

INDIAN LAND ACTION COUNCIL**INDIAN LAND YMCA****May 22, 2025**

After the call to order at 7P, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all. There was then a moment of silence for personal reflection. Carol Johnson presented the treasurer's report. Other announcements were:

- The second Saturday of the month (June 14th) clean-up will proceed as usual. All volunteers meet at the Masonic Lodge at about 830A. All appropriate needs for the clean-up are handed out here. The area to be cleaned-up will be Possum Hollow Rd.*
- The Spring Festival occurred on May 10th and in spite of threatening weather seemed well attended and received.*
- On June 11th, there will be an opportunity for the public to comment on the forthcoming county school budget. The meetings will be at the District Offices in Lancaster. Meeting times so far are: 8A-9A, 12P-1P and the third time still is TBD. This is an opportunity to have your voices heard on this important matter.*
- June 24th: a second reading to discuss the school budget.*
- On July 19th, there will be a back-to-school function at the Rec Center in Lancaster. The purpose of this function is to hand out various school needs that have been donated. It was quite a success last year.*

The Indian Land Action Council had the privilege of having Judianna Tinklenberg, a member of the Lancaster County Planning Commission (PC) as the guest speaker. Judianna represents District 4 (PC districts align with the County Council Members' districts). This is a voluntary position which involves a considerable amount of time to make sure that the right things are done for the County.

Judianna has degree is in landscape architecture from the University of Georgia and has worked both on the municipal side and on the consulting side of the development industry focusing on land planning and design for projects of all sizes and types. This skillset and experience should help the whole County and those on the Planning Commission relative to smart growth practices.

The basic responsibilities of the Planning Commission are three-fold:

- *to guide and advise County Council on matters related to planning, land use/zoning, and community development;*
- *to assist in creating and updating the guiding County documents; Comprehensive Plan and the Unified development Ordinance (UDO);*
- *to hold public hearings to gather input from residents, staff, and consultants to provide recommendations or to make decisions on land development.*

The Comprehensive Plan is a large document that sets out the development goals for the entire County. It is written every 20 years with public input and updated approximately every 5 years. It is a master, long-term vision for the County and serves as a foundation for zoning codes and development decisions. This document divides the County into 3 areas to better list the goals and true identity of each area since our County has vast differences in needs and desires from one end to the other.

The Unified Development Ordinance is another document that, along with the Comprehensive Plan, states the rules and regulations that development of every kind must follow within our County. The decisions voted on by the PC and Council must generally follow these documents. The current, approved versions of each are available on the County website.

Judianna stated that her mission on the PC is quite simple: “How can I help?” Her main concern is for smart and thoughtful growth throughout the County. The largest need and goal currently are to somehow make future infrastructure a requirement PRIOR to new development being approved and built primarily by the developers bringing the burden.

Two other goals important to her are:

- *to improve relationships with the Lancaster County School system to ensure that it is included in the planning process. She feels that a*

strong bond between the school system and the PC is critical for proper county planning.

- *to improve relationships with SCDOT. Many of our main thoroughfares are SCDOT roads (Hwys. 521 and 160 for example) and that more involvement from SCDOT is needed to proactively work with developers so that as these projects are being constructed, it is a requirement for developers to pay for traffic calming and safety improvements so it doesn't later fall on the taxpayer to carry this burden.*

Every parcel of land in Lancaster County has a zoning designation, which determines the type of land use approved for that parcel by-right. It is important to note that County Council can vote differently on a rezone request than the PC. In this instance, the PC can only make recommendation to County Council. If a parcel of land is zoned, for example commercial, then any commercial building can be erected on that property without approval of the PC, if it is by-right development.

The PC meets twice monthly:

- *Their workshop meeting is first Thursday of each month at 5P. While this meeting is open to the public, public comments are not allowed. The purpose of this meeting is to have projects presented.*
- *The public hearing meeting is the 3rd Tuesday at 6P. This meeting is open to public comment and is welcome. Without public comments, it is nearly impossible to take into account what the community wants.*
- *Both meetings are held at the County Building in Lancaster*

Judianna expressed the importance of Lancaster County residents attending meetings; not just sending e/mails. Personal attendance carries more weight than any e/mail.

The County website for the PC is: <https://www.mylancastersc.org>. Then go the heading "Boards and Commission." It is in there that you'll find the site for the Planning Commission. Please take the time to check it out to become more informed of the happenings in your County.

The next meeting of ILAC will be at 7P on Thursday, June 26th at the YMCA. The public is invited.

