



JOINT PLANNING AND DESIGN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES MARCH 23, 2016

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Jon Friedman called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM in the Council Chambers at 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

ROLL CALL:

Planning Commission - Chair Jon Friedman, Vice Chair Richard Weinman, Commissioners Bryan Cairns, Tiffin Goodman, Craig Olson, and Suzanne Skone were present. Commissioner Jennifer Mechem was absent.

Design Commission - Chair Richard Erwin, Vice Chair Colin Brandt, Commissioners Susanne Foster, Lara Sanderson, Tami Szerlip were present. Commissioner Daniel Hubbell was absent. Commissioner Tian arrived at 6:06 PM.

Staff was represented by Steve Lancaster, Interim City Manager, Scott Greenberg, Development Services Group Director, Alison Van Gorp, Administrative Services Manager and Ombudsman, and Shana Restall, Principal Planner.

DEVELOPER PANEL:

Administrative Services Manager/Ombudsman Alison VanGorp summarized findings from interviews that she conducted with local developers that could not attend the panel the March 2, 2016 (Bill Pollard and Liz Dunn). The developers provided feedback regarding design concerns that contribute to or detract from development potential.

LOCAL PROPERTY OWNERS PANEL:

Several Town Center property owners provided input regarding the draft development code amendments. The Joint Commission asked questions of the property owners regarding local development climate and the potential effects of specific code provisions being considered. The property owner panel consisted of the following:

- Kerry Nicholson, Legacy Partners (developer of The Hadley, under construction)
- William Low, Gull Industries (owner of the "Rite Aid" shopping center)
- James Cassan, Dollar Development (owner/developer of The Mercer, owner of the US Bank building, and owner of former Travelodge property)

Tom King, owner of the property located at 2885 78th Avenue that was previously part of the proposed Hines Development, also sat at the table with the panel and responded to questions from the Joint Commission.

Chair Friedman adjourned the meeting for a break at 7:20 PM. The Chair reconvened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CODE PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION:

Chair Jon Friedman and Development Services Group Director Scott Greenberg led the Joint Commission through a draft of the proposed development regulations and design standards. The Commission provided feedback for the proposed code revisions.

PREPARATION FOR THE MARCH 30, 2016 PUBLIC HEARING:

Alison Van Gorp discussed with the Commission the information to be presented at the next public hearing, both on the information boards and during staff presentation.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Vice Chair Brandt provided the update for the Architectural/Code Drafting Subcommittee. Commissioner Sanderson discussed the Communications Subcommittee's recent actions.

NEXT MEETING:

A public hearing in front of the Joint Commission is scheduled for March 30, 2016. The next regular Joint Commission meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Friedman adjourned the Joint Commission meeting at 9:30 PM.