

Spartanburg County

MINUTES

Planning and Development Commission September 1, 2009

Members Present: Whit Kennedy
Doug Brackett, Secretary
David Burnett
Donna Turner Williams
Les Green
E. Kent Miller
Jerry Gaines

Members Absent: Phillip Lawson
John Campbell

Staff Present: Joan Holliday
Laurie Horton
Sherry Dull
Jim D'Amato
Savannah Sabo
Edwin Haskell

1. Call to Order

Whit Kennedy called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes of August 11, 2009

E. Kent Miller made a motion to approve the August 11, 2009 minutes as submitted. Donna Turner Williams seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

3. Old Business

None

4. New Business

A. SPATS “Bike /Ped Master Plan Activity”

Jim D’Amato introduced Laura Ringo, Executive Director for Partners for Active Living, to the Planning Commission.

Laura Ringo stated that they were working with SPATS, City of Spartanburg, Department of Transportation and the Mary Black Foundation, on a means by which Spartanburg County residents would travel to work. This will be conducted to provide baseline data for the community’s transportation trends. She stated that she was here to speak about the Spartanburg County Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. She presented a power point presentation to the Planning Commission. She stated that financial support was through the Mary Black Foundation, SPATS, City of Spartanburg and Spartanburg County. Over the next year citizens, community officials and leaders, active living advocates and government, will work with a consultant to develop the SPATS Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. She stated that they hoped there would be some short and long term impacts on the Spartanburg’s housing market. If the community is walk able, the home values are higher that if they are not walk able. They also hope it will impact safety and with volume comes increased safety. They also hope it will impact the safe routes to school which is Federal and funded by Congress. The schools will receive money to promote walking and biking to school. Laura Ringo stated that Spartanburg County has one of the highest rates of cardiovascular disease in the country. The center for Disease stated that if there were more walk able communities then people would be healthier and more active. The walk able communities would also help retail as more pedestrians are around. A healthier community would impact schools and the work environment. There were approximately a 1000 surveys sent out to Spartanburg residents to get input on where to place more sidewalks and walk able communities. They have also received advice from Spartanburg County leaders and the different municipalities within Spartanburg County. There is currently a significant number of pedestrian strips per day, which include college students, elementary age kids and adults who choose to walk, whether they have transportation or not. In the last two years Spartanburg County has gone from 14 miles of bike lane to 30 miles, which has doubled.

Jim D’Amato stated that the goal for Spartanburg County was to build a sufficient and safe transportation system. His goal was to place more sidewalks near residential and retail areas, to prevent pedestrians from walking on the street to get to the store. He used the Springfield residential area as an example. Mr. D’Amato stated that phase I of the Highway 9 project would begin 2010, phase II would be 2011 and phase III sometime in the future. Jim D’Amato presented to the Planning Commission a hand out on the future plans of the Bike /Ped Master Plan.

5. Discussion Items

None

6. Unified Land Management Ordinance #0-99-015

A. Subdivisions

1. Major (Preliminary Plats)

None

2. Major (Final Plats)*

None

3. Minor (Summary Plats)*

None

4. Minor (Private Road Developments)*

None

5. Minor (Family Property)

None

B. Land Development

1. Major (Preliminary Plats)

a. Retreat @ River Falls

Laurie Horton informed the Planning Commission that the Retreat @ River Falls had withdrawn their item off of the agenda.

2. Major (Final Plats) *

None

3. Major (Site Plans)

None

4. Minor (Summary Plats) *

None

5. Major (Summary Plats)*

None

6. Preliminary Extension Request

None

7. Other Business

a. Discussion of Proposed Design Standards Amendment to the Unified Land Management Ordinance

The Planning Commission members discussed the public hearing to be held before County Councils third reading on September 28, 2009. The Planning Commission is required to give the County Council a recommendation on the proposed design standard amendment to the Unified Land Management Ordinance. David Burnett stated that County Council appointed three members from Planning Commission to be a part of a committee that would attend meetings on the proposed design standards. The members that were appointed were David Burnett, Whit Kennedy and Donna Turner Williams. The Planning Commission Members agreed to have their Public Hearing with the County Councils Public Hearing on the proposed design standard amendment to be held on September 28, 2009.

8. Adjournment

Donna Turner Williams made a motion to adjourn. Les Green seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

By: _____
Doug Brackett, Planning Commission Secretary

Prepared by:
Planning Department Staff