

MACON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

April 28th, 2004

A special meeting of the Macon County Planning Board was held on April 28th, 2004 at the Macon County Courthouse. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm.

CALL TO ORDER:

Planning Board members present included Ronnie Beale, Neville Bryson, Lamar Sprinkle, Alan Marsh, Eric Pierson, Jimmy Goodman, Larry Stenger, Evelyn Southard, Susan Ervin, Commissioner West and Byron McClure. Also present was Jeff Fischbach from the Asheville DCA office and Emile Elias from the LTWA. Members of the press were also in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 with a luncheon for Planning Board members and their guest. Business commenced shortly after.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Eric Pierson made the motion to adopt the minutes from the April 14th meeting. Neville Bryson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC SESSION:

During public session, no one chose to speak.

SPECIAL ITEM #1: LTWA SURVEY

As the first order of business, Chairman Beale introduced Emile Elias; executive director to the LTWA. Elias informed the Board about a survey project that the LTWA was currently undertaking. The project consisted of a mail out survey as well as a visual preference survey conducted at various meetings throughout the County. Elias informed the Board that she was currently developing questions for the survey and would like to have input on the questions from Planning Board members. Elias also told Board members that although the survey was a LTWA project, that the responses she received could benefit the Planning Board in future deliberations. Chairman Beale agreed and asked Board members to get with Emile on suggestions as soon as possible. Elias informed the Board that the mailout project would be beginning in a few weeks.

ITEM #2: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT:

Byron McClure next briefed the Board on the progress made on the components of the "Community High Impact Discussion" process. McClure presented the Board with a schedule for the CHID meetings as well as the latest version of the participation handout. Susan Ervin took a minute to speak to the Board as well. She briefed the Board on the progress the Board had made as well as a few items still left to be completed. Next, Chairman Beale asked Jeff Fischbach to address the Board on the summer CHID meetings. Fischbach congratulated the sub-committee on their progress and praised the Board for their participation and hard work. He also assured the Board that, in his mind, the CHID meetings

were a great idea and would ultimately be beneficial. Fischbach took questions from Board members on what they should expect during the meetings. In addition, Fischbach shared some common questions and statements voiced at community land use meetings. A lengthy discussion ensued.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Chairman Beale asked the Board to further discuss the high impact use definitions list. As before, Chairman Beale expressed his desire for the Board to examine the definitions and only keep those uses that the Board had some consensus on their inclusion in the list. After lengthy discussion, the Board asked McClure separate definitions for Mobile Home Graveyard and Vehicle Graveyard. In addition, members had debate over the number specified in each of the definitions. Eventually, the Board decided that one abandoned manufactured home constitutes a graveyard and that “two or more” constitutes a vehicle graveyard. Also discussion ensued over portable sawmills versus stationary sawmills. The Board asked McClure to devise a definition that grants certain time for portable sawmills to operate without meeting development standards. Also Asphalt and Concrete Suppliers were to be joined into one definition. As well as Radioactive and Hazardous Waste Disposal Facilities.

NEW BUSINESS:

Before the meeting was adjourned, Chairman Beale directed the Board’s attention to Byron McClure. Byron McClure informed the Board that he would be resigning from his position and the Board effective May 21. McClure cited professional reasons and assured the Board that his resignation had nothing to do with the Planning Board or the upcoming meeting schedule. Discussion ensued over the direction of the Board and the summer CHID process. McClure assured the Board that he had, and would continue, to work diligently to get the board in a position to carry on through the summer. In addition, Chairman West assured the Board that the County Manager would be seeking a replacement for McClure soon.

With no further business, Chairman Beale adjourned the meeting at 3:50 pm.

Clerk/Secretary

Chairman Ronnie Beale