

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



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MINUTES

6:00 PM, MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2017
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

Members Present: Ms. Sewell
Mr. Hollifield
Ms. Alexander
Mr. Land
Ms. Willoughby
Mr. Blanton

Staff Present: Gregory Gordos, Senior Planner – Community Development

Media Present: none.

1. Call to Order

Mr. Land called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hollifield made a motion to approve the minutes from February 13, 2017 meeting. S. Willoughby seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 with two members absent..

3. Discussion of Creating a Letter of Support to FARM Center

Ms. Gwen McPhail and Mr. Stanley Gibbons were invited by Mr. Land to speak on the agenda item.

Mr. Gibbons provided an update on the progress of the FARM Center proposed off of US-123. An update was provided to the Oconee County Real Estate, Facilities, & Land Management Committee and that press coverage implied confusion over funding of the facility. Negotiations over the property entrance and a contract with Oconee County were ongoing.

Ms. McPhail spoke to the community contributions of the Foothills Heritage Fair organization, the history of the project and the potential for collaboration with the Agricultural Advisory Board. Discussion followed with the Board requesting information on grant funding, phasing, usable acreage on site, market buildings, an arena's general purpose usage to the County versus agricultural usage, and politics.

Mr. Land noted that one of the stated purposes for the Agricultural Advisory Board is to advise County on agricultural related matters, and recommended that Board members reach out to the Councilperson who appointed them for guidance. No motion was made.

4. Old Business

None presented.

5. New Business

Mr. Blanton presented to the Board a draft list of agencies and representatives that may be interested in the activities of the Agricultural Advisory Board. Ms. Alexander suggested the following agencies be added to the list” Oconee Economic Alliance, Mountain and Lakes Convention and Visitors Bureau, Upstate Forever, and Blue Ridge Electric.

Mr. Blanton also provided a draft copy of the By-laws and draft AAB letterhead paper for consideration of the Board.

Mr. Blanton made a motion to review the three documents prior to the next scheduled meeting and approved at that meeting. Ms. Willoughby seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Gordos acknowledged that staff would add all three items to the next agenda.

6. Board Correspondence with Outside Agencies

Mr. Land made a motion to have Mr. Blanton craft a Letter of Support to the FARM Center, to be voted on at the next scheduled meeting. Mr. Gordos confirmed that Board members cannot speak on behalf of the entire Board unless the language is voted and approved in a public hearing. Ms. Willoughby seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

7. Adjourn

Mr. Land motioned to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.