

## JUNE 10, 2014 – SPECIAL MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a special meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2014, at 3:00 p.m., at the South Walton Courthouse Annex.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner W.N. “Bill” Chapman, Chairman; Commissioner Cindy Meadows, Vice-Chairman; Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen; Commissioner Sara Comander; and Commissioner Bill Imfeld. Mr. Mark Davis, County Attorney; Mr. Larry Jones, County Administrator; and Ms. Dede Hinote, Deputy County Administrator, were also present.

Chairman Chapman called the meeting to order to discuss the parking needs assessment for the Scenic Gulf Drive and West CR 30A to CR 83 segment from AVCON Engineers and Planners.

Ms. Tonia Nation, AVCON, presented information for review and discussed the needs of five areas from the Okaloosa/Walton County line along Scenic Gulf Drive to the Blue Mountain Beach area. She stated that there was a 30 day public comment period in which many comments were received and gone over with staff.

Focus Area 1 – The Scenic Gulf Drive area consists of two regional beach accesses and one neighborhood beach access that does not have parking associated with it. At the Miramar Beach access there are 50 spaces on the north side of the road and 140 on the south side. A vertical garage could be considered in the future for more parking needs. In the Seascape area parallel parking has recently been implemented and has been working very well. Ms. Nation recommended using parking meters for non-residents in this area. Moving farther east towards the Geronimo Street access there is a segment owned by the County that would be ideal for an additional 27 parking spaces.

There are currently 294 parking spaces along Focus Area 1. Within the next 1-5 years an additional 27 spaces could be added and within 5-15 years an additional 75+ spaces could be added. Ms. Nation explained that enforcement is going to be a great impact for overnight parking and in “no parking” areas.

Chairman Chapman asked for public comment.

Mr. Bob Sullivan read aloud an email sent to the Board members addressing parking meters, installation and enforcement of “no parking” signs in the area, prohibiting overnight parking, and the use of a shuttle services.

Commissioner Comander questioned the use of parking meters and passes for residents. Mr. Sullivan stated that a permit system could be used for the residents.

There were no additional comments made.

Focus Area 2 – The first beach access along Stallworth Blvd. and Highland Ave. in the Dune Allen area consists of three beach accesses, but parking is only available at the Beach Highlands neighborhood access, consisting of six spaces. Farther east towards Stinky’s Fish Camp there are 30 spaces associated with the regional access, with a lot of right-of-way parking that occurs. There are now “no parking” signs on Woodward Drive and Ms. Nation recommended formalizing those spaces to add parking because of the high demand of this area. All right-of-way parking would be prohibited in this area due to vision triangle concerns. Farther down into the Palms of Dune Allen area there are no spaces required for these neighborhood accesses and no right-of-way parking issues.

There are a total of 45 parking spaces along Focus Area 2. Within the next 1-5 years an additional 45 parking spaces could be added. Ms. Nation recommended encouraging the restaurants in the area to park off site in more remote areas, possibly north of Hwy 98 in some of

the larger parking lots off of the CR 30A corridor, and have their employees shuttled to their location.

Chairman Chapman asked for public comment.

Several audience members spoke regarding the longer term parking needs, parking expansion in the Lake Stallworth area, preventing intrusion into the neighborhood areas, and prohibiting right-of-way parking.

Ms. Nation explained that beach shuttle services are growing and would only recommend those services at the regional accesses because neighborhood accesses are not designed to handle the shuttle buses.

Focus Area 3 – Ms. Nation explained that parking is in great demand in the Gulf Place area. There is parking along the west side of Hwy 393, and recommended formalizing parking on the east side as well. She also recommended installing curbing around Gulf Place to prevent vehicles from parking in the intersection which is a very dangerous issue. An additional parking lot could be developed to add another 84 spaces. Parking should be limited along CR 30A due to the narrow right-of-way and heavy traffic congestion. The Shellseekers and Spooky Lane beach accesses should be limited to foot and bike traffic only.

There are a total of 68 parking spaces along Focus Area 3. Within the next 1-5 years an additional 20 spaces could be added and within the next 5-10 years an additional 84 spaces could be added. Ms. Nation stated that the parking plan would definitely help the area, but having a shuttle system would also relieve the congestion.

Chairman Chapman asked for public comment.

There were no public comments made.

Focus Area 4 – Ms. Nation stated that there is currently right-of-way parking being utilized in the Gulfview Heights area and this regional access is becoming more well-known.

There are a total of 46 parking spaces along Focus Area 4. Within the next 1-5 years an additional 20 spaces could be added. Ms. Nation stated that there were some comments received in disagreement with the amount of parking shown in this area, but after meeting with the Public Works Department it was determined there are no restrictions on the right-of-way parking identified in the area. She stated that this would also be an ideal location for a beach shuttle bus stop.

Chairman Chapman asked for public comment.

There were no public comments made.

Focus Area 5 – The Blue Mountain Beach area has one regional beach access and three neighborhood beach accesses. There are “no parking” signs along Blue Mountain Road and parking is discouraged within the right-of-way. Ms. Nation stated that this is one of the smaller regional accesses with only 22 parking spaces. She recommended limiting the neighborhood accesses to foot and bike traffic only, and adding some additional spaces in the right-of-way. There would be a great safety concern to add parking spaces in the right-of-way of the neighborhood accesses.

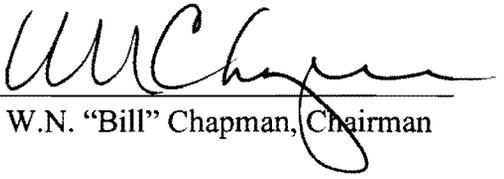
Chairman Chapman asked for public comment.

Public comments were received from the audience regarding the need to acquire land for more parking lots, providing shuttle services, opposing parking meters, and the need to eliminate adding more enforcement requirements.

Ms. Nation announced that the next meeting will be held to discuss the parking needs assessment from the Blue Mountain Beach area to Hwy 395.

Commissioner Comander questioned if the information provided is available to the public for review. Ms. Nation stated that the information would be provided to staff to provide to the public.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

ATTEST  APPROVED   
Alex Alford, Clerk of Courts  
and County Comptroller  
W.N. "Bill" Chapman, Chairman