



**PLANNING BOARD
MINUTES
February 22, 2016**

Members Present

Robert Smith
Gene Monday
Larry Pannell
Todd Setzer
Crystal Clark
Jeff Barkley

Members Absent

Nick Colson
Rupert Little

Staff Present

Elinor Hiltz, Planner
Catherine Renbarger, City Manager

Others Present

Amber Clawson, Executive Director,
Historical Association of Catawba
County

Call to Order

Chairman Robert Smith called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Adopt Agenda

Jeff Barkley moved and Larry Pannell seconded the motion to adopt the agenda. The agenda was unanimously adopted.

Approval of January 25, 2016 Planning Board Minutes

Jeff Barkley moved and Todd Setzer seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Residential Architectural Standards Zoning Text Amendment

The Board approved the proposal as written, except they struck the requirement that a house must build a walkway from the front entrance to the sidewalk. They kept the requirement that a house's front façade must face the sidewalk and that the main pedestrian access should be to the street.

Chairman Robert Smith read public interest statements regarding the types of amendments contained in the batch of proposed amendments, saying that the ability for citizens to have carports in the sideyard is in the public interest because it is practical and affordable. The way that a house must face the street is in the public interest because it improves City appearances. The third change, deleting the residential architectural standards, improves public interest by making Claremont's zoning processes legal within state law.

Robert Smith suggested a motion to **recommend approval**, reading that “the first change is in the public interest but not consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. The second change is consistent; the third change is required by state law and not inconsistent.” Jeff Barkley made the motion and Crystal Clark seconded. The amendment was **unanimously recommended by the Board**.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ACTIVITIES

Claremont History Presentation: Dr. Amber Clawson, Historical Association of Catawba County

Dr. Clawson covered Claremont’s history from the establishment of the City, the railroad, the first hosiery mill, the early postal routes, the first furniture factory, to the post-war period. Claremont experienced a period of rapid growth after World War Two. The Planning Board engaged her in a dialogue when she showed pictures of historical houses that were taken in the 70’s. She invited them to share more history about the houses on another day if they were interested.

Existing Land Use Exercise

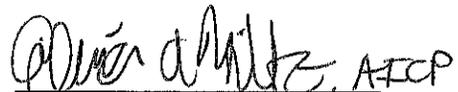
Planning Board members were instructed to give feedback regarding residential neighborhoods they admire, the notion of a “Catawba Street Boulevard”, the locations of historical sites, and ideal locations for different types of housing.

Next Meeting Date: March 21, 2016 at 7:00

Adjourn

The group officially adjourned at 8:38 before conducting the Comprehensive Planning map exercises.


Robert Smith, Chairman


Elinor Hiltz, Planner