WASHINGTON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
WORKSHOP MEETING
May 3, 2010


Members present were: Chairman George Anikis, Drew Bowen, Terry Reiber, Clint Wiley and Ex-Officio James F. Kercheval. Staff members present were: Planning Director Michael C. Thompson, Chief Planner Stephen T. Goodrich and Administrative Assistant Debra Eckard.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman George Anikis called the workshop meeting to order at 8:35 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. Bowen made a motion to approve the minutes of the workshop meeting held on April 19, 2010 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Wiley. Unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION

- Continued discussion of the proposed Urban Growth Area Rezoning

Mr. Anikis began by reminding Commission members that a consensus was reached during a previous workshop meeting to recommend to the BOCC to direct the Airport Director to create a Wildlife Hazardous Management Committee. This committee would be responsible for creating a set of criteria to be used when establishing a new business or expanding an existing business in or around the Airport. He noted that the Transportation Research Board, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, recently released a document entitled Enhancing the Airport Land Use Compatibility. Mr. Anikis briefly summarized the document for the Commission members. He noted that the document contains information for management controls, which describe specific tree species, the maintenance of grass, prohibition of certain crops, elimination of standing water, and the use of repellants. Mr. Anikis believes that the Hagerstown Regional Airport Director should prepare a document detailing the type of criteria to be used to control hazardous wildlife by applicants or the Planning Commission when reviewing plans. Mr. Reiber expressed his opinion that the FAA Advisory Circular provides the guidelines necessary for the Airport Director when reviewing plans and giving recommendations.

Mr. Anikis reiterated his concern that there are no written criteria for the Airport Director to use when reviewing plans and submitting comments for plans being considered by the Planning Commission. He believes that an assessment needs to be done to determine issues with regard to hazardous wildlife and safety concerns currently at the Airport. Mr. Anikis expressed his concern that farmer’s rights are going to be taken away because the Airport Manager disagrees with farmer’s decision to plant more crops or to increase the size of his herd of cattle because it might cause a hazard to the Airport. Mr. Wiley noted that the farmer would not need approval to plant more crops and only under certain circumstances would he need approval to increase a herd of cattle. Mr. Goodrich stated that increasing a herd of cattle would not require approval unless the farmer is establishing an animal husbandry facility.

Members agreed that factual justification would be required [from the Airport Director] before they would support the denial of any application to expand an existing business or allow a new business. There was a brief discussion regarding alternatives that an applicant would have if a plan was denied (i.e. Board of Zoning Appeals, Circuit Court).

There was a brief discussion regarding the timeline currently proposed for adopting the UGA Rezoning. Staff is planning to finish review of the documents with the BOCC and to proceed with public information meetings in June.

NEXT MEETING

The Planning Commission decided to schedule its next workshop meeting on Monday, May 24th at 3:00 p.m. The Commission will review all of the proposed text changes during this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bowen made a motion to adjourn the workshop meeting at 9:11 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Reiber. So ordered.

Respectfully submitted,

George Anikis, Chairman