



Oconee County Planning Commission

415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC

29691

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Minutes

Planning Commission Meeting

June 9, 2008

The Oconee County Planning Commission held their regularly scheduled monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on May 12, 2008 in the Board Room of the School District of Oconee County Administrative Offices, 413 S. Pine St., Walhalla, SC 29691.

Members Present: Tommy Abbott, (Chairman)
Ryan Honea, (Vice Chairman)
Howard Moore
Rex Ramsay
Randy Abbott
Bill Nelson

Art Holbrooks (Planning Director)
Aaron Gadsby (County Planner)

Media Present:

Brett McLaughlin (Daily Journal)
Dick Mangrum (WGOG)
Ray Chandler (Anderson Independent)

Item 1: Vice Chairman Honea called the meeting to order.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes- Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the May 12, 2008 meeting minutes as written; Mr. Ramsay seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously

Vice Chairman Honea stated that he wanted to change the order of the agenda items to allow Mr. Michael Covington and Ms. Dale Wagoner (SCDOT) to make their presentation on the state scenic highway program prior to the Public Comment item and avoid delaying their trip home to Columbia. The commissioners agreed to modify the agenda.

Item 4: SCDOT Scenic Highway Program Presentation- Mr. Holbrooks introduced Mr. Covington and Ms. Wagoner from the SCDOT Scenic Byways Program. Mr. Covington began the presentation with a brief overview and history of the State's program. Ms. Wagoner spoke regarding the role the DOT plays in assisting local governments and citizens in applying for Scenic designations. **(Please see attached presentation)** Mr. Covington and Ms. Wagoner then took questions from both the Commission and the general public regarding the program.

Item 3: Public Comment Session-

Mr. Tom Markovich thanked the Commission for everything they do and indicated his disagreement with the County Administrator's interpretation of the state rules regarding capital improvements plans.

Mr. Jerry Barnett thanked the Commission for being 'the voice of reason, a check and balance to government run amuck'. Mr. Barnett voiced his concern over private property rights and government not becoming a burden to tax payers and building maintenance was one way of doing so in the budget.

Mr. Luther Lyle stated that the Upstate needs to be represented on the Scenic Highways and Byways Committee at the State level because currently no one represents the Upstate.

Mr. B.J. Littleton thanked the Commission and spoke regarding the specific duties of government and law enforcement to convict the guilty and protect the rights of free men. Mr. Littleton also stated his opposition to the open containers law.

Item 5: Discussion of Capital Improvements-. Mr. Nelson spoke regarding the role of the Planning Commission in regards to State Law, Capital Improvements, and other issues. Mr. Nelson made a motion to seek a legal opinion that summarizes the duties and powers of the Planning Commission and what they needed to do to comply with State Law. Mr. Abbott seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Item 6: Continued Discussion of Draft Zoning Ordinance- Mr. Holbrooks presented the Commission with a draft of the Citizen Initiated Process to Amend the Zoning Map, noting that it contained language reflecting the Commission's decision to change the language requiring 15% of voters to initiate a map amendment to 30% of property owners. The Commission discussed several other sections of the draft. Mr. Holbrooks informed them that an updated document would be ready for the next meeting.

Item 7: Old Business-Mr. Holbrooks informed the Commission that the existing land use was just about finished and the Planning Department planned to have a tentative meeting schedule to announce at the next meeting.

Item 8: New Business- None

Item 9: Adjourn

(Text of PowerPoint Slides of Presentation by Mr. Michael Covington and Ms. Dale Wagoner, SCDOT)

Scenic Byways Program

Scenic Byway Designations

- Local Byways
- State Scenic Highways
- National Scenic Byways
- All-American Roads

History

- ISTEA established the Scenic Byways program in 1991; retained in TEA-21 and SAFETEA-LU
- Created an Advisory Committee at the national level
- Established minimum criteria for designation of National Scenic Byways and All American Roads
- Provides federal grants to the states to designate, manage, and promote scenic byways.

South Carolina Legislation

- Scenic Highway Committee
 - establishes criteria
 - reviews applications for State designation.
 - rate the route
 - recommends to the General Assembly
- General Assembly will Act

Minimum Requirements for

State Scenic Highway

- SC Highway
- Aesthetic Value
- Accommodates bikes to buses
- Visible historical, cultural, or recreational resources
- Provides linkage to resources
- Hospitality Resources
- Bypasses major roads
- Access to attractions and entertainment
- Avoids areas of distraction
- Strong local support

- Minimum evaluation score of +0.01
- 2 lane road

Six Intrinsic Qualities

- Historic
- Cultural
- Natural
- Scenic
- Recreational
- Archeological

Evaluation Criteria

Positive

Vegetation

Vista

Water

Man made Attraction

Recreational

Community Support

Corridor Management Plan (CMP)

Negative

Junk Yard

Utilities

Landfill

Trailer Park

Heavy Traffic

Polluted Air

Mining

Lumbering Scars

Corridor Management Plan

- The CMP deals with four major issues:
 - Existing conditions
 - Future goals/visions
 - How the goals will be achieved.
 - An action plan (What, Who, & When).

America's Byways

- National Scenic Byway
 - One 'Intrinsic Quality'

- Quality must possess regional significance
- All-American Road
 - Multiple 'Intrinsic Qualities'
 - Quality must possess national significance
 - One-of-a-kind features
 - "Destination unto itself"

South Carolina Scenic Routes

- 20 State Scenic Highways
- 3 National Scenic Byways
 - Increased tourism and recognition
 - Federal Grant Assistance
 - Inclusion in National brochures and maps

Federal Designations Process

- National Scenic Byway
 - State Designation
 - Corridor Management Plan (CMP)
 - Minimum of one intrinsic quality significant to this region
 - Safely accommodate
 - two-wheel drive automobiles
 - bicycle and pedestrian travel
 - tour buses
- SCDOT to review application
 - make recommendation to FHWA
 - FHWA to determine designation

Discretionary Funds

- Planning, design, and development of State scenic byway program Corridor Management Plan (CMP)
- 2. Safety improvements
- 3. Pedestrian & Bicycle facilities
- 4. Improvements to enhance access to recreational areas.
- 5. Protecting historical, archeological and cultural recourses.
- 6. Developing/providing tourist information to the public.