



CONSERVATION AND GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMISSION

500 N. MAIN STREET
SUMMERVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29483

MINUTES
DORCHESTER COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SUMMERVILLE
March 06, 2024
5:30 P.M.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, a notice was posted on the bulletin board 24 hours before the meeting, and the following media outlets were notified: The Eagle-Record, The Summerville Journal Scene, The Post and Courier, WCBD Channel 2, WCIV Channel 4 and WCSC Channel 5.

PRESENT: Mr. Daniel Prohaska, Chairman
Mr. Ray Walsh, Vice Chairman
Ms. Catherine Brownlee
Ms. Rhonda Pereira
Ms. Edsel Taylor
Mr. Joel Wells
Mr. Bryan Havir, Asst Administrator for Community Services
Ms. Kiera Reinertsen, Director of Planning and Zoning
Ms. Carolina Gomez-Bello, Conservation/Greenbelt Planner

ABSENT: Ms. Phyllis Hughes

Mr. Daniel Prohaska called to order the meeting of Dorchester County Conservation and Greenbelt Advisory Commission at 5:35 p.m. The invocation was also given by Mr. Prohaska, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

1. On the motion of Mr. Walsh seconded by Mr. Taylor, the Commission voted 6-0, to adopt the minutes from the February 07, 2024, Conservation and Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meeting.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Kim Morganello, Weston & Sampson, gave a brief update on the status of the Greenbelt Master Plan. She discusses the project timeline and states that they were currently focused on writing the textual portion of the plan. She gave insights into the preliminary results of Community Survey 1, which ran from mid-November until the end of December, and Community Survey 2, which will close in mid-March. Mr. Taylor inquired about the distribution of the location of the respondents throughout the county and Ms. Morganello stated that the final report would include a pie graph showing where people came from and explained that the preliminary assessment of the survey results indicated that the total responses were generally in line with the overall population distribution throughout the County. Morganello then went on to discuss the two public engagement sessions held in early February, stating that there was an extended total of 40 total participants in St. George and 60 in Summerville. She noted that some adjustments were made from the first engagement session to the second, such as enlarging the maps and adding a GIS station, and then went on to summarize each of the stations that were part of the two engagement sessions. Ms. Morganello announced that there are two more upcoming community feedback opportunities, one at Francis Beidler Forst on Saturday, March 9th, and another at Ahsley River Park, which was also scheduled to occur on March 9th, but will be rescheduled due to forecasted inclement weather. Ms. Morganello then gave an update on the GIS portion of the project, stating that they have updated their GIS approach to better serve the matrix layers created for this project. Finally, she discussed the project deadlines, stating that the draft plan would be emailed to Commission Members on March 27th for them to have time to look over it and make suggested revisions before presenting the draft to the County Council on April 15th. Ms. Morganello then explained that she would be unable to attend the April 3rd Conservation and Greenbelt Advisory Commission meeting when the final Master plan is scheduled to be presented to the Commission. Mr. Prohaska suggested that they move the meeting to accommodate Ms. Morganello's schedule, and recommended they move their meeting to the following Wednesday, April 10th, 2024. On the motion of Mr. Walsh seconded by Ms. Pereira., the Commission voted 6-0 to move the April Conservation and Greenbelt Advisory Commission meeting from Wednesday, April 3rd, to Wednesday, April 10th, on the condition that the St. George Council Chambers are available for use on that date and time. Mr. Taylor brought up the idea of having this meeting include a workshop, which the rest of the Commission agreed upon.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Hanes Wetzel of 108 Atlantic Street, a resident of Summerville for 70 years, expressed her concern for the rapid development and increase in population she has seen in recent years. She expressed the need for more parks in underserved areas and the need for basketball courts and other sports facilities for community use. Mr. Taylor explained that the very purpose of the program is to be fair for all communities and that there has been a lot of effort toward achieving this. Mr. Prohaska expands on this point by stating that part of the final plan will include recommendations for zoning ordinances and how to spend the Greenbelt funds to create sustainable communities that will be resilient to growth and development in the

future. Ms. Brownlee clarified that the Greenbelt Program is for the entire county, not just Summerville and that it is not only designated for the development of parks.

Kelly of Jupiter Lane in Summerville, came with her mother Linda, and her neighbor Mary to ask questions about greenspace preservation in the county and express her concerns about development, removal of trees, and the loss of the County's southern charm. She asked about conservation strategies and expressed interest in learning more about conservation and resiliency-orientated County ordinances and plans. Mr. Prohaska brought up existing ordinances and conservation strategies that could be found in the County's comprehensive plan, which is available on the county website. Ms. Brownlee spoke about the various data layers being used to create the prioritization matrix that will impact how and where in the county Greenbelt funds are spent. Mr. Prohaska detailed the 2022 One Cent Sales and Use Tax Referendum, which created the funds that will be used for the Greenbelt Program.

Jeremy Crawford of 1133 Mossy Rock Drive spoke about the need for more parks with softball fields and other sports recreation fields for young people to use in the community. Mr. Walsh noted that the Greenbelt Program does not allow for the development of any active recreational facilities such as fields and playgrounds. Mr. Prohaska noted that the Parks and Recreation Commission would be better suited to help him with his concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr. Walsh seconded by Ms. Brownlee, the Commission voted 6-0 in favor to adjourn at approximately 6:27 p.m.