

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

February 4, 2016 at 5:30 pm

Attending: Al Koon, Rev. Kevin Sheppard, Jim Palassis, Jerry Shealy, Vicky Shealy, Jane Cook, Lill Mood, Jim Pepper, Jeff McCormack, JB Brown, John Moates, Gabrielle Ivanov, Maddie Maylath, Lisa Maylath, Anita Husbands, Ellen Hayhurst, Leisha Huffstetler, Charli Wessinger, Mike Clonts, Kay Hollis, Dan Wells, Kim Murphy, Chris Clauson, Charles Mayes, Jim Allison, Kay Gordon, Gregory Sprouse, Mayor Skip Wilson and Karen Owens

The meeting started with a welcome from the Mayor. Karen Owens provided copies of the meeting notes from Oct. 29 which outlined the six priority areas the group wanted to focus on for immediate work:

1. Promoting the walk/bike friendly nature of town through adding paths/trails/sidewalks
2. Creating a plan for community parks
3. Revisiting the Chapin Theatre project
4. Addressing beautification and tree ordinance enforcement
5. Look at feasibility of transitional shelter for homeless and disadvantaged residents
6. Chapin marina

She then introduced Gregory Sprouse with the Central Midlands COG who discussed the efforts by Lexington County's Eat Smart, Move More chapter to tie the importance of recreational infrastructure (sidewalks, bike paths, greenways and trails) to impacting citizens' health and public safety. By fostering Active Community Environments, city planners and health professionals are bridging a gap to address not just increased mobility by residents but also looking at public health and disease prevention efforts.

Thanks to a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and DHEC, the towns of Cayce and Springdale had engaged in assessment inventories of major thoroughfares to determine what obstacles were impacting walkability in these communities. Teams made up of citizens, town staff and elected officials walked along the Platt Springs Road in Springdale and 12th Street and Julius Felder Ave. in Cayce with assessments forms where they marked the existence, or lack thereof, of clearly marked crosswalks, wayfinding signage, damaged curbs, sidewalks, storm drainage issues, bike lanes, etc. to determine what improvements might be needed to increase pedestrian traffic.

Attendees liked this idea and want to pursue identifying some corridors in Chapin and Community Service day (April 16) was recommended as a potential date for that effort. Sprouse said these findings could be beneficial for the town as it updates its Comprehensive Plan and identifies potential infrastructure needs that should be funded for completion.

Next Chris Clauson gave an overview of what the Comprehensive Plan entails and how it has to be updated every five years. Areas addresses include population and demographic information, economic development factors, cultural and historic resources, natural resources, community facilities, housing, land use, transportation and capital improvements. He distributed sign up sheets that people could sign up to assist in areas of interest to them.

Then Karen shared the dates for Mayor's Prayer Breakfast and Community Service Day, April 15 and 16 respectively, and encouraged people interested in helping with those events to sign up. In addition, she is looking for volunteers to serve on the Labor Day Planning Committee and had a sign-up sheet for that

as well. Then meeting dates for future meetings were discussed. It was proposed that first Thursday of every other month at 5:30 pm and people were receptive to that. So next meeting will be April 7 at 5:30 pm.