SOUTH CAROLINA PLANNING EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL MEETING

**Held on** **Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.**



Members Participating: Steve Riley, *Chairman*; Chris Karres, Barry Nocks, Donna London. *Committee Members*

Members Absent: Dennis Lambries, *Vice Chairman*

Others Participating: Rachel d’Entremont, Planner, City of Aiken



1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m.

1. **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT COMPLIANCE**

**Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act**

1. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
2. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Approval of the minutes of March 7, 2011

Chris Karres moved for approval. Donna London seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

* 1. Consideration of a request for accreditation of the Trees SC’s *Canopy Session: Crape Myrtles-Pruning, Preservation and Alternative Species Selection* as a Continuing Education Course.

Barry Nocks moved to approve. Chris Karres seconded.

Ms. Rachel d’Entremont was invited to explain the reason for this proposed training session. She stated that improper trimming of crape myrtles has been an ongoing controversy in the City of Aiken for several years and has been escalating, with several lawsuits and potential lawsuits, and City Council suggesting that they be classified as shrubs so trimming would not be covered under the city tree protection ordinance. The City regulates tree planting and pruning on commercial and multi-family properties and Crapes are a part of the character of the City's streets. Common misunderstandings and misperceptions about proper trimming leads to situations where the buffeting characteristics are lost; as is the natural look of the Crapes.

After much discussion, it was suggested that information be added to the presentation which would explain the reasons the law is in place and which would describe the enforcement provisions of the City code. The City was agreeable to this and the Committee members agreed that with the addition of this material, approval would be for 3 hours of CE credit. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

Donna London moved to adjourn. Barry Nocks seconded.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m.