

CHAPTER 1

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

PURPOSE

The statement of goals and objectives is an integral part of the comprehensive plan and is used as a guide in developing its key elements, such as the land use, transportation, and community facilities plans. But, it is also the minimum statutory requirement to be met for a unit of government which desires to adopt and maintain a valid zoning ordinance.

The goals and objectives are used in the development of the comprehensive plan, and in day-to-day decision making on planning matters. According to the Kentucky Revised Statutes 100.193, a planning commission must prepare and adopt a statement of goals and objectives to act as a guide for the preparation and implementation of all other planning documents and programs. Following adoption of the statement by the planning commission, it must be submitted to the appropriate legislative body for adoption and verification. The Goals and Objectives were last updated and adopted by the Spencer County Fiscal Court on February 4, 2002 and by the Taylorsville City Commission on April 8, 2002.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FORMULATION PROCESS

The following is a discussion of the process which included citizen participation in the formulation of a goals and objectives statement for the Spencer County Comprehensive Plan. According to the Kentucky Revised Statutes 100.193, the planning commission is responsible for consulting with citizens, public agencies and boards, civic, educational, professional organizations and other organizations, and utility companies during the preparation of a statement of goals and objectives, and for presenting this statement to the legislative and fiscal bodies of the city.

To fulfill the obligations of this statute, the Taylorsville-Spencer County Joint Planning and Zoning Commission sponsored citizen participation meetings on May 25, 2006, June 8, 2006 and June 19, 2006 in the Fiscal Court meeting Hall at 28 East Main Street in Taylorsville. The purpose of these meetings were to provide a forum for discussion of planning issues that are of importance to residents of Spencer County and the City of Taylorsville, and to the current revision and update of the comprehensive plan. The objective was to prioritize these issues in terms of their weight or criticality in the future development of the county. The issues identified and discussed at the public meetings are the foundation of the goals and objectives of the comprehensive plan, which were formally adopted by the planning commission subsequent to the public hearing.

Following are some areas of concern expressed by those contributing input:

Preserving the rural atmosphere and small town feel of the county

Fair and comprehensive enforcement of land use regulations

More clearly written Goals and Objectives

More industry and commercial development needed for tax revenue and jobs

Overtaxing community services, infrastructure, and schools

Traffic problems from residential growth

Better roads and services

Quality schools and education opportunities

Preserving historic sites, Main Street, and the downtown district

Protecting the environment: Streams, groundwater, and other natural resources

More park space, community recreation facilities, and a county wide trail system

Better utilization of Taylorsville Lake as a foundation for our tourism industry

Increased tourism through better marketing and developing of our resources

Limited recreational opportunities for our youth, families, and elderly

Protection and support for local farmers

Improved entries to the community

More cooperation and communication among community leaders and the public

Septic system failures/sewer treatment options

Mixed housing opportunities

The goals and objectives are also compatible with those goals and policies of the Kentuckiana Regional Comprehensive Plan, as the goals are general statements which describe the ends sought in planning for the future; and the policies are indicative of the range of acceptable and alternative means for meeting those ends.

Objectives that envelop the extent of development describe the intensity to which land can be developed based on a number of factors. These factors include soil type, the land's slope, and the availability of necessary facilities and services.

The importance of acceptance and adoption of the statement of goals and objectives should not be minimized. It gives direction and organization to preparation of the comprehensive plan. It is an important basis for zoning, subdivision regulations and other land use controls and lends credence to their enforcement.

LAND USE/ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Goal 1:

It is the goal of the city and county to provide sufficient land to meet the area's anticipated needs for each type of land use (agricultural, commercial, industrial, residential, and recreational) for at least the next twenty years.

Objective 1-1:

Utilize a consistent and logical zoning enforcement policy that is flexible enough to encourage and not stifle potential growth, with more specific zoning and restrictive zoning categories; that will result in the reduction of conflicts and incompatibility between existing and future neighboring land uses.

Objective 1-2:

Zone districts should be used to protect land from development prior to its being adequately served by transportation, appropriate sewage facilities, police and fire protection, education and other vital community facilities.

Objective 1-3:

Regulations should be used to preserve the rural character of the county. The regulations should also protect and encourage the remaining farmers by ensuring compatibility between agricultural land users and suburban development.

Objective 1-4:

Significant acreage adequately served by major roads and infrastructure should be considered for future commercial and industrial development.

Goal 2:

Land use considerations should strive to obtain the best possible relationships between lands uses to protect the environment; and, where practical, to promote compact, but not crowded, development in the interest of reducing the costs of community facilities and services.

Objective 2-1:

Development of suitable sites should respect the natural condition of the land and discourage the utilization of land that is not physically suitable for structural development. Factors to be considered include: (a) the avoidance of development in areas with steep slopes; (b) respect for the natural contours of the land through avoidance of extensive grading; (c) preservations of the natural location and condition of undisturbed stream beds; (d) preservation of wooded areas and designated wet lands; and (e) discourage development in natural waterways and dam breach areas.

Objective 2-2:

Land development proposals that employ sewage disposal techniques that will not pollute the community's waters, that are compatible with the natural environment, and that do not present a hazard to the public health will be given priority. Priority will be established on the basis of the current and planned sewage disposal system and its capacity and ability to meet environmental standards and discourage private wastewater treatment systems, such as privately owned and operated package plants.

Objective 2-3:

Land outside the range of existing or planned sewage treatment facilities should not be developed when one of the following soil conditions exist: (a) soils are classified as having slow permeability, as defined in coordination with the appropriate health agency; (b) soils have a high or fluctuating water table that falls within six feet of the natural, undisturbed surface; (c) soils repose in slope greater than 20 percent; and (d) when restrictive soils exist.

Objective 2-4:

Encourage the expansion and improvement of both the water distribution system and the municipal sewage treatment system to the extent that is economically and environmentally feasible, in order to promote compact and orderly development of the community.

TRANSPORTATION

Goal 3:

A transportation system should be provided that is sensitive and responsive to the planned growth and development of the community.

Existing roads should be included in a long term upgrade plan where and when needed. The rural atmosphere and scenic look of roadways in the country should be encouraged and improved as the county grows.

Objective 3-1:

Transportation facilities and services should be implemented concurrently with other land use projects in order to minimize the resulting inadequacy of transportation systems; especially as it affects the need to upgrade and enlarge the roads leading to the new residential and lake areas, as the greatly increased travel on these roads will exceed current capacities. Additional consideration should be given to developing a City and County road grading system that corresponds with the State's system of road classification.

Objective 3-2:

Follow the status of funding for the proposed 6 year plan from the Kentucky Department for Transportation six year plans.

Objective 3-3:

Establish a program for the maintenance of all roads leading from the interstate system (i.e., 65 and 64 and the Bluegrass Parkway), and determine sources of funding for this program.

Objective 3-4:

Ensure that there is adequate parking space available in the proper locations to serve the public, private, and commercial interests of the community.

Objective 3-5:

Determine the need to establish some form of public transit system for the community, such as a formal rideshare program that would serve commuters from Taylorsville to their places of work in Louisville.

Objective 3-6:

Minimize the adverse impact of the current and future road systems on the natural and scenic environment through the zoning regulation. Encourage a plan to create a long term landscape and beautification program for roadways and intersections throughout the county. Consider a plan to work with the state to make highways 55, 155, & 44 scenic corridors with overlay districts.

RESIDENTIAL LAND USE/HOUSING

Goal 4:

Housing development and rehabilitation should be planned in such a way as to protect and enhance the natural environment and should be developed in areas of compatible natural environment. Zone districts should be determined to designate various densities in certain areas of the county.

Objective 4-1:

Encourage residential development primarily in those areas most readily served by existing and proposed infrastructure including water, roads, sewer lines and other essential utilities; and new development should retain increased storm water on the development site to the extent possible.

Objective 4-2:

Residential development should be discouraged in flood prone areas, and encouraged where pollution of streams can be minimized.

Objective 4-3:

Residential zone districts should be determined and include high density (less than one acre), medium density (one to five acres), and low density (five or more acres) districts. Their locations should be based on topography and access to infrastructure with high density areas along main corridors and areas served by public sewers.

Objective 4-4:

Maintaining and protecting wildlife corridors and developing trail systems connecting public parks and other developments should be considered.

Objective 4-5:

Landscaping, setbacks, and natural wooded buffers should be incorporated in developments to minimize the visual impact and protect the rural scenic roadways in the community.

Objective 4-6:

Curbs, sidewalks, and streetlights should be required in high density development.

Goal 5:

Housing construction and rehabilitation will be encouraged in areas with adequate facilities and services to support extension of residential land use in an efficient and orderly manner.

Objective 5-1:

Promote the development of new housing and the rehabilitation of existing housing in an efficient and orderly manner through the enactment and enforcement of adequate zoning and subdivision ordinances and appropriate building and housing codes; but ordinances will not be so restrictive as to discourage development.

Objective 5-2:

Establish consistency in the issuance of mobile home, manufactured home, manmade or other building technology permits through minimum acreage requirements and through the encouragement of placing mobile homes in carefully located mobile home parks or mobile home subdivisions designed for this purpose.

Objective 5-3:

Definitions need to be established for manufactured housing, modular and mobile homes, sectionals, and other new technology in housing.

Goal 6:

Encourage the development of housing in an economically attractive community environment at various prices that would appeal to all economic levels.

Objective 6-1:

Encourage the development of public housing suited to the needs of the low income and elderly residents of the community.

Objective 6-2:

Encourage the development of rental housing, both multi-family and single-family units in appropriate locations in order to provide balanced housing accommodations.

Objective 6-3:

Promote the housing of the community as being accessible to places of employment and/or to some form of ridesharing providing access to employment.

Objective 6-4:

Eliminate substandard and dilapidated housing where elimination can prevent blight and where unsound structures do not warrant rehabilitation.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Goal 7:

Public facilities and utilities should be maintained, improved, and extended to the greatest extent possible, avoiding the duplication of services and determining the most frugal and equitable use of the community's resources.

Objective 7-1:

Maintenance and use of existing structures should be encouraged, rather than construction of new facilities whenever feasible.

Objective 7-2:

Creation and maintenance of dual and multi-purpose facilities and services is encouraged, including private or semi-public facilities which can be used to accommodate a public need, and the consolidation of public services when feasible.

Objective 7-3:

Encourage developers to donate land to build community facilities.

Objective 7-4:

High standards for design and landscaping of community facilities should be encouraged to attract quality development in all areas of the community.

Objective 7-5:

A community center with recreation facilities should be studied to determine appropriate location and feasible time frame for land acquisition and construction.

Objective 7-6:

A long term signage and landscape program should be considered to improve the visual and communicative aspects the community has on visitors and residents. Consideration should be given to the development of signs and landscaping to promote a positive image of the community.

Goal 7b:

Cellular service and high speed internet access should be made available to all residents of the county. Standards should be established to regulate towers and other associated infrastructure.

Objective 7b-1:

Development of cellular towers throughout the county should be encouraged. Design and location should be regulated to minimize the environmental and visual impact on the rural atmosphere of the community.

Objective 7b-2:

High speed internet access options should be developed throughout the county to encourage commercial development and serve the residences of the county.

Goal 8:

The city and county will inform community residents when changes in community facilities and services are imminent and mechanisms should be developed to insure their input into policy making decisions such as location, design, reviews, etc. for facilities and services including fire and police protection, schools, libraries, government offices, hospitals, community centers, and public utilities.

Objective 8-1:

Pursue the extension and improvements of existing water and sewer systems, particularly in growth areas of the community to provide these basic services to all residents when it is environmentally and financially feasible.

Objective 8-2:

Study the volunteer fire protection units of the county to determine the needs of each unit for additional personnel and equipment, and maintain the existing five facilities located throughout the county.

Objective 8-3:

Establish as a funding priority, the expansion of existing facilities and/or construction of new schools for the county and determine appropriate reuse for the present facilities.

Objective 8-4:

Adhere to the existing solid waste plan. Determine feasible solutions associated with the problem of solid waste disposal including: (a) expanding private garbage pickup service to cover the entire county; (b) eliminating the uncontrolled dumping that takes place possibly through more and strategically placed dumpsters.

Objective 8-5:

Pursue the establishment of a 24 hour urgent treatment care facility.

Objective 8-6:

Pursue the expansion of a storm ready facility.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Goal 9:

The city and county will strive for a more balanced economy by utilizing available resources to the best advantage, attracting new industry and businesses, improving the existing business climate where possible, and increasing employment and investment opportunity in the community. Encourage commercial buildings and developments that have architectural and landscape standards that enhance the community. To maintain continuity, structures should be designed to be compatible with designs approved for specific areas.

Objective 9-1:

Encourage the revitalization of the downtown business area of Taylorsville through facade treatment, general improvements to facilities and operations, finding suitable uses for vacant buildings, active promotion of businesses through advertising, upgrading the quality and quantity of merchandise available in local stores, clean up efforts such as trash removal from downtown streets, and the pursuit of financial assistance from the federal government for revitalization.

Objective 9-2:

Commercial facilities should be planned so as not to duplicate existing services or over serve a particular area at the expense of others; and should be located in areas where public support facilities and services are available, and where the commercial facilities will have a positive net effect on the natural environment.

Objective 9-3:

Avoid potential problems in those areas that are likely to experience commercial development through long range planning.

Objective 9-4:

Encourage the diversification of the industrial, high tech, and other similar segments of the economy without destroying the rural nature of the community by such efforts as attracting light manufacturing concerns or other light industries.

Objective 9-5:

Building and landscaping standards need to be established to assure new construction and facade changes meet minimum architectural and landscaping standards and are designed to fit with goals and objectives adopted.

RECREATION

Goal 10:

The community will provide adequate recreational and open space facilities for all citizens through the improvement of any existing facilities, the acquisition of additional facilities if found to be necessary to adequately serve the community, and the preservation of open space and water resources for future needs.

Objective 10-1:

Establish a working relationship with the State Department of Natural Resources as this agency will be responsible for operations at Taylorsville Lake, and clarify the county's position regarding any operating and maintenance functions that may arise in relation to recreational facilities at the lake.

Objective 10-2:

Maintain the countywide park system with county maintenance responsibilities, and determine the need to establish recreational opportunities that are compatible with the interests of community residents.

Objective 10-3:

Promote the utilization of the community's many scenic and natural attractions in an environmentally sound manner, with the intent of improving the economic return from tourism and sightseeing to the area's residents.

Objective 10-4:

Community parks, recreational facilities, and green space should be considered with land use and zoning decisions. Wildlife corridors, natural waterways, and other land not suitable for development should be protected when possible.

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE

Goal 11:

Recognize the importance agriculture has played in the history of the County. But, also recognize the sustainable agriculture's importance has been on the decline. Protect the farmer's right to farm.

Objective 11-1:

Recognize that farms are investments, and the owners should be allowed to maximize their use and value potential.

Objective 11-2:

All development adjacent on or near a working farm shall not interfere with the farmer's right to farm.

Objective 11-3:

Regulations should be established to determine adequate fencing to protect adjacent farm activities when appropriate.

EDUCATION

Goal 12:

The city and county should continue to support the growth and quality efforts of the Spencer County school system. Recognize the importance of quality education and quality education facilities and the role they play on attracting quality commercial and industrial investment, in addition to the added value to the community.

Objective 12-1:

Establish as a funding priority the expansion of existing facilities and construction of new schools as needed as well as determine the appropriate use of existing facilities.

Objective 12-2:

The city and county will support the School System in seeking state support for "Growth Districts" in order to keep more local money in the general fund and in seeking Kentucky Department of Education flexibility in the use of capital outlay funds for construction projects.