

MINUTES

PLANNING COMMISSION

Hybrid Meeting – In Person and Virtual

City Council Chambers: 321 E 5th Street, Port Angeles, Washington 98362

May 24, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Stanley opened the regular meeting at 6:05 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Benjamin Stanley (*Chair*)
Andrew Schwab (*Vice Chair*)
Richie Ahuja
Tammy Dziadek
Marolee Smith
James Taylor

Commissioners Absent: Colin Young – excused

City Staff Present: Ben Braudrick (*Senior Planner*)
Zach Trevino (*Assistant Planner*)
Shannen Cartmel (*Community Services Deputy Director*)

Public Present: Ian Miller, Christy Cox, Elise Miller

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Stanley opened the meeting to general public comment.

Christy Cox, owner of Olympic Roots Farm in Port Angeles, expressed support for the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments integrating climate resiliency. She stated that a changing climate affects farming. She encouraged immediate action by the City to address the climate crisis as quickly as possible.

Ian Miller, resident of Port Angeles, does climate planning in his role with Washington Sea Grant and voiced support for the Comprehensive Plan amendment effort. He expressed delight in response to the City's progress on climate planning.

Elise Miller, resident of Port Angeles and staff at the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, works on climate change and environmental restoration projects for the Tribe. She expressed support for the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment.

Chair Stanley closed the meeting to public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Schwab moved to approve the minutes from the May 10, 2023 regular meeting of

the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously (6-0) through a consent vote.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Port Angeles Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 23-26

Chair Stanley introduced the item. He explained that this public hearing and the Commission's discussion of the proposal were postponed from the May 10, 2023 regular meeting of the Planning Commission.

Planner Trevino introduced the proposed amendments by providing a presentation to the Commission. The presentation included an overview of relevant background information, the substance of the proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan, the amendment process, and next steps. Recommended motions were provided for consideration by the Planning Commission.

Following staff's presentation, the Commissioners asked questions of staff regarding the information presented. Discussion ensued, addressing the Rayonier mill site, glass recycling, and materials reuse.

Chair Stanley opened the public hearing to public comment. The following individuals provided comment to the Commission:

- **Christy Cox** stated that she is part of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee of Clallam County and announced that the City of Port Angeles has ordered glass recycling bins. Within 70 days, the City should provide an estimated time for when the bins will arrive and become operational. She noted that the proposed Comprehensive Plan does not include information about yard waste and composting. Yard waste is shipped out of the City and processed into compost in Shelton, WA. Other yard waste is stored at the Port Angeles Transfer Station. She is wondering whether compost operations are planned to resume at the Port Angeles Transfer Station. She urged this to be considered in the draft plan.
- **Ian Miller** reminded the Commission that the Comprehensive Plan should balance climate resiliency with other priorities, which can sometimes compete with each other for implementation. The City should focus on integrating multiple priorities.

Chair Stanley closed the public hearing to public comment.

Following the public comment, the Planning Commission discussed the comments received and considered the draft amendments. The discussion focused on a range of issues related to the draft climate resiliency goals & policies in the Comprehensive Plan. The following four motions were made to further amend the draft amended Comprehensive Plan prior to their presentation to the City Council at a public hearing on June 6, 2023.

Motion 1

Chair Stanley moved to amend draft Goal G-3N and Policy P-3N.02 in the Land Use Element to state the following:

Goal G-3N: Make Port Angeles food secure by promoting local and regional sustainable agriculture, utilizing multiple sources for food production and procurement, and increasing

food production within the City.

Policy P-3N.02: Encourage partnerships between local farms/farmers and residents to establish local food production projects and local composting and green waste recycling projects.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously (6-0) through a roll call vote.

Motion 2

Chair Stanley moved to create a new policy under draft Goal G-3N in the Land Use Element to state the following:

Encourage the City of Port Angeles to operate a composting facility.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously (6-0) through a roll call vote.

Motion 3

Commissioner Smith moved to amend draft policy P-3N.05 in the Land Use Element to state the following:

Policy P-3N.05: Implement zoning updates that simplify urban gardening like water conservation techniques, allow fencing, allow personal and community gardens, and manage poultry and livestock production.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously (6-0) through a roll call vote.

Motion 4

Commissioner Taylor moved to add a new goal and policy in the General Land Use Goals & Policies section of the Land Use Element to state the following:

Goal G-3E: Promote cleanup of environmentally contaminated sites within the city.

Policy P-3E.01: Actively pursue and participate in environmental remediation of contaminated sites using best available science.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously (6-0) through a roll call vote.

Following these four motions to further amend the draft amended Comprehensive Plan, the Planning Commission made the following motion:

Chair Stanley moved that the Planning Commission recommend approval of Comprehensive Plan amendment No. 23-26 to the City Council as modified by the Planning Commission through motions made at the May 24, 2023 regular meeting of the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously (6-0) through a roll call vote.

STAFF UPDATES

City staff provided the following updates to the Commission:

- **Planner Braudrick** reminded the Commission that a joint Planning Commission & City Council meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2023 from 5:00-6:00 PM. Commissioner

Young will not be able to attend but other Commissioners should attend. The meeting will involve discussion of the work plan and City priorities.

- **Planner Braudrick** stated that the City is preparing to begin the process for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. The City has scheduled an interview with a consultant.
- **Planner Braudrick** announced that the section of the Race Street Trail between Parks Avenue and Mt. Angeles Road is now complete and open to the public.
- **Planner Trevino** encouraged the Commissioners to attend a Jurassic Parliament training scheduled for June 5, 2023 at 6:00 PM. The training will occur at a public meeting and cover best practices for meeting procedures and other information relevant to the Commission.

REPORTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

- **Commissioner Dziadek** recommended a book titled The Great Displacement by Jake Bittle.
- **Commissioner Smith** explained that a sidewalk is needed on her side of the street to facilitate safe pedestrian activity.
- **Commissioner Taylor** mentioned that he keeps hearing from developers that their project is delayed in the plan review stage of the process. He urged Planning Division staff to do their jobs more quickly. **Deputy Director Cartmel** responded by stating that the Department is working to improve the efficiency of its processes.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Stanley adjourned the meeting at 8:14 P.M.

Zach Trevino, Secretary

Ben Stanley, Chair