



ORIENTAL PLANNING BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES

Wednesday, August 16, 2023, 3:00PM
Oriental Town Hall – 507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH QUORUM: At 3:00PM, Vice Chair Quigley called the meeting to order with a quorum: VC Quigley, Carl Crothers, and Allison DeWeese. Commissioners Roe, Overcash were in attendance, as well as Admin Director Cox in the absence of LUA Miller, several members of the public.

Former Chair Rahm arrives, offers to correct the document as we go through it. VC Quigley thanks Julie for staying with the project.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: One item agenda- Comprehensive Plan, and we could elect Linwood to the Board also. Member Crothers nominates Linwood Strickland to the Board. Member DeWeese seconds. 3-0. We will draw up the paperwork and forward to the Board of Commissioners and get that done.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Included in the review (none signed up)**

OLD BUSINESS.

- **Comprehensive Plan:** Allison will be taking the changes- Board is working from hard copies. Frank is coming with potential cover photos. Checking the redlining on the document.
- Some language had been removed that may want to be put back in for grant application purposes.
- A lot of it is formatting.
- Section 2- Vision- referencing old Village- identifier?
- Section E- information to potential buyers- due diligence on previous flooding. Problems with newest flood maps. Allison injects that people are not made aware of the previous issues because they are not required to be disclosed.
- Tourism has no additions.
- Tammy notes Public Hearing already scheduled for Sept 5.
- VC Quigley asks if we need to go section by section.
- Member DeWeese wants to discuss things that have been stricken that we may want to reconsider, per Commissioner Roe. Long Range Vision- pg 7 on marked up version. Section 1B cut text, pg 5-6 on unmarked version. Comprehensive Plan background- says the same things twice.
- Commissioner Roe- Section 1A Overview- 4th para- Census data- static population. Permanent residents static, but tourist population has swelled. We do not get the benefit of the Census counts. It hurts us when we try to get grants and funding for emergencies and such.
- Allison asks if we have data on tourists- 25% increase in Occ Tax received-Tammy. Tax has not changed, so dollars increasing is people increasing. Carl says we need to quantify “swells by 25%”

- Amended Census data- used the same adjusted tables for the entire table. ([Oriental, NC | Data USA](#)). Verify against govt Census data. [Census (unadjusted) is 880 (decreased by 48)- does not include those outside corporate limits who consume our water, use our facilities.]
- +2500 +/- dependent on event- Croaker Festival, CycleNC, OFPMF, etc.
- Goal 1B- boardwalks and more facilities near water- unrealistic. Bonnie notes that boardwalk under bridge – access denied by condos.
- Fishermen specifically asked us to make the bulkhead more friendly.
- HWAC- facility adjustment- dinghy dock extension potential, request for repair and docking moved to 1-2 hour docking at TD 1 for pickup and dropoff- increased short term docking August-September.
- “Recognize and promote establishment of waterfront boardwalks”
- Improve/increase short term docking.
- #5- “maintain legal access” at street ends. Why LEGAL access? Public access. (moved to #4)
- “legal counsel”- town can make use of legal counsel without as part of the plan. Remove?- Frank
- Allison wants it to remain. Town Road, Pineview, Access to water tower- there’s a reason that legal should stay.
- Page 11- **encourage** fishing boats (commercial and recreational) pg 11, sect 3, goal 3. Raleigh needs to be involved in it somehow. Promote consensus. Add HWAC in parties responsible.
- Modify GMO- also has legal counsel- Goal 4
- Section C Goal 2- how to direct staff to search for grants aggressively to repair, maintain and enhance...
- Specificity of grant guidance calls for more than open ended direction.
- Encourage staff to apply for appropriate grants. Actions: Seek grant opportunities and other funding sources and partnerships with appropriate partners/agencies/organizations to move forward goals.
- Funding- Manager /staff- parties responsible.
- Parking is a problem during peak times- festivals, fishing season. Unattended trailers parked. Under goals- looking for parking opportunities as they arise- purchasing land? Just opportunities.
- Section B:environmental opportunities- addressed-HWAC opinion welcome.
- Verify the 1136.
- Discussion on AirBnB, VRBO- advertised different places, all short term- 96 part time. Tammy explains how we receive Occupancy Tax from Air BnB.

ADJOURN: Member DeWeese Makes a MOTION to adjourn. Member Crothers seconds. 3-0 at 4:27PM . **Next Meeting scheduled for September 20, 2023, 3PM.**