

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
Comprehensive Plan Stakeholder Meeting  
September 28, 2021 - 6:00 PM

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Chairman Bill Slaughter  
Vice Chairman Joyce Evans  
Commissioner Scott Orenstein  
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker  
Commissioner Demarcus Marshall  
Commissioner Clay Griner

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Southern Georgia Regional Commission Presentation**

Planning and Zoning Director, J.D. Dillard, presented the commission with a brief overview of the 2021 Joint Comprehensive Plan Update for Lowndes County and the Cities of Dasher, Hahira, Lake Park, Remerton and Valdosta.

**Public Comment**

Kathy McMillan Adkins, 5224 McMillan Road, addressed the commission in opposition to changing the existing character area map. Ms. Adkins thanked the Commission for their service to our community. Ms. Adkins stated no one on McMillan Road is willing to sell their property and she has land that has been in her family for over seven generations. Ms. Adkins asked the commission to keep the 2016 Comprehensive Plan in place.

Brad Folsom, 2611 North Patterson Street, addressed the commission in opposition to changing the existing character area map. Mr. Folsom stated the current residents in the area want to protect their lifestyle and maintain the rural character area. Mr. Folsom stated if the commission wants to change the character area, to look at development standards. Commissioner Orenstein stated citizens want to live in this area and it's sometimes difficult to find a balance to satisfy everyone. Chairman Slaughter stated it is the decision of the property owner(s) to sell their property, if they choose, and the Comprehensive Plan is a tool to use with developers and investors. Chairman Slaughter stated this is a challenge and it does fall on the Commission to make a final decision. Commissioner Marshall asked if taking some of the roads off of the paving list would possibly be a consideration. Chairman Slaughter answered that the roads are going to be utilized by the citizens in that area.

Gretchen Quarterman, 6565 Quarterman Road, addressed the commission in opposition to changing the existing character area map. Mrs. Quarterman stated 41 North would be a speedway and people move here for the rural quality of the community.

David Houtz, 5767 Thompson Road, addressed the commission in opposition to changing the existing character area map. Mr. Houtz stated he returned to this area to raise a family and he does not want to have this rural agricultural area destroyed. Mr. Houtz stated the developers will be gaining if the

character area map is changed. Commissioner Griner addressed census numbers that Mr. Houtz had questioned.

Lee and Linda Scott, 5851 Val Del Road, when Chairman Slaughter called on them to speak, they had changed their minds about speaking.

Bill Allen, 5052 Bethany Drive, addressed the commission in opposition to changing the existing character area map. Mr. Allen stated that with the current amount of traffic, by increasing the number of homes in the area, the traffic would only increase and be much worse. Mr. Allen mentioned where he lives is diverse and he'd like to keep the same character area.

Samantha Mehr, 5909 Val Del Road, addressed the commission in opposition to changing the existing character area map. Ms. Mehr stated she's lived here since 2005. Ms. Mehr requested a copy of the oath of office that the Commissioners took when entering office. The County Manager, Paige Dukes, responded that it is maintained by the state, Ms. Mehr asked if she could receive a copy, Mrs. Dukes responded yes. Ms. Mehr stated she enjoys living in a rural area with her livestock.

George Fisher, 5278 Hall Road, addressed the commission in opposition to changing the existing character area map. Mr. Fisher stated he doesn't want Hall Road paved and he's lived in the area for twenty years and is against expansion.

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Griner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Vice Chairman Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.