

POLK COUNTY
DECEMBER 16, 2008 - Minutes
7:00 PM
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CPAC) MEETING
ISOTHERMAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, POLK CAMPUS
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. Ernie Gianinni, Emily Clark and Henry Bright were not present. See attached for complete details.
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Maryneal Jones made a motion to approve the agenda. John Walters seconded. All in favor.

After discussion, items 5 and 6 were deleted. Item 5 was replaced with Approval of minutes.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Mark Byington made a motion to approve the minutes. Evangelena Barber seconded. All in favor.
5. CPAC PRIMARY MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS
No Comment.
6. PUBLIC COMMENT (10-minute limit)
No Comment.
7. OLD BUSINESS
 - Comments on Citizen Participation Plan
No Comment

- Comments on Rules of Procedure
No Comment

8. NEW BUSINESS

- CPAC Primary and Alternate Member Comprehensive Plan objectives/
concerns.

Mark Byington – He stated that the County should have a flexible, dynamic plan that can move forward.

Bob Strickland – He stated that he has lived in Coopers Gap for 15 years and is originally from Florida. He thinks the Comprehensive Plan should meet the needs of the Community.

Maryneal Jones – She hopes that the process does not override the purpose.

Kathleen Kent – She said she looked over the Land Use Plan and that it was very well done. She thinks there needs to be a sustainable water supply or the rest won't matter. She feels that water is the top priority. She stated that everyone needs to work together and that water, trees and Farmland Preservation are her top priorities.

Hal Green – He believes the Visioning Report underemphasizes growth and economic development. He said that working people in Polk County need jobs. He thought that a good job was done on the affordable housing section of the report. He would like to focus on economic development.

Christel Walter – She stated she would like to keep Polk rural and scenic, control development and that there are economic concerns. She shared that the maps in the binders are great and that the Plan should be guided by the natural resources in Polk County.

Doug Harmon – He stated that he hopes to offer input.

Roger Odel – He stated that the Board should be careful when presenting the Plan to the public, to make clear that we are not taking away the property owners rights. He also thinks that the current ordinances should be enforced.

A.Y. Brown – He stated that the Plan should be issues oriented and he hopes the data in the Plan will be used. He also stated that as the Board goes through the process that it needs to deal with the policy issues.

Jim Carson – No comment

John Walters – He hopes the plan addresses orderly growth and allow for new job opportunities, and economic development so that money stays in Polk County. He would like the Downtown to stay vibrant and keep big box development out.

Dave Herbert – He hopes the Plan will be equitable for all constituents, favorable to the long term, viable, flexible, actionable, measurable, and that his personal goal is to grow by learning more about Polk County and being involved in a new endeavor.

Susie Welsh – Her hope is that the process does not move so slowly that it prevents CPAC from achieving its purpose, which is to preserve the rural small town atmosphere and protect the County's natural resources.

Katharine Smith – She stated that she does not know a lot about the County and would like to learn more. She would like for there to be jobs for young people so they do not have to leave the County to find work. She would like for everyone to work smoothly together. She would like for the Board to make sure the

visioning statements are adhered to and not individual agendas. She also stated that water is a big issue.

Evangelena Barber – She said that she has lived in Polk County (TriBranch Farm) for 45 years. She would like to retain the County's Natural resources, keep the highways beautiful and rural. She also said that water is a big issue.

Katharine Smith also stated that it was her opinion that the members should not make statements to the press while on the committee. She said that it could pose a potential problem and that the Board should have "one voice". Maryneal Jones agreed and that negative results could create the perception of a bad atmosphere to the public. Jim Carson says he hopes that this does not become a problem. He suggested that if you feel the need to say something to the press that you speak for yourself and not on behalf of the board.

Dale Holland said that he would be happy to give out a forecast calendar that outlines the building block process of the Plan.

- Selection of name for the Comprehensive Plan.
This item moved to the next meeting.
- Presentation/discussion of the Draft Land Suitability Analysis Map.
Dale Holland introduced Landon Holland and said that Landon would present the Land Suitability Map and that the map would be on next meetings agenda for discussion.
Landon gave a brief description of GIS and mapping. He went into detail to explain the different watershed areas. He will provide a chart for the watershed areas.
- Distribution of Polk County Visioning Committee Report.
The report was handed out prior to the meeting.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT (10-minute limit)
Lisa Krolak thanked the Board for all of their hard work and stated that she hopes everyone can work together.
10. NEXT MEETING – January 27, 2009, 7:00 PM, Isothermal Community College, Polk Campus, Columbus, NC
Guest speakers will be at the February 17th meeting.

An announcement was made that NCDENR will be speaking to the public on January 26th from 6:30 – 8:30 at ICC Polk Campus and that everyone is invited to attend.

Dale Holland updated the Board and let them know that he has met with the County Manager, Transportation, Representatives from Columbus, Tryon, and Saluda, Bill Miller, Travel and Tourism as well as several other County

departments and resources. He stated that he is trying to get as much data as he can.

Dave Herbert stated that there were very few responses to the visioning survey from the rural areas of the County. The Board discussed.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mark Byington made a motion to adjourn. Katharine Smith seconded. All in favor.