

Comprehensive Planning Meeting – March 29, 2022

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special Comprehensive Plan meeting on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J McCree, Melvin Ellison, and Clarence McNeill Jr. Staff present included Town Manager Hank Raper, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Deputy Town Clerk Donna Jacobs, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Jan Maynor and Jim Perry with LRCOG, Gary Deese, Winona Gause, Timmy Bass, Maurice Townsend, Waylon Lennon, Amanda Smith, Kammi Polverari, Lucas and Samantha Gromme, Amanda Smith, and Jeanette Evans.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Timmy Bass gave the invocation. Winona Gause Spoke on behalf of the Planning Board and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Comprehensive Plan Discussion

Jan Maynor of the Lumber River Council of Governments stated the purpose of the meeting was planning for the future and to make citizens aware that there will be a new planning and zoning comprehensive plan.

Ground Rules for the meeting were:

- This is a public discussion, not a debate.
- Everyone is encouraged to participate.
- No one or two individuals should dominate a discussion.
- When you speak, state your name and where you live.
- One person speaks at a time.
- Listen to and respect other points of view.
- Do your best to understand the proa and cons of every option.
- Seek first to understand, not to be understood.

Jan started out stating that she will ask a question and citizens can answer.

1. What Scares you about Fairmont?

Answers:

- It's shrinking
- Tax base
- Lack of jobs
- Economy
- Crime (theft)
- Lack of youth activities
- Lack of technology (internet service)
- Ordinances needs to be enforced
- No identity as to who we are

2. What makes Fairmont Special/Why do you stay?

Answers:

- Long history and heritage
- Small town
- Community events
- Best water
- Love of the area
- Location (near the coast)
- Opportunities for businesses

3. What do you want to preserve?

Answers:

- Downtown (vibrant)
- Strong Church Presence
- Small town connection
- Small town atmosphere
- Economically able to do something

4. What do you want to see come to Fairmont?

Answers:

- Restaurants
- Shopping stores
- Alive after 5 events
- Bowling Alley
- Entertainment
- Youth activities
- Small newspaper with events happening in town
- Activities for every age group

5. What keeps things from happening?

Answers:

- Funding
- Support from citizens
- Involvement
- Advertisement
- Money the citizens have to spend
- Zoning Restrictions
- Things need to be done equally not certain areas

6. What do you value about Fairmont?

Answers:

- People
- Feeling of community
- Appearance of the town

7. Vision of what Fairmont is/What you would like to see?

Answers:

- Less empty stores
- Welcome Center
- Parking and transportation
- Everyone included in activities
- Somewhere for people to gather
- More exposure
- Digital sign coming into town
- Venue spaces
- Beautification of the town
- Communication
- Local Investment
- Community Watch
- Basketball tournaments and car shows
- To not just be a drive thru town

At the end of the meeting Jan asked the citizens, if a survey was sent, out if the citizens present could assist in getting the other citizens of Fairmont to take the survey. Suggestions such as text alerts, QR codes, and email were made as to how this could possibly be done other than talking with their neighbors. Paper copies of the would also be available at Town Hall. Citizens gave their email information to Jan and Jim so they would get an email about when the next meeting would be.

Jim Perry gave words of wisdom to everyone. He stated that we must pull ourselves up, because no one else will and Fairmont has the resources to pull herself back up.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:30p.m.

Donna Jacobs
Deputy Town Clerk