Zoning debate heats up: Keowee residents rip

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WALHALLA — Oconee County's contentious zoning debate is heating up again.

Two Lake Keowee residents ripped the county's zoning process that allowed their waterfront lots to be pulled into a rezoning petition against their wishes.

James R. Sloan of the Indian Oaks subdivision and Bryant Metler of Keowee Plantation told the Oconee County Planning Commission on Monday night that they want out of the rezoning petition and be left control free.

Sloan went so far as to ask for an investigation of the way the Cane Creek petition was handled, and claimed he was misled by "wrongful intention."

Jim Codner, the coordinator of

petition process

the Cane Creek petition, rose up from his seat toward the end of the meeting to defend the manner in which signatures for his petition were collected.

"We did everything in an

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above-the-board manner," Codner said. "Eighty percent of your people signed the petition."

Sloan interjected that Codner was not being truthful, and said he could not believe that a majority of homeowners in his subdivision signed the petition.

Metler said he has lived 40 years in Keowee Plantation, and doesn't think the subdivision with its restrictive covenants needs to be zoned.

Metler said it should have been left up to Keowee Plantation homeowners to decide whether it wanted to be rezoned.

"We should not have been included in somebody else's game," he said.

County Planner Aaron Gadsby said it would be up to County Council to decide whether to take Sloan and Metler out of the rezoning petition. He said the matter comes before council for the first time on Sept. 6.

In the meantime, the Planning Commission continued its review of zoning districts as directed by council. Members tweaked permitted, non-permitted and special exception uses for several categories, including Agricultural Rural, Rural Residential, Agricultural and Public and/or Recreational Lands districts.

Another workshop is scheduled for Aug. 29.

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