



PLANNING COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 16, 2023

7:00 PM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER (Via Zoom & In-Person)

Commissioner Cruger called the Special Planning Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. FLAG SALUTE:

Commissioner Cruger led the Planning Commission, Staff and Audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. ROLL CALL:

Planning Commission

Commissioner Frederick Cruger – Present
Commissioner Ron Stephenson – Absent
Commissioner Scott Morrison – Present
Commissioner Bruce Straughn – Present
Commissioner Chris Marsh – Present

City Staff

Darla Reese, City Clerk
Eric Jensen, Community Dev. Director

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of January 10, 2023 Minutes

Commissioner Morrison moved to accept the minutes as written. Commissioner Straughn seconded. Motion carried.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS – NON-ACTION ITEMS

(Public comments are encouraged both for items that are not action items in this Agenda and for actions items in this Agenda. Comments may be submitted in advance in writing or by e-mail to the City Clerk or may be made in person, or by telephone or computer connection at the time of the meeting.)

No one was present online to speak during this portion of the meeting, and no written correspondence had been received.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Title 19 Code Amendment – Land Use Matrix

Community Development Director Jensen reviewed the Land Use Matrix Table with the Planning Commission members. He mentioned the table is being changed from a “Primary”, “Secondary” and “Conditional” to a “Permitted”, “Conditional” and “Prohibited” to make a clear approach.

Changes the Planning Commission suggested:

- Ensure all uses are defined in code (associated with this zoning table)
- Move the “P, C and X” to the top of the page (description of the categories up front)
- Left column looks incomplete (some words cut off, run together)
 - Send the commission an excel version of the spreadsheet
- Bring back to commission a cleaned up, un-truncated version, with the clear details of the above-mentioned comments
- Prohibited uses – if any on edge of being Permitted or Conditional = please point these out to the commission
 - Are any in the Prohibited category that currently exist and are grandfathered in?
- Clean-up definitions – make more clear
- Planning Commission to have one more review on this document (at next meeting). Will make a recommendation to the City Council at that time.
- Planning Commission had decided not to hold a public hearing – let the City Council hold the hearing instead.

B. Visioning Effort – pictures and illustrative graphics

Community Development Director Jensen mentioned he would like to see every staff member, planning commissioner and councilmember have a chance to contribute at least one of their own pictures to be included in the comprehensive plan update.

Changes the Planning Commission suggested:

- Commissioner Cruger to change colors on first train graphic (outlined in two shades of greens) to show a log (brown) behind it
- Change 2023 to 2024 on the title of “2023 Granite Falls History”
- Historic photos to be made more definition/clearer/sharper – add black line border around each picture (play with graphics)

C. March 8, 2023 Council-Planning Commission Joint Workshop

Community Development Director Jensen mentioned the goal of the joint session is to get on the same page. To talk about some of the issues in the comprehensive plan (public outreach approach).

Additional discussion included:

- Missing Middle – housing information = “smaller housing”
 - Cottage housing
- Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) & Department of Commerce recalculating housing numbers – may change population growth target –
 - Snohomish County to get numbers from these agencies and give numbers to the City around June
- Would like to see the Planning Commission lead the joint meeting (will discuss with the mayor in advance of the meeting)

D. UW Public Outreach Class Project Update

Community Development Director Jensen mentioned the University of Washington has assigned a class to work with the city to help us with public outreach. They will be helping by focusing their attention on:

- Benefits in branching out our public outreach to social media
- Will engage with City Clerk Reese as she is involved in a number of different community groups online
- Will help determine the full list of stakeholders
 - Organizations
 - Churches
 - Youth Organizations
 - Senior based groups
 - Historical Society
 - Any additional groups interested
 - Interested parties
- School will have something back in March
 - Group will come present to the Planning Commission or City Council

Western Washington University planning program has also reached out to the city.

- Will be using a student for internships (spring quarter)
- If all goes well, we can retain his for summertime pay
- Will use the student to do a land use survey of all land uses in the city at least the commercial/non-residential core.
- Help city with doing research on “Climate Pledge”

7. CURRENT BUSINESS

There are no Current Business items scheduled for this agenda.

8. REPORTS:

Community Development recent work included:

- Received resubmittal package for gas station plans for 805 W. Stanley as well as McDaniel's Do-It Center Hardware at 407 Jordan Rd.
- Working on a feasibility analysis with a consultant to look at the Mountain Loop Sub-Area Neighborhood
- SEPA Determination has been issued on the Land Use Matrix Table
- W. Galena St. SEPA has now finally closed (comment period over – comments received)
 - Looking to put it out for bid as soon as final design is completed
- Attended a number of state and county webinars regarding everything growth management
- At joint workshop – if time allows, have a conversation about the Galena St. Extension will likely effect interest in doing commercial development along Galena.

A. City Clerk Report

There were no questions on the City Clerk's reports.

B. Homework

There were no homework items for the Agenda.

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

Commissioner Cruger mentioned he heard from his financial advisor that Granite Falls is the only place to go for passports.

Commissioner Marsh mentioned he wrote to Councilman Nate Nehring regarding Bridge 102. He thanked Marsh for reaching out and agrees with saving the bridge. He will check in with the public works department on the issue.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Cruger adjourned the meeting.