

Strategic Planning Meeting - October 12, 2021

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special Strategic Plan meeting on Tuesday, August 31, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Pro Tempore J.J. McCree presiding. Commissioners present were Felecia McLean, Terry Evans, and Charles Kemp. Commissioners Heather Seibles, and Monte McCallum were absent. Staff present included Town Manager Hank Raper, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Police Chief Jon Edwards, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included David Richardson and Vanessa Abernathy.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Pro Tempore J.J. McCree called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

Strategic Plan Discussion

David Richardson, Executive Director of the Lumber River Council of Governments stated the goals of the second strategic plan meeting are to examine what gifts, opportunities, and assets the Town has to build upon.

There are four basic questions to ask:

- What specific aspects of the Town of Fairmont are working particularly well?
- What specific aspects of the Town of Fairmont might need strengthening?
- Given the current times and environment, what opportunities might present themselves for the Town of Fairmont?
- Given the current times and environment, what challenges lie ahead for the Town of Fairmont?

There are 6 categories to consider:

- People and culture, youth and older adults and community development
- Business development, tourism, and industry recruitment
- Capital/infrastructure, water/wastewater
- Information technology
- Human capital – benefits, salary, work environment, succession planning
- Communication – website and social media

Tonight's meeting focused on people, culture, youth, older adults, and community development.

Some of the suggestions discussed:

- Partnership with Robeson County for more recreational activities and services including a summer camp for kids
- Activities/meals/trips/exercise for older adults
- Need for possible senior needs coordinator
- Importance of local library and need for bigger facility
- Involvement with Public School of Robeson County for use of facilities, possible youth council
- After school programs
- Survey citizens for what is wanted and needed to commit proper resources

The board agreed to meet again on Tuesday, November 9 at 6:00 p.m. for a two-hour meeting to discuss business, industry, and tourism.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:18p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk