

POLK COUNTY
20/20 VISION PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VPAC) MEETING
October 6, 2009 - MINUTES
5:30 PM
POLK COUNTY LIBRARY
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
An amendment changing the order in which New Business would be discussed was requested. Maryneal Jones made a motion to approve the Agenda with this change. Evangelena Barber seconded. All in favor.
Another change was requested to add Public Comment after each topic in New Business. Hal Green made a motion to approve the Agenda with that change. Maryneal Jones seconded. All in favor.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JULY 21, 2009 MEETING
John Walters made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Doug Harmon seconded. All in favor.
6. STAFF COMMENTS - none
7. PUBLIC COMMENT (10-minute limit) - none
8. OLD BUSINESS - none
9. NEW BUSINESS
 - Cathy Ruth gave an overview of the Public Meetings held throughout the County on September 21 & 24 and thanked the members that provided facilities and attended the public meetings. The results of the questionnaire completed by the attendees of the meetings were distributed at the end of the meeting to the committee for review.

Columbus Farm Day was held October 3 and Polk County Planning Department had an informational booth with visual aides explaining the Comprehensive Plan. Kathleen Kent and Katharine Smith helped man the booth. Kathleen commented that several citizens stopped and ask questions.

- A graph relating to job loss and recessions over the years since WWII was given to the Committee by Hal Green for review. The data will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Dale Holland presented the Policies and Implementing Strategies section of the Comprehensive Plan to the Committee. They reviewed and discussed pages VII-1 to VII-17.
- Points of Discussion:
 - P.6 Page VII-2 Wording "thereby destroying rural" should be revised.
 - P.11 Page VII-2 Change wording to "housing including the elderly".
 - Concern with clear cutting forestry on mountainsides and some form of control in the Comprehensive Plan.
 - Request a definition of Conditional Use Permits, including discernable standards.
 - Highway 9 corridor between Polk County and Lake Lure.
 - P.33 Page VII-8 Integrated road systems, gated communities and private roads.
 - P.38 Page VII-9 Commercial wind-driven generating facilities.
 - I.31 Page VII-10 Request to add healthy living, bike lanes, and safe routes to schools. A concern on ecological damage for bike and pedestrian trails along rivers and streams. Possible rail line abandonment.
 - Historic Preservation.
 - I.39 Page VII-12 bullet point 2- a comment to change curtail to a stronger word, such as abolish.
 - I.39 Page VII-12 bullet point 4- parking requirements.
 - I.42 page VII-13 bullet point 1- make subdivisions "walkable" connections with Polk County trails where applicable.
 - I.42 Page VII-13 bullet point 3- tree protection plan instead of telling them how to remove trees.
 - I.44 Page VII-13 add the mapping of the walking trails.
 - I.46 Page VII- 13 update as necessary.

Public Comment:

Bill Smith would like the word discouraged changed to prohibited in I.17 bullet point 6. He would also like the tan section on the map removed. He is concerned with the road deterioration with driveways and entrances onto Highway 9 in the Sunny View area.

Renee' McDermott recalled from previous Land Use Plans, there were a lot of concerns with "big box" businesses coming into the County. She would like to limit the commercial development to a square footage maximum.

Eric Gass asked the extent to which the towns will take ownership of the County's plan. He is concerned that the towns and the county will not cooperate.

- Dale Holland provided the Committee a handout entitled "The Residential Density Objectives". He requested that they read and review it before the next meeting. This will be a specific topic of discussion.

11. NEXT MEETING – October 20, 2009, 5:30 p.m at the Polk County Library.
12. ADJOURNMENT
Dave Herbert made a motion to adjourn, Susie Welsh seconded. All in favor.