

CECIL COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
WORKSESSION MINUTES
16 November 2009

Present: Doordan, B. Patrick; Edwards, Guy; Janusz, Joe; McDowell, H. Clay; Wallace, Wyatt; Lane, Diane; Sennstrom, Eric

Absent: Mortimer, William; Wiggins, Kennard

Observers: Sutton, Donnie; Ulrich, Pat

Call to Order: Vice Chairman Doordan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Vice Chairman Doordan announced that the Planning Commission will commence their evening's activity with Chapter 10 of the draft Comprehensive Plan. Discussion ensued on the mineral extraction entities in the County and their expected viability as to years of remaining mineral deposits. Dr. Lane explained that most of the existing operations would remain engaged in mineral extraction activity beyond the life of this draft document. Accordingly, no numbers vis-à-vis future residential growth were assigned to these areas. Discussion ensued on the merits and demerits of a mineral extraction tax as a possible future funding mechanism for the County. Vice Chairman Doordan found that the language in Section 10.4.5 on page 10-4 was most disconcerting. He suggested the removal of "to require that a special study be completed" from the paragraph. All members present concurred with Vice Chairman Doordan to recommend that the words be removed from the sentence.

The Planning Commission proceeded to review Chapter 11. Discussion ensued on implementation measure and the effectiveness and limitations associated with each. The Planning Commission ruminated on the various funding mechanisms as well as financing measures put forward to address the cost of the draft Comprehensive Plan. Dr. Lane related that the Citizen Oversight Committee had heard a presentation by Craig W. Whiteford, Cecil County Budget Manager, who said that the cost of the Plan was not out of line with what the County has historically been funding through the Capital Improvement Program and that he was of the opinion that the Plan was affordable. Wyatt Wallace drew the Planning Commission's attention to Section 11.4.2 and the language contained therein. Mr. Wallace was not comfortable with the proposed language and expressed a desire to make it more proactive rather than reactive. Vice Chairman Doordan with the Planning Commission's concurrence, requested staff to rewrite Section 11.4.2 and present it to the Planning Commission at their next meeting on 23 November 2009.

Vice Chairman Doordan noted that the Planning Commission needed to schedule the public meeting in January 2010 to take public comment on the draft Plan in accordance with Section 3.07(b)(1) of Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Planning Commission decided to hold the meeting on a separate date from their regular business meeting. Wednesday, 13 January 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Elk

Room of the County Administration Building was the chosen date, time and location for the public meeting.

Adjournment: Vice Chairman Doordan Adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Next Meeting: 6:00 p.m., Monday, 23 November 2009, Elk Room, County Administration Building, Elkton, MD.

Respectfully submitted:

Eric S. Sennstrom, AICP
Director – Planning & Zoning