

IREDELL COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

The Iredell County Planning Board met on Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Iredell County Government Center (Old Courthouse) at 200 S. Center Street in Statesville, NC.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Eric Fields, Chairman
Harry Tsumas, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Dr. Jackie Grigg
Gene Mahaffey
Jeff McNeely
Kristi Pfeufer
Harold Pruitt
Jerry Santoni
Thomas E. Stephens
Alan Williams

STAFF PRESENT

Katrina Hewitt
Ron Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT

Anita Johnson

At this time, Chairman Fields called the meeting to order.

LAKE NORMAN REGIONAL BIKE PLAN ~ Request Recommendation: Bjorn Hansen, Transportation Program Coordinator - Centralina Council of Governments, stated that the Iredell County Planning Board is being asked to consider recommending the route, recommended improvements, and project prioritization for the Lake Norman Regional Bicycle Plan to the Iredell County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Hansen stated that he is the manager for this project, which was initiated in 2008 by the NCDOT's Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation. The NCDOT chose Lake Norman to be the location for the first regional bicycle route in North Carolina because of previous planning efforts, history of coordination, and the attractive natural and built environment surrounding the lake. Centralina began work on this project approximately one year ago, and worked closely with your planning staff to identify existing bicycle and recreation plans for the area in order to build upon prior work.

Schedule of Adoption

The NCDOT Board of Transportation will review the Plan in March 2010, and will consider approving it in April 2010. The NCDOT has asked that all participating municipalities, counties, and transportation planning organizations review the Plan and consider endorsing it, but not approving it, since the Plan is technically created for the NCDOT. The NCDOT understands that the Plan cannot be implemented without the support and assistance of the affected local governments and transportation planning organizations.

Effects of Endorsing Plan

One implication of endorsing the Plan is that the resolution makes reference to a “Task Force” that will be created after the Plan is approved by the NCDOT. The Task Force will be made up of staff from all participating municipalities, counties, and transportation planning organizations. It will function as a review board for any future updates to the Route, coordination of grant applications for implementing segments, and serve as the sanctioning body for use of the approved logo for organized bicycle events along the Route. This Task Force will be staffed by the Centralina Council of Governments. There will not be an annual fee to participate in the Task Force.

The second impact of approving the Plan is the installation of route signage. Upon approval, the NCDOT intends to install Bicycle Route signage along the Initial Route shown in the attached map. The NCDOT would provide signage and materials and would ask the municipalities to install signage on the affected municipally-maintained roads or greenways.

The Board had open discussion at this time and Dr. Grigg asked if the bicycle lane was approved along Brawley School Road and Mr. Hansen stated yes where it’s been widened. Mr. Tsumas asked about the cost of these lanes and Mr. Hansen stated approximately \$600,000 - \$800,000 per mile.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Hansen to touch on the correlation between bike lanes and other improvements in our air quality status and our non attainment. Mr. Hansen stated that the southern portion of Iredell County is considered non attainment for ozone and because of that the federal government makes available grants to request funding for bicycle lanes so that areas like Troutman and northern Iredell County which are attainment for ozone are not eligible for those funds so the idea is that by improving non vehicular or single occupant vehicle capacity on the road instead putting in some of these sidewalks, intersection improvements, bicycle lanes, transit, etc. to reduce some of the ozone.

Dr. Grigg asked when they put this study together did they determine the percentage of bicyclist as compared to the total population in these areas and Mr. Hansen stated the only information they had was pulled from the 2000 census and it was not very useful. Dr. Grigg felt the government was spending considerable amounts of dollars for a small minority of the population. Mr. Santoni thought this may be a good tourist pull. Mr. Smith stated one of the benefits could be economic development for Iredell County even though it’s not your traditional economic development. Mr. McNeely stated that he has come to the realization that the State is going to put this project somewhere around a lake in this state so why not here and maybe we should embrace it. Mr. Pruitt stated that he had a problem with what Mr. McNeely just stated; that he can’t believe this project will have any economic impact on this area. Mr. Pruitt also stated that the designated area along Highway 115 from Mooresville to Davidson is heavily traveled and it’s a dangerous situation and a costly one.

Chairman Fields stated he considered himself a financial conservative and that this is a frivolous way to spend money. The road systems in this county are terrible and road projects are on hold because of lack of funding from the State. Chairman Fields stated if there is money to spend then it should be spent where it would do the most good for the most people.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Hansen what happens if the County doesn't endorse this plan and Mr. Hansen stated he was not sure because this is the first time one of these have been done; that they were the test case for both the process and product. Chairman Fields stated that if the routes were on the greenways away from the roads it's safer and doesn't involve all the expense as the other areas. Dr. Grigg asked Mr. Hansen if Mooresville and Troutman already have a plan why are they a part of this plan. Mr. Hansen stated that ¾ of this plan are found on an existing bicycle or greenway plan. Mr. Smith stated that this brings it full circle and makes it a cohesive route instead of small routes in different jurisdictions and the final pamphlet/map will be distributed to show the regional project.

After further discussion, Mr. McNeely made a motion to recommend endorsing the Lake Norman Regional Bike Plan. Mr. Santoni seconded said motion; and

AYES: McNeely, Santoni, Grigg, Pfeufer, Williams

NOES: Fields, Mahaffey, Pruitt, Stephens, Tsumas

The motion failed by a vote of 5-5.

IREDELL COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; CHAPTER 1. GENERAL AND LEGAL PROVISIONS ~ *Request Recommendation:*

Mr. Smith stated that he hoped everyone had time to review Chapter 1 (*see copy in minute book*) after we reviewed it at the last meeting. Mr. Smith stated that he did receive comments from Mr. Tsumas and Dr. Grigg and made those minor changes. Chairman Fields asked if they needed to be informed about these proposed changes and Mr. Smith stated they were grammatical and not substantive but he would go over the comments:

1.1C (Protect the public drinking water supply) ~ just a question as to whether we should be approaching this and since this is a watershed ordinance as well; we need to include this in the purpose of the document.

1.5 (Map Interpretation and Rules Governing Boundaries) ~ include something that said a designation of a boundary where it is a creek or outfall basin

1.6 (Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan) ~ grammatical errors only

1.6C 1 & 2 ~ "where the watershed area boundaries lie" is repetitive

After further discussion, Dr. Grigg made a motion to recommend preliminary approval of Chapter 1. Mr. Pruitt seconded said motion and all agreed. **VOTES: 10-0.**

IREDELL COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; CHAPTER 17. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT ~ Discussion Only:

Mr. Smith reviewed the more significant parts of Chapter 17 (*see copy in minute book*). Dr. Grigg asked Mr. Smith if the Board had comments prior to the meeting did they need to send them individually and he replied that he would prefer to have their comments ahead of time and if it's something major he will bring the comments before the Board. Mr. Smith stated that some times it's just a matter of answer questions and might not even been needed to be brought before the Board in order to maybe save some time at these meetings. Chairman Fields asked if any changes are made after they receive their information would they be notified and Mr. Smith stated that he would include them in the discussion before they granted preliminary approval.

Dr. Grigg stated that she had a problem with Section 17.4.B.2, Penalties: run on sentence in the paragraph. Mr. Smith stated that Ms. Pfeufer brought that to his attention also and he stated that the wording was taken straight from the State but that he would make the changes. Dr. Grigg also commented on some rewording in Section 17.5.2 Appeals. Chairman Fields asked Mr. Smith how they will deal with a violator if it's a corporation or LLC and Mr. Smith stated that they just assess it to the property owner whether it's an individual owner, corporation, or LLC. Chairman Fields stated his point is that it states there could be criminal procedures and that's not the case if it's a corporation or LLC. Mr. Smith stated most of the time it would be handled with fines under civil penalties (Section 17.6.1.B, Land Disturbing Activity Violations) which is the preferred method of enforcement. There was discussion in regard to Table 17.1, Citation Amounts. Mr. Smith stated that he would reword this section.

This was for information only; no action was taken by the Board.

MINUTES: Dr. Grigg made a motion to approve the 1/6/10 meeting minutes and Mr. Pruitt seconded said motion. The motion passed in favor. **VOTES: 10-0.**

MONTHLY COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chairman Fields declared the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Katrina Hewitt
Administrative Asst. II

Date Read and/or Approved

