

## **Planning Commission, County Council discuss comprehensive plan**

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Marion County planning and zoning issues and concerns were discussed recently when Marion County Council members and the Marion County Planning Commission had another joint meeting.

It was the second such meeting for the groups at the Dry Dock Restaurant in Mullins. The groups hope to continue getting together every three or four months. Items discussed included the Marion County Industrial Park, the proposed Interstate-73 and the U.S. Highway 501 corridor zoning.

The planning commission received input from the Marion County Economic Development Commission while working on the proposed draft of a new Industrial Park zoning district regarding the types of property uses to be allowed in the industrial park.

By county ordinance, the park provides a protective zone for development of manufacturing and related activities that contribute to the employment opportunities in the community. The zoning requirements of the park are to not have an adverse impact upon surrounding land uses.

The zoning permits for buildings used will be issued for manufacturing goods, fabrics, appliances, equipment, and warehouses. Prohibited uses include correctional facilities, slaughterhouses, poultry houses, kennels, paper mills, salvage yards and sanitary landfills.

One main focus discussed by Planning Commission Chairman Edwin Stephens was the updating of the county's comprehensive plan. He said the plan would cover a number of issues and serve as a good source of information.

Members of the commission received praise for their work and expertise and County Council member Elista Smith called the members "knowledgeable." County Administrator Tim Harper said the commission is the most valuable commission he's been around.

Senior Planner Levonne Powell leads the commission. Stephens said he is grateful for Powell's efforts and the leadership of Rachel Mason.

"She has been a valuable mentor in helping in the first steps," Stephens said. The groups will meet again in October, with plans to include the Economic Development commission.