



PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES MARCH 29, 2017

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Skone called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM in Room 102 at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center at 8236 SE 24th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

ROLL CALL:

Chair Suzanne Skone, Vice-Chair Richard Weinman, Commissioners Daniel Hubbell, Lucia Pirzio-Biroli, Bryan Cairns, Jennifer Mechem and Tiffin Goodman were present. City staff was represented by Bio Park, Assistant City Attorney, Scott Greenberg, Planning Director, Alison VanGorp, Administrative Services Manager/Ombudsman, Evan Maxim, Planning Manager, Nicole Gaudette and Robin Proebsting, Senior Planners, and Lauren Anderson, Assistant Planner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the March 15, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Pirzio-Biroli and Scott Greenberg had corrections. The Commission directed staff to revise the minutes from the March 15, 2017 meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scott Greenberg introduced Bio Park, new Assistant City Attorney, to the Commission.

APPEARANCES

(NON AGENGA):

Carolyn Boatsman, 3210 74 Ave SE, provided comments about the portion of the draft code pertaining to tree retention.

Saul Baron, 9100 SE 50th St, spoke to the importance of trees for stormwater control, and the impact the removal of trees has had on certain areas.

Tom Alexander, 9103 SE 50th St, offered comments on the draft code pertaining tree protection.

Lynn Hagerman, 3058 61st Ave SE, provided comment on the Residential Development Standards update.

Vickie Carper, 9829 SE 42nd PI, expressed concerns about new, large houses being built in Mercer Island.

Dan Grausz, 3215 74th PI SE, noted he was speaking as a council member, and shared issued he intends to raise when the code recommendation comes to the City Council.

Daniel Thompson, 7265 N Mercer Way, said he would like the code to come to the Council after a joint dialogue.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

Agenda Item #1: ZTR17-001 Appeals Code Amendment

Scott Greenberg introduced the proposed amendments, provided a brief overview of the proposed regulations, and answered questions from the Planning Commission.

Chair Skone opened the public hearing at 7:11 p.m.

Peter Struck, 9130 54th St, said that in principle he agrees with staff's recommendation, but urged the Commission to do a thorough review of the details of the proposed changes.

Daniel Thompson, 7265 N Mercer Way, proposed a 30 day notice period, posting permits online, and lowering appeal fees.

Lynn Hagerman, 3058 61st Ave SE, expressed a desire for the public input process to be easier and more resident-friendly.

Carolyn Boatsman, 3210 74 Ave SE, noted that she agreed with Dan Thompson, and would like to obtain public records more quickly.

Tom Alexander, 9103 SE 50th St, said that appeals are the only thing that give residents leverage against developers.

Dan Grausz, 3215 74th Pl SE, spoke to changes to standing under the proposed code change, the mechanics of consolidating appeals, the ease and speed of obtaining public records, uniform comment periods, and the time allocated to parties involved in an appeal.

Chair Skone closed the public hearing at 7:26 p.m.

PC requested more time to review the code changes, and asked staff to look into making permit materials available online.

The Planning Commission took a recess at 8:15pm, and reconvened at 8:22pm.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

Agenda Item #2: ZTR16-004 Residential Design Standards

Evan Maxim reported back on the March 15th direction to consider a community poll. Alison VanGorp introduced materials in the packet, inviting questions and asking whether the Commission wanted to use the poll, and if so, what changes to make. Planning Commission consensus was to not do poll.

Evan reviewed three policy items from the Planning Commission packet: 1) Tree retention, 2) Accessory buildings, 3) and large (subdividable lots). The Planning Commission flagged items for discussion at the Tree Subcommittee. The Planning Commission also requested that a purpose statement and/or rules be captured in a document, in layman's terms, similar to the City of Seattle's Client Assistance Memos.

Evan described the upcoming review process, which will include review by subcommittees. Evan also spoke to format for April 5th hearing, which will include a summary of policy deliberations so far, then a public hearing. Material from subcommittees will be revisited on April 19th.

Agenda Item #3: ZTR17-002, 003, and 004 Introduction to Transportation Concurrency, Essential Public Facilities, and I-90 P Zone Uses

Scott Greenberg said that it was not necessary to review Agenda Item #3, given the time constraints imposed by the availability of the meeting room, as the agenda item was simply an introduction to the topic, and no direction from the Planning Commission was needed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Cairns agreed to join the tree subcommittee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Mercer Island Community and Event Center.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Skone adjourned the meeting at 9:13 pm.