

MINUTES

Levy County Planning Commission EAR Workshop April 25, 2005 6:30 p.m.

The Levy County Planning Commission was called to order by Chairman Vaughn Lee. Other members present were:

Toni Collins
Eugene Pollock
Ron Grant
Thadus Barber

Also present was County Planner Ms. Kathy Winburn and staff assistant Ms. Tina Horne.

Chairman Lee stated that the purpose of the meeting was to have an Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) workshop to discuss the Comprehensive Plan and any major issues that are facing the County.

Chairman Lee asked Planning Director Ms. Kathy Winburn to present the items of business.

New Business:

Ms. Winburn stated that the purpose of the workshop was to introduce the Comprehensive Plan EAR process and to identify major issues to guide the Board in the evaluation and update of the plan. Ms. Winburn further stated that the reason for doing the EAR is that it reviews the comprehensive plan, focuses on issues that need immediate attention and it meets the state requirements of reviewing the plan every seven years. The last update to the comprehensive plan was done in 1998. Ms. Winburn explained that the state requirements for updating the plan have changed since the last update and that the state currently allows counties to focus on typically nine to twelve issues that the county identifies, and then addresses and makes changes to their comp plans based on only those issues.

Ms. Winburn explained the process the County will proceed with in updating the comprehensive plan which will include an inter-agency scoping meeting with local municipalities, the school board, state agencies and county staff. The EAR report is due on July 1, 2006. Ms. Winburn stated that the 1998 update to the comprehensive plan was a major overhaul and that the county has a good comprehensive plan in place, however, that there are areas that can be improved upon. Ms. Winburn explained that the Comprehensive Plan manages growth, provides for facilities and services, protects the environment, improves the quality of life, reflects the vision of the community, and responds to changing priorities in the community.

Ms. Winburn explained that Levy County currently has a population of 37,486 and that the growth rate for the county is that of two to three percent per year since 1998. The development trends for the county over a 1 ½ year period from January 2003 to June 2004 shows that 30% of permits issued for the county are for site built homes and 70% are for mobile home move-on permits and that the growth in the county is developing in the Williston and Chiefland areas.

Ms. Winburn explained that the Planning Department circulated a citizen growth management survey at various locations throughout the county with the intent of receiving input from the citizens on what they feel are important issues for the county to be addressing. She further explained that they received 72 responses and that groundwater protection, water quality and managing growth and development were some of the issues that were ranked as being most important.

After a discussion and citizen input, the board decided that the following issues should be addressed during the EAR update: Lack of jobs/economic development (out of area jobs/hospitals), water extraction/protection (resource conservation), Mining (blasting/non blasting and more explanation of type of mining in ads etc...), Water quality (local sources first, sewer/water vs. septic systems, expanding the advanced septic treatment area), pursuing type of economic development wanted for the county, healthcare services provided within the county, controlled burns/air quality, commercial corridors, education (higher education within the county, vocational/technical schools), PUD land use/zoning classification, mixed use development, Lebanon Station/extension of US19 HWY (increase traffic flow on US19, Sun coast parkway, new development), transportation for disadvantage, waste management, code enforcement, road management (policy for paving roads, right of way / future expansion), MSD (strengthen element, Seminole County(example)), airports (communities, airstrips/private).

Ms. Winburn explained the schedule involved in the process of updating the comprehensive plan with the next step being to schedule an inter-agency staff scoping meeting with the appropriate agencies.

There being no further business for the Levy County Planning Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Chairman