

The Planning Commission met Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 at 5:00 PM at the City Administration Building, 161 N. Section Street in the Council Chambers.

Present: Lee Turner, Chairperson; George Roberds, Vice-Chair; Bob Clark; Dick Charles; Jean Wilson; and Debbie Quinn. Jonathan Smith, Planning and Building Director; and Emily Boyett, Secretary  
Absent: Tim Kant, Jennifer Fidler, and Gary Moore

Chairperson Lee Turner called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and announced the meeting is being recorded. The minutes of the December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting were considered and Dick Charles moved to accept the minutes as written and was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jean Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.

**UR 12.01 Request of Thompson Engineering, Inc. for an 11.52.11 utility review and approval of the proposed network of sidewalks along multiple streets around the Fairhope Elementary School using Safe Routes to School (SRTS), Tom Harjung.**

Jonathan Smith gave the staff report saying Thompson Engineering has been working with the City's Public Works Department, ALDOT, and the Planning and Building Department to design a network of sidewalks around the Fairhope Elementary School within City right-of-ways. He stated this project will be funded by the SRTS grant. Extensive attention has been given to trees within the project area and ADA compliance regarding the proposed 5' wide sidewalks. Staff recommendation is to approve the 11.52-11 review of the proposed SRTS sidewalk project around the Fairhope Elementary School. Mr. Smith said there will be more staff reviews for this project and it will be in compliance with all City of Fairhope regulations relating to sidewalks and pedestrian connections. Mr. Charles asked how likely it is that this project will be done and Mr. Smith stated the process has already began and it will be built if the Commission approves it. Dick Charles moved to accept the staff recommendation to approve the proposed SRTS sidewalk project around the Fairhope Elementary School. Bob Clark 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Dick Charles moved to have a consent agenda for Items B and C. Bob Clark 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**UR 12.02 Request of AT&T for an 11.52.11 utility review and approval of the proposed installation of approximately 600 linear feet of cable along the west side of Owl's Nest Place in Watershed Subdivision.**

**UR 12.03 Request of AT&T for an 11.52.11 utility review and approval of the proposed installation of approximately 541 linear feet of cable along the south side of Bay Pointe Court in Bay Pointe Subdivision.**

Nancy Milford gave the staff reports saying the cable will be installed by directional boring in Watershed Subdivision and in Bay Pointe Subdivision the cable will be run through existing PVC pipe. Staff recommendation is to approve conditional upon the applicant following the general comments related to utility work as stated in the staff reports. Mr. Charles asked if the installation would cause issues with pet containment fences. Mrs. Quinn stated this work will be in the right-of-way and pet containment

systems should not be in the right-of-way. Jean Wilson moved to accept the staff recommendation to approve conditional upon the applicant following the general comments related to utility work as stated in the staff reports. George Roberds 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Old/New Business**

**Pedestrian and Bike Trails Committee** – Debbie Quinn said she would like to reinstate this committee and she asked if any Commissioners would like to be on it. She stated Jennifer Fidler is on it but she would like to see an additional Commissioner on it. Mr. Smith stated he would send an e-mail to the Commissioners to see if anyone is interested.

Mr. Smith stated he participated in walk-around meetings with Dan Burden, an expert in Complete Streets and pedestrian connectivity. He invited the Commissioners to a meeting at 11 AM on Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> with Mr. Burden and he announced a public meeting will be held at 3:30 PM for any public comments. Both meetings will be held in the Delchamps Room.


Mr. Smith stated Jennifer Fidler would like to more aggressively focus on low impact development for our right-of-ways and maybe come up with a policy similar to our Complete Streets Policy, which would encourage more bio-retention means of storm water control as opposed to typical piping systems. Mr. Smith stated he supports Mrs. Fidler and thinks it will benefit the City in the long run.

Having no further business, Dick Charles moved to adjourn and was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jean Wilson. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was duly adjourned at 5:11 PM.



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Lee Turner, Chairperson



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Emily Boyett, Secretary