalks were designed to slow down traffic as it entered the downtown district. Entering and exiting with street bumps was discussed. Mr. Childs stated that the traffic engineers need to participate in the new plan since they are the ones who nixed the idea of adding center parking. Placing a center island and eliminating the parking in the center was discussed. Ms. Dodge brought up the need for crosswalks on Ocean Blvd. SCDOT rules were discussed briefly. Raising asphalt and stamping it was discussed. Ms. Blair stated that raised stamped asphalt being used for safety was discussed in the transportation element. Mr. Childs stated that he would like to get an opinion from the traffic engineers on the center parking on Surfside Drive. Ms. Dodge brought up the Highland North Carolina street design. Ms. Blair stated that the original goal for Surfside Drive was to give some extra parking to the merchants in the downtown area. If the angled parking in the center is eliminated in that area perhaps parallel parking could be added in the center. Mr. Childs stated that additional parking will be added to the lot across from the Sundown and there is the option of looking into the lot where the mural currently sits; the owner was approached with this option. Mr. Truett stated that he would like to see this lot utilized adding that there is a lot of overflow parking in that area. There was discussion regarding preparing a new conceptual design. Ms. Blair stated that Market Common has parallel parking and it works very well there. Mr. Childs recommended having a meeting with Mark Hoeweler from GSATS, the traffic engineers and Steve Strickland from Earthworks to discuss a plan. Mr. Truett stated that he feels that there could be a mix of parallel parking and planting in the center. Mr. Childs stated that the town needs to coordinate the town plan with work that will be done on Glens Bay. There was some discussion regarding the entrance design depicted with an entrance feature and flags. Mr. Childs stated that to save the subcommittee time Mr. Strickland could meet with the traffic engineers then come up with a concept to present to the subcommittee. There was some additional discussion on future plans for Surfside Drive. Placing sod and benches on the corner where the mural is was discussed. Ms. Blair stated that she would like to see that lot used as a stop and rest area rather than a parking lot. Placing lined parking spots next to that lot was discussed. There was discussion whether the area should be metered. Ms. Dodge stated that she would like to see the area metered adding that she feels that a lot of money will be invested in the area and no money will be coming in and the meters would help. Mr. Truett suggested the town look into what other neighboring areas do adding that if it is metered there will be opposition from the merchants in that area. The idea is to bring more businesses to that area and metering the area now may deter new business from coming in. Mr. Truett suggested providing free parking for a while and then once that area builds up then metered parking could be added later. Placing

49 electrical to add a PA system and having events in the downtown area was discussed. Ms. Blair
50 stated that Conway holds town crawls on Thursday nights until 8:00PM to promote local
51 businesses and the town of Surfside could do something similar as well to promote future
52 businesses in the area. Mr. Truett stated that he feels that once the area is redeveloped then new
53 businesses will move in. Ms. Dodge brought up the local merchants not having an established
54 merchant association and thought that would be beneficial for them to do. The merchants keep
55 asking for help from the town. Mr. Truett stated that the redevelopment of Surfside Drive will
56 be the towns' first step to help the businesses in town. There was some discussion regarding
57 making room in the redevelopment for the fire trucks to be able to make the turn onto Surfside
58 Drive. Mr. Childs stated that he would also like to see the left turn lane going from Surfside
59 Drive onto Business 17 longer. Mr. Childs asked Ms. Pinnell to get a hold of Mr. Strickland
60 regarding these issues discussed. Mr. Childs stated that the plan should be coordinated with the
61 installation of the fiber optics installation as well. Costs of materials was discusses briefly,
62 concrete, brick and asphalt. Mr. Truett stated that he feels that the hospitality and atax money
63 will come in fairly good this year. There was some discussion regarding how busy the summer
64 has seemed to be compared to the past couple of years. There was consensus of the
65 subcommittee to try to do the redevelopment of Surfside Drive in conjunction with the
66 construction of the park/parking lot across from the Sundown. Mr. Truett stated that the Surfside
67 Rotary is always looking for community projects perhaps they could assist with the area. Ms.
68 Blair stated that there are families always looking for ways to honor or memorialize their loved
69 ones; there is a park in Conway that constructed a fountain and gazebo and there were some kids
70 that dedicated a bench to a fellow student that had passed and it was written up in the paper how
71 wonderful everyone thought that was. Ms. Blair suggested that people be allowed to purchase
72 naming rights for something like palm trees. Dedication plaques were also discussed. Mr. Truett
73 stated that Mr. Shelby Smith brought in a proposal for a palm tree discount. There was a
74 discussion regarding the patio at the Veterans Park memorial bricks that sold out. Adding new
75 patios with memorial bricks and adding plaques at the dog park were discussed. Ms. Pinnell
76 stated there is a Tree City grant that may provide funds for some of the trees on Surfside Drive.
77 There was a discussion regarding the grant for the median which was a 60/40 match. The
78 amount budgeted for beautification was discussed. Mr. Truett stated that once this
79 redevelopment is completed he feels that the town will find many more businesses contributing
80 to town events. It was discussed that once the trees are removed the business owners will begin
81 to fix up their storefronts and once one person does it then the rest will usually follow.

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83 There was a consensus to have Ms. Pinnell contact the design engineers and traffic engineers to
84 have a preliminary meeting then have Earthworks come up with a design to present to the
85 subcommittee. The only change to the plan would be the median. Mr. Childs stressed that this
86 really needs to get going soon.

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88 **ADJOURNMENT**

89 Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM

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93 Approved Date: _____

Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

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