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Upstate

Pickens to take up growth proposals

Planners to make their own suggestions on commission's ideas

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PICKENS — The Pickens County Planning Commission will have the chance Wednesday to put its own imprint on a document designed to guide development of Pickens County for the next two decades.

The draft version of 2030 Pickens County: A Comprehensive Plan was presented to the commission by the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee, which had been working on the plan for nearly two years, according to county Community Development director Chris Brink.

Brink said the commission voted last week to table discussion of the plan until Wednesday's special meeting.

"They'll start as a planning commission sitting down and going through the plan and making comments and changes and so forth," Brink said. "This is really the first time the planning commission has had a chance to actually work on the plan themselves."

The advisory committee, which was made up of dozens of residents, held several open meetings to solicit public input on the plan, Brink said.

The concept of a comprehensive plan to guide county development has met with objections from a vocal group of opponents in recent months.

Some residents speaking at Pickens County Council meetings have decried the plan, saying efforts at sustainable development are actually attempts to exert more government control over private citizens.

Brink pointed out, however, that the word "sustain" or a variation appears in the 34,000-word draft fewer than 10 times, and phrase "sustainable development" isn't in the draft at all.

YOU CAN GO

The Pickens County Planning Commission will hold a called meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the main conference room of the Pickens County Administration Building. The purpose of the meeting is to review the draft 2030 Pickens County document and to possibly vote on a resolution to recommend the plan to County Council.