

NELSON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 25, 2012

Present: Chair Philippa Proulx, Commissioners Linda Russell, Michael Tapager, Michael Harman, Emily Hunt and Supervisor Connie Brennan.

Staff Present: Fred Boger, Tim Padalino, Melissa Thompson

Guest: Will Cockrell, TJPDC Community Development Coordinator

Call to Order: Chair Proulx called the meeting to order at 7:30 P. M. in the Board of Supervisors meeting room, County Courthouse, Lovingson. She stated that Tower Application #2011-010 for AT&T was being postponed until the February meeting at the applicants' request.

Election of Officers: Commissioner Russell made the motion that the current slate of officeholders be elected for the 2012 term. Commissioner Tapager offered the second and the motion passed 5-0 with Supervisor Brennan abstaining. Chair Proulx stated that the officers are as follows; Philippa Proulx-Chair, Emily Hunt-Vice Chair and Melissa Thompson-Secretary.

Approval of Minutes – December 28, 2011: Descriptions for the following acronyms were added to the minutes. (1) AGL-Above Ground Level (2) BTOP-Broadband Technology Opportunity Program. Commissioner Russell requested the following sentences be corrected. (1) Mrs. Rosenthal stated that the fact that Veritas the property could be sold and the sprinkler system needed again should be considered when choosing the tower location. (2) She further stated that she had driven around the balloon test area and that the tower would not be very visible. Commissioner Harman made the motion to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion passed 5-0 with Supervisor Brennan abstaining.

Other Business

1. Will Crockrell from TJPDC joined the discussion of the Transportation Section of the Comprehensive Plan. He stated that VDOT had been contacted for verification on items discussed October 5, 2011. Mr. Cockrell stated that some language and grammatical changes had been made in the current document dated November 8, 2011. He further stated that a glossary had been added.

Commissioners and Mr. Cockrell reviewed the document page by page. Corrections were agreed upon and a revised document will be sent to the Planning Commission for a public hearing.

2. The Planning Commission discussed the proposed Article 23, Temporary Family Health Care Structures to be added to the Zoning Ordinance. Commissioner Tapager made the motion for staff to advertize a public hearing for the February 22 meeting. Commissioner Harman offered the second and the motion passed 5-0 with Supervisor Brennan abstaining.

3. Discussion centered on the January, 2012 decision by the Virginia Supreme Court denying Planning Commissions the authority to grant waivers which the court determined to be a legislative act solely reserved to the Board of Supervisors and the Director of Planning and Zoning. The Board of Supervisors is currently reviewing the Communications Tower Ordinance. Chair Proulx suggested the commission ask the Board of Supervisors to return the document for amendments in light of the Virginia Supreme Court decision. Supervisor Brennan agreed to take the request to the BOS.

Supervisor Liaison Report-Connie Brennan

1. Most of the staff has moved into their new locations within the courthouse. Discussion concerning the future use of the Jefferson building (old sheriff's office) is in progress. Work on the roof, front steps and signage will be completed soon.

2. The Health Department will be moving to Blue Ridge Medical Center.

3. A new location for the registrar of voters is still being reviewed.

4. The county attorney, Phil Payne has moved to his new location across from the courthouse.

5. Nelson County school superintendant may be relocating along with other staff.

6. The status of the current Health Department building is still in question.

7. There are vacancies on many boards and residents are needed to serve.
8. The open top dumpster in Gladstone has been removed as not being cost effective
9. Rebuilding Together which was Christmas in April was given a fee waiver of up to \$2,500.00 to dispose of waste at the transfer station.
10. A certificate from the BOS was given to the Nelson County High School drama department. They are state champions for a one act play.
11. Tommy Harvey is the new chairman of the BOS. Tommy Bruguere is the vice chair.
12. Lovington Ridge Apartments have a complete rehabilitation scheduled including energy saving appliances.
13. The county is working on the renewal of an agreement/lease with the DeFosse trail.
14. The Gladstone community is now receiving EMS (Emergency Medical Services) and the issues with the Gladstone Rescue Squad are being resolved.
15. The Heritage Center will soon be turned over to the Heritage Center group. There are issues to be worked out concerning the well on the property.
16. There are new county employees in tourism, recycling, dispatch and courthouse security.
17. The Blue Ridge Tunnel project is going well. A non-profit corporation has been set up and is ready to accept donations.
18. There is continued discussion about additional paid EMS staff.
19. The proposed athletic facility has had eight (8) organizations request information.

Adjournment

Commissioner Russell made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Next Meeting: February 22, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa M. Thompson, Secretary

Planning & Zoning