

LWV of East Alabama — Observer Corps Report

Agency: Smiths Station Planning Commission Date: August 7, 2018

Location: 2336 County Line Road 430 Smiths Station, Alabama 36877

Website: <http://www.smithsstational.gov/> (difficult to find info about the commission online)

Type of meeting: **Regular** Special Public Hearing: **For Preliminary and Final Plats**

Staff present (Approx. Number): **One (1) with dual role as commissioner** Others: **None**

Media coverage? **No**

Number in Audience: **Under 5** 6–12 13–20 over 20

Facilities (Identify Inadequacies, if any (e.g., audio-visual, capacity, etc.): **None**

FEATURE EVALUATED	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Did meeting start on time?	X		
Were all members present?		X	7-members present; two absent
Were members attentive?	X		All members actively involved
Did the members appear to have done their "homework"?	X		
Were members courteous to each other and the public?	X		
Was the agenda online at least 24 hrs. before?		X	Limited number of copies available at meeting
Did agenda items clearly describe what was to be discussed?	X		
Was there adequate opportunity for public input?	X		Participation was actively pursued.
Was there the appearance that some action items were discussed in closed rather than open session?		X	
Was background information available to public?		X	Last published Minutes dated May 1. Both April 3 rd and May 1 st Minutes posted June 20 th .

Were any issues on the agenda relevant to any LWV state or local positions or programs?

Commission members opened extensively dialogue among themselves seeking ways to avoid clear cutting lots and to encourage developers to protect preferred trees by species and caliper. Staff member/commissioner was requested to investigate by contacting other communities for their experiences.

Do you recommend local League action on any of these issues? Yes ___ No XX. If "yes" what action do you recommend.

Other Concerns (If any):

I attended Commission Work Session. Mayor F.L. "Bubba" Copeland, as Chief Operating Officer, provided extensive update on the state-of-the-city. I was impressed with his straightforwardness and the sincerity with which he addressed topics, including questions and concerns, as well as shortcomings.

Observer: BOU

Date Submitted: August 8, 2018

Report should be emailed to lwveastal@gmail.com along with the URL of the meeting's agenda and supporting documents. Thank you!