# The Oconee County Board of Zoning Appeals



May 17, 2012

## **Establishing Authority**

- SC state Planning Act
- Section 6-29-780, 790, 800
- Spells out powers and duties as limited by state law
- Oconee County Board of Zoning Appeals
- Municode Chapter 32, Article 1. Sec. 32-5
- Established BZA

## Special Exceptions

- Uses that are permitted through the Board of Zoning Appeals as a Special Exception
- Board must follow standards in the ordinances just as staff would.

#### Criteria for granting the Special Exception

- Decision should be based on the Comprehensive Plan and the Performance Standard or Zoning ordinance being considered;
- best interest of the County, the convenience of the community and the public welfare;
- Appropriate for the property location;
- Constructed, operated, and maintained so as to be in harmony with and appropriate in appearance to the existing or intended character of the community;
- Should be safe for highway traffic and parking with adequate access arrangements to protect streets from undue congestion and hazard.

### Performance Standards

- Requires SE for permit;
  - Group Homes
  - Communication Towers
- Other Performance Standards not necessarily require SE Sexually Oriented Business Tattoo Facility Sign Control Building Height Requirement

# Special Exceptions in Zoning Ordinance

- Various Uses within certain Base Zoning Districts require a Special Exception
- All "non-residential" uses inside the Lake Keowee/Jocassee Overlay District require a Special Exception
  - ... "for good cause shown they may waive the strict application of [Appedix A]."

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# SEs required in the Lake Keowee/Jocassee Overlay District

- Approval required for new non residential projects
- Same questions must be answered for other Special Exception approval
- Additionally, Appendix A is to be used as a guide and for good cause the Board may waive its strict application

### Appendix A sections

- Building Standards
- Signage Standards
- Lighting Standards
- Parking Standards
- Landscape Standards

## Context of Appendix A

- Initially written for I-85 Overlay to guide industrial development
- Some sections, or parts of sections, may not be appropriate to apply to projects within the Lake Keowee/Jocassee Overlay District
- Planning Department staff will work with developer to have a plan ready for approval or minor adjustment before meeting
- If someone does not a have sufficient plan the matter should be tabled until they have one prepared, agree?
- Appendix A is 12 pages and it would be difficult for the Board to work through those standards during an evening meeting.
- Goal of Special Exception Hearing is to ensure project fits in with the community

### Be sure to not be a BAR

- Board of Architectural Review is the third body established in the state Planning Act
- Oconee County does not have a BAR
- BZA needs to be attentive to not act as a BAR
- Do not require specific architectural styles
- [Appendix A] design requirements are only to reduce negative impacts to surrounding community
- [Appendix A] design requirements are not to maintain building stock of certain architectural style (Rainbow Row in Charleston)

