

MINUTES

Lacey Planning Commission Meeting
Tuesday, July 2, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
Lacey City Hall Council Chambers, 420 College Street SE

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Paul Enns.

Planning Commission members present: Paul Enns, Sharon Kophs, Daphne Retzlaff, Mark Mininger, Shaunesy Behrens, Eddie Bishop, Peg Evans-Brown, and David Lousteau. Staff present: Ryan Andrews, Jessica Brandt, Rick Walk, and Leah Bender.

Paul Enns noted a quorum present.

Sharon Kophs made a motion, seconded by David Lousteau, to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. All were in favor, the motion carried. David Lousteau made a motion, seconded by Mark Mininger, to approve the June 18, 2019, minutes. All were in favor, the motion carried.

1. **Public Comments:** None.

2. **Commission Members Reports:**

- Mark Mininger reported on his attendance at the Council on the Road meeting and the MakerSpace open house.
- Peg Evans-Brown shared an article from The Olympian newspaper regarding affordable housing and homelessness.
- Paul Enns reported that he and David Wasson also attended the Council on the Road meeting.

3. **Director's Report:**

- Rick Walk reported on the MakerSpace ribbon cutting and open house and noted there will be a grand opening this fall.
- Rick noted that the July 3 Fireworks Spectacular will be at Rainier Vista Park.
- Rick reported that Council passed a camping ordinance and that Council may consider an interim emergency ordinance to allow overnight sites. A proposal will be made to Council as a result of public comments and the urgent need for temporary housing.
- There were discussions regarding camping, sleeping in vehicles, and the mitigation site.

4. **Old Business:**

Emergency Housing Facilities LMC 16.64:

- Ryan Andrews reminded Planning Commission that their role is to suggest edits to the ordinance and make a recommendation to Council, who then has the final decision on whether the amended ordinance is passed or not.
- Ryan explained that notice of tonight's meeting was sent to all the interested parties, (over 100 people) and noted that no members of the public were in attendance.
- Ryan went over the goals and polices of the Housing Element related to homelessness and distributed a table listing the topics and concerns to be discussed.
- Ryan went over the topics discussed at the last meeting and the consensus reached.
- There was a discussion regarding the number of visitors allowed at emergency housing facilities. It was suggested that two visitors be allowed per resident, limiting the number of visitors dependent on the capacity of the facility, and leaving it to the discretion of the host.
- The number of residents was discussed. It was suggested that the maximum for a church or non-profit facility be 20 residents, with an option to receive an exemption for more residents on a case by case basis for facilities hosted by government agencies.

- There was a discussion about changing the title of the ordinance as some people may misinterpret “housing.”
- Onsite staffing was discussed and it was pointed out that the ordinance currently requires 24-hour onsite staff as well as an onsite manager at all times.
- Concerns regarding notifying North Thurston Public Schools was discussed. Ryan reiterated that the current ordinance is worded as such that approval is required from NTPS prior to City approval, which is not feasible. It was decided that the school district will still be notified of proposed facilities, but the element regarding approval will be removed.
- There was a discussion regarding the time limitations. Staff noted that six months is too short of a period as the process of moving the facility is burdensome. It was also noted that the option of requesting an extension of time gives the city the opportunity to deny the extension if the facility is not complying with regulations.
- There was a discussion regarding case managing and social services.
- Ryan said that the consensus items will be incorporated into the draft and the recommendation is to hold another public hearing to review the amended draft.
- David Lousteau said he is opposed to holding another public hearing and feels that due to public objections, the item should be shelved so that attention can be put into a better solution to homelessness. A discussion followed and it was suggested that the hearing be held but framed better so that the public has a better understanding of what the hearing is about. Paul Enns reiterated that the final decision rests with Council and that they will take all comments and discussions into account when making their decision.
- Sharon Kophs made a motion, seconded by Eddie Bishop, to hold a public hearing on August 6. Seven were in favor, one opposed, the motion carried.

5. **Communications and Announcements:** None.

6. **Next meeting:** July 16, 2019.

7. **Adjournment:** 9:15 p.m.