

POLK COUNTY
20/20 VISION PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VPAC) MEETING
JULY 21, 2009 - MINUTES
6:00 PM
ISOTHERMAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, POLK CAMPUS AUDITORIUM
COLUMBUS, NORTH CAROLINA

1. CALL TO ORDER
Jim Carson called the meeting to order.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL
Jim Carson completed the roll call. See attached sheet for more information.
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Dale Holland made two amendments to the Agenda:
 - 1) New Business, remove Distribute Future Water System Section.
 - 2) Next Meetings, add September.Katharine Smith made a motion to approve Agenda with amendments, Henry Bright seconded. All in favor.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 16, 2009 MEETING
Susan Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes, Hal Green seconded. All in favor.
6. STAFF COMMENTS
Cathy Ruth passed out a sign-up sheet for the continuation of Bus Tour scheduled for Monday July 27, 2009 at 9:00-12:00.
7. PUBLIC COMMENT (10-minute limit)
Bill Smith committed on roads and the consideration for low density in steep slope areas.
8. OLD BUSINESS
 - Discussion on Section V, Polk Projections/Future Demand, Polk County 20/20 Vision Plan, page V-1 to V-11. Dale Holland went over the section page by page with the Board. Emphasis was given to the issue of affordable housing, the question was posed, which comes first, affordable housing or better paying jobs? Dale Holland explained that they come together.
 - Dale Holland gave the Board a revision of the Future Land Use Categories and went through the changes and clarifications. The Board reviewed the draft Future Land Use Map with the revised categories as prepared by Holland Consulting Planners, Inc., dated July 21, 2009.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- Dale Holland distributed a revised Table of Contents and Section VI, the initial portion of the Policies and Implementing Actions. He requested the Board to review for discussion at our next meeting.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT (10-minute limit)

Bill Smith recalled the earlier discussion about which comes first, affordable housing or higher paying jobs? His thoughts are that the higher paying jobs should come first, focusing on high tech or medical industries. Have our schools provide training in these areas at an introductory level.

Ray Gasperson spoke on the idea of Polk County being a "bedroom community". The future economy will tend to lead people toward living and working in the same area and will get away from the "bedroom community" idea. The future should focus on catering more toward health care.

Lisa Krolak spoke on her personal experience of living in Atlanta and traveling almost an hour to work. She now lives in Polk County and travels to Asheville. She stated, although the problems in Polk County are different, some are similar to bigger cities.

11. NEXT MEETINGS –

Jim Carson announced the next two months of scheduled meetings. August and September 2009 meeting schedule was discussed. Instead of having two meetings in August, we will have one, extended meeting, on August 18, 2009 5:00-8:30 at Isothermal Community College, Polk Campus. In September we will have one regular meeting Tuesday, September 22, 2009 5:30-8:00 pm at Isothermal Community College, Polk Campus.

There will be three scheduled Public Informational Meetings.

- 1) Monday September 21, 2009 5:00-6:30 in Saluda
- 2) Thursday September 24, 2009 5:00-6:30 in Green Creek
- 3) Thursday September 24, 2009 7:00-8:30 in Mill Spring

The exact locations for the Public Informational Meetings will follow when confirmed by staff. It was requested that the Board try to attend at least one public meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mary Neal Jones made a motion to adjourn, Mark Byington seconded. All in favor.