

MACON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

June 8th, 2004

A meeting of the Macon County Planning Board was held on June 8th, 2004 at the Macon County Environmental Resource Center. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm.

CALL TO ORDER:

Planning Board members present included Ronnie Beale, Lamar Sprinkle, Neville Bryson, Alan Marsh, Eric Pierson, Jimmy Goodman, Larry Stenger, Susan Ervin, Mike Decker, Commissioner West, and Interim County Planner Stacy Guffey. Members of the press were also in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

As the first order of business, Alan Marsh made the motion to adopt the minutes from the May 26th meeting. Jimmy Goodman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC SESSION:

During public session, Chad Dorsett, news director from the local radio station, spoke. He commended the board for its efforts to reach out to the public for input on the high impact ordinance. He stated that he had experience in planning in his native Alabama. He offered the board his assistance in publicizing public meetings through local radio news.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Stacy Guffey reported on the West Macon CHID meeting. There was a general consensus among the board that the meeting went well.

Jimmy Goodman suggested and the board agreed that during subsequent meetings the facilitator go through the list of uses from beginning to end to generate more discussion on particular items or concerns about items on the list. Susan Ervin added that the facilitator should do more to encourage people in attendance to fill out the surveys. Chairman Beale suggested that all subsequent meetings be held to a 90-minute time limit. The board agreed.

Larry Stenger suggested the need to explain to the public the next steps in the process. This lead to a brief discussion on a timeline. Commissioner West stated that the quality of the ordinance was more important than completing the process in a short time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/PROJECTS:

There were no committee reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Chairman Beale asked the Board to further discuss the high impact use definitions list. There was much discussion about the definition of vehicle graveyards. Commissioner West asked if there was a threshold at which it became a nuisance to neighbors. Board members referred to Rabun County's junked car ordinance that states that a car must have a current registration. Chairman Beale stated that Rabun County's ordinance granted the power to levy taxes of violators. Beale asked if that was the direction the board wanted to take. Pierson and Marsh suggested that those questions be taken before the public in the CHIDs meetings. The board agreed.

Chairman Beale opened a discussion on kennels. The board discussed whether to regulate just commercial or both commercial and private. Beale reminded the board that their mission statement mentions preserving mountain heritage and that the keeping of hunting dogs is an important part of that heritage. The board agreed that hunting dogs should be exempt from kennel regulations.

The board agreed to discuss the definitions list after further CHIDs meetings so as to get a better idea of what the public wants.

NEW BUSINESS:

With no further business, Chairman Beale adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm.

Clerk/Secretary

Chairman Ronnie Beale