

MINUTES

Lacey Planning Commission Meeting
Tuesday, July 16, 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, David Wasson, and David Lousteau. Staff present: Jessica Brandt, Rick Walk, and Leah Bender.

Paul Enns noted a quorum present.

David Wasson made a motion, seconded by David Lousteau, to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting with an amendment to the order of New Business to discuss the August 6 Public Hearing first, and then the Washington Homeless Housing Strategic Plan second. All were in favor, the motion carried. Sharon Kophs made a motion, seconded by Eddie Bishop, to approve the July 2, 2019, minutes. All were in favor, the motion carried.

1. **Public Comments:** None.

2. **Commission Members Reports:**

- Eddie Bishop asked for clarification on a recent article in The Olympian regarding the missing middle. Rick Walk explained that the City of Olympia is required to complete an environmental review as the result of an appeal.
- David Wasson discussed his recent vacation.
- Peg Evans-Brown reported on her attendance at the last Council meeting.
- David Lousteau reported on his attendance at an Olympia mayoral debate.
- Paul Enns discussed an article in the LA Times regarding sea level change.
- Sharon Kophs discussed an article regarding the Thurston County Comp Plan.

3. **Director's Report:**

- Jessica Brandt discussed the climate change steering committee and advisory committee and welcomed any Planning Commissioners who would like to join the committee or attend meetings. She noted that the committees have adopted targets and will now work on reaching those targets.
- Rick Walk noted there is a Ruckelshaus Roadmap to Washington open house at 1 p.m. tomorrow at the Department of Commerce building in downtown Olympia.

4. **Old Business:**

Planning Commission Rules of Procedure:

- Jessica noted that most of the changes to the Rules of Procedure are housekeeping in nature and went over the amendments.
- There was a discussion about clarifying the language regarding SEPA and notice for public hearings.
- There was a discussion regarding how the agenda items are determined. Rick explained that it stems from the work program adopted by Council. If Planning Commissioners would like to suggest an agenda item, they should present it at a meeting and/or contact Rick and Paul.
- **David Lousteau made a motion, seconded by Peg Evans-Brown, to adopt the amended Planning Commission Rules of Procedure. All were in favor. The motion carried.**
- Jessica noted she will bring the final version to the next meeting for signature.

Economic Development Briefing:

- Rick gave a PowerPoint presentation that covered topics including:
 - The two Economic Development Goals that staff are focusing on – Lacey values thriving and sustainable business environment, and Lacey invests wisely in its future;
 - the top four economic initiatives – Strategic Partnerships, Port of Olympia ILA, Lacey MakerSpace, and Scale Up;
 - and trends and data on employment, industrial space, and vacancy rates.

5. New Business:

August 6 Public Hearing Prep:

- Jessica shared a draft of the Homeless Encampments Chapter 16.64 which includes new provisions regarding temporary overnight sites.
- Rick noted that the changes came about as a result of the Boise decision and the camping ordinance adopted by Council, and went over the temporary overnight provisions.
- Rick noted that Cuoio Park is being considered as a possible location for an overnight site.
- There was a discussion about the best way to advertise the hearing so that everyone is clear that the topic is the ordinance and not the mitigation site or homelessness in general.
- There was a discussion about Commissioners expressing their opinions when asked for them by the public. Staff noted it is best to listen to testimony and discuss the public concerns during deliberation after the public hearing is closed.
- Concerns were expressed that having the public hearing so soon after adding the new provisions may give the impression that Planning Commission has accepted the ordinance.
- Staff noted that this is an emergency interim ordinance to provide temporary overnight sites as an alternative to camping on city streets.
- There was a discussion regarding costs to the City and use of City property, and the fact that staff previously stated there would be no cost to the City and no City property would be used for an encampment. Rick noted that Council will discuss the costs at their next worksession.
- It was noted that the public may get the impression that the city is acting quickly on this issue in order to remove homeless campers from the City Hall parking lot.
- Rick asked Planning Commission to review the ordinance and make a decision to either recommend it to Council, not recommend it to Council, or to amend the ordinance.

Washington Homeless Housing Strategic Plan:

- Rick distributed copies of the Washington Homeless Housing Strategic Plan and pointed out that the difference between low barrier and high barrier shelters is defined in the plan.

6. Communications and Announcements: None.

7. Next meeting: August 6, 2019.

8. Adjournment: 9:10 p.m.