

MINUTES

PLANNING COMMISSION

City Council Chambers
Port Angeles, Washington 98362
January 26, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
REGULAR MEETING

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Schwab opened the regular meeting at 6:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Andrew Schwab (Chair), Ben Stanley (Vice Chair), Colin Young, Steve Luxton, and Richie Ahuja

City Staff Present: Emma Bolin (*Interim Director of Community and Economic Development*)
Ben Braudrick (*Associate Planner*)
Nathan Docherty (*Assistant Planner*)
Chris Cowgill (*Assistant City Attorney*)

Public Present:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

Chair Schwab closed public comments 6:12 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of October 27, 2021, November 10, 2021, and January 12, 2022.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Climate Resiliency Strategies and Actions Development. Planning commissioners to discuss input on Climate Resiliency Strategies and Actions and multi criteria analysis approach. Possible action on individual or collective comments.

Commissioner Young discussed the cost and feasibility associated with climate resiliency plans. Commissioner young discussed and presented his comments for the Climate Resiliency Plan. Commissioner Young agrees housing is a top priority, discussion followed.

Vice Chair Stanley discussed needing more time to have comments in.

2. DCED Planning Division and Planning Commission 2022 projects. Review planning division draft work plan and discuss 2022 DCED

Planning Division and Planning Commission 2022 projects.

Interim Director Bolin presented the Planning Division and Planning Commission projects to work on for 2022. There are some current projects that will not require Planning Commission input - these are grant application for the Housing Action Plan that will help in updating development fees, also development of an Accessory Dwelling Unit prototype to help find a path for pre-approved designs, and Multi-family Housing Tax Exemption update. There might be an advisory role to the Planning Commission to help engage with the development community. Interim Director Bolin opened the discussion for Phase Two Development Code Update. The goal is to have a joint City Council and Planning Commission meeting to discuss this more in depth in March. There are work sessions that occur once a month on the 4th Tuesday in the month. Wants to start working with a consultant to adequately plan for this meeting.

Chair Schwab discussed looking at signage and fixing and updating the sign code. Chair Schwab added Commissioner Luxton's items of discussion to the next meeting.

Vice Chair Stanley. Vice Chair Stanley supports prioritizing affordable housing and housing density over the urban canopy plan. Discussed focusing on creating affordable housing that would allow the option to live in the community and get around town without a car. Would like to understand the barriers to development amongst the development community.

Commissioner Ahuja agreed with Vice Chair Stanley more time would be needed to have comments turned into staff. Commissioner Ahuja discussed following up with departments about concerns to understand motivations and affirms we should go all in on housing as it is closely tied to jobs and much more.

Commissioner Luxton Discussed affordable housing as being the number one problem we are facing right now, discussion followed. We still need to focus on Residential Building Capacity and Urban Standards, discussion followed. Is working on compiling a list of five items to discuss at the next meeting, discussion followed.

Commissioner Young At some point we should revisit the code we implemented specifically in reference to block frontages. Commissioner Young would like to focus on parking requirements, discussion followed

STAFF UPDATES

Interim Director Bolin spoke of the Health Officer's hope that COVID case rates may reduce in mid-March. There is no plan currently for hybrid meetings. The Building Residential Capacity Ordinance is signed and in effect. Planning Commission still has one vacancy. Chair Schwab and Vice Chair Stanley's terms are expiring in March and both are encouraged to re-apply.

Planner Braudrick reports that he is planning to have a workshop in March for climate resiliency that will likely take place during a regular Planning Commission meeting.

REPORTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Nathan Docherty, Secretary

Andrew Schwab, Chair

PREPARED BY: Nathan Docherty, Secretary

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