

MINUTES
BUILDING CODE ADVISORY BOARD
January 16, 2013

The Chairman, William Ray Higgins, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. in the Vista Center 1st Floor Conference Room 1W-47, Palm Beach County Planning, Zoning & Building Department, 2300 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach, Florida.

1.A. Roll Call

Members Present:

William Ray Higgins, Chair
Michael Fichera, Vice Chair
Joe Byrne
Maury Jacobson
Steven Kennedy
Gary Kozan
Howarth Lewis

Bette Lowe
Andrew Mack
Greg Miller
Jacek Tomasik
Doug Wise
Steve Tobias

Members Absent:

Scott Worley

Others Present:

Vickie Day, Recording Secretary
Richard Gathright, Interim Building Official
Michael Fox, PBC, CPT Supervisor

Shannon Fox, Asst. County Attorney
Anne Helfant, Asst. County Attorney

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

1.C. Approval of Minutes

The motion was made to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

1.D. Change in Board Members – Ray Higgins

Newly appointed is Steve Tobias who introduced himself as follows: " I work for the City of Delray Beach as the Building Official. I have been with them for approximately 8 years, before that I was a plumber and always refer to myself as a plumber!"

Steven Kennedy from Palm Beach Gardens has resigned.

2. ADDITIONS & DELETIONS – NONE

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

3.A. Code Interpretation – NONE

3.B. Code Amendments – NONE

3.C. Product Evaluation - NONE

3.D. Regulatory Climate Oversight Committee – Andrew Mack and Doug Wise

3.D.a UPC and CCL Updates

Mr. Wise mentioned Regulatory Climate Oversight Committee is now called Business Climate & Competitiveness of the six pillars. PZB released a white paper – "Best Practices" of all the PZB agencies in PB County, both private & public combined effort. It was suggested that maybe we can get it to the staff and it can be posted on the website.

Mr. Wise said he was developing metrics to measure the 38 municipalities and which of these "Best Practices" they are doing & then allow the community to see these results. This system

would measure who is implementing these practices to encourage business & economic development across the county.

Kurt Eismann, PBC Code Enforcement and Contractors Certification Division – As of January 1st we started charging \$50 for the Enhanced enrollment process; up from \$25. The fee increase is intended to cover the procedural expenses of establishing an inter-local agreement; whereby municipalities can interface with the County computer system – County IT will assist at no cost and municipalities have agreed to reduce or eliminate contractor fees. The inter-local should be rolled out in approximately 2 months. Currently there is a commitment from 12 municipalities; generally speaking – it would be in the industry's best interest if all 38 joined.

Mr. Wise advises The Six Pillars Committee has a rep from the League of Cities, Village of Royal Palm Beach and City Managers Association, all of whom are aware of the new process. It would be a good idea to get staff to develop outreach materials for the Six Pillars members to take back to their communities.

Mr. Wise explained the Six Pillars concept and how the Former Governor started it –based on the pillars that uphold modern society and by working together as groups we can solve problems that face all of us. Speaking from a local municipality perspective; software interface is a great idea – but having just one place where we can get the information is the best.

Mr. Tomasik commends Mr. Eismann and his team; it's a great project! It will improve the contractor's experience at the County tremendously.

Mr. Eismann mentions that another benefit is the BTR (Business Tax Receipt) will be added to the website. Updated license and other information will also be available.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.A. Rental Properties/Unlicensed Maintenance Employees - Kurt Eismann

Mr. Eismann advises that he & Bruce Escher met with several municipalities and several concerned contractors and will be meeting with the Florida League of Neighborhood Associations. An article will be in their newsletter. If we get a valid complaint we are handling that on a disciplinary level.

Mr. Higgins observes from a contractor's point of view, unlicensed persons is a massive problem. Large buildings don't use a licensed contractor – they use someone in-house.

Mr. Eismann advises our program of getting the information out there will probably not solve that because it really is a business model.

Mr. Wise mentions that manufacturers are selling directly to the consumer which is another obstacle in this issue. Putting together a task force to address this situation is still a viable project; it has to be an outreach project.

Mr. Byrne asks if we could speak with the Property Managers Association who has licensed CAM's.

Mr. Eismann yes, they have and Dept of Business & Prof Regulation has been included in the meetings.

4.B. Uniform Permit Application - Doug Wise

Mr. Wise asks if anyone has received any contributing enhancements.

Mr. Mack suggests some minor changes to the form. Discussion arises, at the Board's request, staff will draft a letter for the Board requesting input and comments concerning the UPA.

The motion was made to direct staff to draft a reminder/follow-up on the September 20, 2012 letter; advising that the changes will be made if 30 days has past without replies. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

4.C. Propane Tank Prescriptive Guide – Michael Fox

In absence of Bob Boyer, Mr. Fox advises that an engineer, Steve Walsh, reviewed the existing diagram. He updated it to all the new applicable code sections and in his review he felt that all of the attachments and technical details of this drawing were still appropriate to the new codes and standards.

The motion was made to approve the drawing for release. It was seconded and it carried unanimously.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of New Chair and Vice Chair

The motion was made to elect Michael Fichera as the next Chair. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The motion was made to elect Joe Byrne as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

B. Smoke Detectors – Ray Higgins

Mr. Higgins mentioned he recently saw information that “ionization” type smoke detectors have limited effectiveness in slow development fires that create a lot of smoke. The report indicates that three states have since changed their laws, requiring the “photo-electric type alarms. He recommends that the Board looks into this.

Mr. Wise recommends that we should reach out to the County Fire Marshall, Jeff Collins.

Mr. Gathright offers to contact Mr. Collins and look into the information he has on this subject.

6. FUTURE BOARD MATTERS

NONE

7. BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. Lewis remarks that he is glad to be back!

Mr. Jacobson believes we need to keep things on a simpler basis so people can understand.

Mr. Wise announces he is leaving the City of West Palm Beach effective January 25, 2013. I am pleased to announce that I will be working with Richard and Mike in the County Building department beginning on January 28, 2013.

Mr. Higgins commends Mr. Wise on his performance at the City of West Palm Beach.

Mr. Fichera thanked the members for the nomination of Chair, much appreciated. Recognizes Mr. Higgins as the past Chair and acknowledges the County staff for their support.

Mr. Higgins thanks the board for allowing to serve as Chair over the past year. Also acknowledges the outstanding job the staff continues to do.

Mr. Byrne invites the Board to the Annual Roofing Association Meeting next week. It is a very informative event. .

Mr. Tomasik offers congratulations to the new Chair and Vice-Chair.

All Members offer their congratulations to Doug on his new position.

7.B. Next meeting is March 20, 2013

8. STAFF MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. Fox, after conferring with the Board Attorney, noted that BOAF has to re-nominate Mr. Wise for the District 2 Seat, representing the County and not the City of WPB. This process should be finalized with the BCC prior to the next BCAB meeting on March 14th.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 3:05pm, the Chair adjourned the meeting


William Ray Higgins, Chair

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Day
Recording Secretary