

MACON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

January 17th, 2007

CALL TO ORDER:

A meeting of the Macon County Planning Board was held on January 17, 2007 at the Environment Resource Center. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm. Planning Board members present were Chairman Larry Stenger, Lamar Sprinkle, Susan Ervin, Mark West, Evelyn Owens, Lewis Penland, Jimmy Goodman, Karl Gillespie, Eric Pierson, Commission Liaison Ronnie Beale, and County Planner Stacy Guffey.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Pierson made a motion to accept the minutes as amended to include Eric Pierson in attendance, Penland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC SESSION:

No one from the general public chose to speak.

ELECTIONS:

Chairman Stenger opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Stenger nominated Penland. Goodman seconded. Penland was unanimously elected Chair. Stenger then opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Goodman nominated West. West declined the nomination. Goodman nominated Pierson. Marsh seconded. Ervin nominated Stenger. Pierson seconded. Stenger then called on the board to vote. 3 voted in favour of Pierson. 6 voted in favour of Stenger. Stenger was elected Vice Chair.

Penland thanked the board for their confidence. He then reminded the board that their current mission was to create a subdivision ordinance. He urged the board to stick to that mission. He also expressed an interest in bringing Josh Ward, the Erosion Control Officer, into meetings for his expertise. Penland asked Guffey that the minutes be posted on the County's web site and that documents currently under discussion also be posted there.

LIAISON COMMENTS:

Chairman Penland recognized Commission Liaison Ronnie Beale for comments. Beale reiterated Penland's call for focus on subdivision ordinance and steep slope regulations. He reminded the board that their job was to work on the tasks assigned to them by the Commission, not to debate the need of particular regulations. He then read from a 2004 editorial on growth in Macon County. He told the board that future generations would be thankful for their work.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Guffey pointed out that copies of the Madison County and Haywood County subdivision ordinances were in their packets. He stated that those would be good examples for the board to begin looking at.

It was agreed that the discussion on subcommittees and a timeline would take place at a later date.

Ervin and Stenger gave a brief update on the Regional Steep Slope Committee. State Representative Ray Rapp and his staff have drafted legislation in regards to steep slope development. Ervin said she would forward the minutes and other materials from subsequent meetings to the Planning Board.

Guffey then read a letter sent to Macon County from Carla Norwood regarding the surveys sent out for the Macon Voices project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT MEETING:

There was a brief discussion about evening meetings. Goodman made a motion to begin the meetings at 5 PM. Owens seconded. The board voted unanimously in favor. A discussion ensued about moving the meetings to various parts of the county. The board decided to hold the following meeting on Tuesday February 20th in Highlands.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Lewis Penland, Jr. - Chair

Stacy Guffey - Clerk/Secretary to the Board