



OCONEE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



TEL (864) 638-4218 FAX (864) 638-4168

MINUTES

6:00 PM, MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2015

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

Members Present: Mr. Honea
Mr. Kisker
Ms. McPhail
Mr. Ownbey
Mr. Richards

Staff Present: Josh Stephens, Deputy Director of Community Development
Matthew Anspach, Planner
William Brewer, Planning Intern

Media Present: None

1. Call to Order

Ms. McPhail called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes for Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. Honea motioned to approve the minutes from May 18, 2015.

Mr. Kisker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment for Agenda and Non-Agenda Items (3 minutes)

Mr. Eddie Martin, District Manager for Oconee County Soil and Water Conservation District, announced his support for the creation of an Agricultural Advisory Committee that is present on the agenda.

Mr. Tim Donald, local farmer and President of Farm Bureau, announced his support for the creation of an Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Ms. Christine Murphy announced her support for the creation of an Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Ms. Debbie Sewell announced her support for the creation of an Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Mr. Bill Bush announced his support for the creation of an Agricultural Advisory Committee.

4. Continued Review of Comprehensive Plan – Goal 4

Goal 4:

Mr. Stephens took the opportunity to briefly speak about his class schedule at Clemson University and how it would conflict with Monday evening meetings beginning in August. He announced that Mr. Anspach will be taking over the meeting responsibilities moving forward. He also introduced the Planning Intern, Mr. William Brewer, who will be assisting Mr. Anspach and Mr. Stephens in the Department and with meeting responsibilities as well.

Objective 1 –

Ms. McPhail inquired about the Capital Improvements recommendation they gave for libraries. Mr. Stephens mentioned that he would speak to Ms. Hulse, Clerk to Council, and Mr. Moulder, County Administrator, regarding this matter.

Objective 2 – No discussion occurred or action taken.

Objective 3 – No discussion occurred or action taken.

Objective 4 – No discussion occurred or action taken.

Objective 5 – No discussion occurred or action taken.

Objective 6 – No discussion occurred or action taken.

Objective 7 – No discussion occurred or action taken.

Objective 8 – No discussion occurred or action taken.

Objective 9 –

The Planning Commission directed Mr. Stephens to speak with Mack Kelly, County Engineer, about the history, policy, and feasibility of incorporating sidewalks.

Objective 10 –

Mr. Stephens spoke about the importance of the airport section in Objective 10.

Objective 11 –

Mr. Richards asked Mr. Stephens to contact Mr. Moulder regarding community facilities.

5. Review of the Comprehensive Plan – Goal 5

Goal 5:

Mr. Tom Markovich stepped forward to express his opinion regarding the importance of scenic corridors, development standards, and design standards expressed as *Appalachian Rustic Elegance*. He discussed the difficulty for County staff to enforce the design due to the absence of a specific performance standard.

Objective 1 –

Ms. McPhail mentioned that the description in Objective 1 of an arts program is vague and should be more comprehensive by including cultural and historical aspects as well.

Mr. Anspach explained that Mr. Lyle had spoken with staff before the meeting and encouraged the inclusion of the Museum of the Cherokee along with the Oconee County Heritage Museum in strategy 3.

Ms. McPhail also mentioned that it would be helpful to have an Oconee County employee maintain a centrally coordinated communication platform updating the public with local events within the County through a calendar or website.

Objective 2 –

Mr. Richards explained some potential issues he noticed with regards to the 1000 feet buffer regulation when applied to telecommunication towers on Highway 11.

Mr. Kisker emphasized that strategy 7 should be a high priority and questioned how these items of interest could be prioritized by importance in the future.

6. Review and Consider the Creation of an Agricultural Advisory Committee

Mr. Stephens discussed the concept of the Committee; the timeline of events related to its potential creation; and community feedback and engagement.

Mr. Martin stepped forward to answer any questions related to the proposed Committee

Mr. Richards inquired about the membership appointment process.

Mr. Martin described the proposed makeup of the membership.

Mr. Kisker inquired about the process of establishing the Committee.

Mr. Stephens described the process that would take place for the Committee to be established.

Mr. Honea inquired about the structure, the title, and the logistics in relation to Committee meetings.

Mr. Stephens addressed Mr. Honea's questions by stating that this will be a stand-alone Committee.

Mr. Richards motioned to direct staff to work with the County Attorney to draft an ordinance to establish an Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Mr. Ownbey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Old Business

There was not any Old Business discussed in the meeting.

8. New Business

Mr. Stephens explained that the next meeting would be June 22, 2015. He also mentioned to continue discussion of Goal 5. Mr. Stephens requested that Commission members contemplate and offer suggestions on locations for future community meetings. He added that staff would present Comprehensive Plan Survey results at the next meeting. Mr. Stephens suggested that the combination of community meetings and survey results could help serve as a reference to establish priorities within the Comprehensive Plan.

9. Adjourn

Mr. Ownbey motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Kisker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. 7:20 PM