



CONSERVATION AND GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMISSION

500 N. MAIN STREET
SUMMERVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29483

MINUTES
KENNETH F. WAGGONER SERVICES BUILDING
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ST. GEORGE
April 10, 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. Phyllis Hughes
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

Mr. Daniel Prohaska called to order the meeting of Dorchester County Conservation and Greenbelt Advisory Commission at 5:30 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 Ms. Brownlee, the Commission voted 7-0, to adopt the minutes from the March 06, 2024, Conservation and Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meeting.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The meeting commenced with the dissemination and discussion of Dorchester County's Greenbelt Master Plan draft, which was provided to the Commission beforehand for review. County staff member, Carolina Gomez-Bello, initiated the draft review with initial comments, emphasizing thorough scrutiny of the draft and inviting honest feedback from the commission to refine the Greenbelt Master Plan. Ms. Brownlee inquired about specific changes recommended by county staff to avoid redundant discussions. Ms. Gomez-Bello outlined recommended edits, including grammatical corrections, consistent formatting, and the creation of an implementation section with an applicant checklist to guide the Commission. Mr. Prohaska highlighted the need for consistency in referencing municipalities with "the town of" as a prefix. He also questioned the language choice in a sentence describing Greenbelt policy, expressing concerns about its enforcement-like tone. Mr. Wells echoed this sentiment, advocating for language adjustments. Ms. Brownlee corrected the listing of Gopher Tortoises in Dorchester County, proposing their replacement with Swallow-tailed Kites. Regarding photo releases, Ms. Reinertsen suggested they might not be necessary, pending confirmation. Ms. Brownlee observed missing photos in the greenspaces section, prompting Weston & Sampson's Ms. Morganello to seek assistance from County staff and the Commission to gather relevant images. Ms. Brownlee agreed with reorganizing sections and adding an implementation section. Mr. Prohaska cautioned against the term "formulates" in the draft's introduction, emphasizing the Commission's advisory role. Ms. Gomez-Bello acknowledged the need to adjust the phrasing accordingly. Additionally, Mr. Prohaska emphasized County Council's decision-making role. Ms. Morganello proposed creating a shared document for Commission members to input their edits and comments, facilitating collaboration with Weston & Sampson. Mr. Wells queried whether projects outside the Greenbelt program's priority matrix would be considered, to which Mr. Prohaska clarified the matrix's role as an objective guide, not a definitive criterion. Finally, Mr. Prohaska expressed gratitude to all involved in drafting the Master Plan.

On the motion of Mr. Walsh seconded by Mr. Wells, the Commission voted 7-0 to have an additional meeting this month, to be held virtually on Tuesday, April 23rd, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

All recommended edits and adopted changes will be incorporated into a new draft for further discussion at the April 23rd meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilwoman Rita May Ranck thanked everyone for their hard work on the Greenbelt Master Plant draft.

Councilwoman Harriet Holman also noted that everyone did a great job on the draft thanked everyone for their hard work, and thanked everyone for the work they will continue to do to craft a suburb document for Dorchester County.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Ms. Hughes seconded by Mr. Walsh, the Commission voted 7-0 in favor to adjourn at approximately 6:04 p.m.