



JOINT PLANNING AND DESIGN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 27, 2016

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Jon Friedman called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM in the Council Chambers at 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

ROLL CALL:

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

Design Commission - Chair Richard Erwin, Vice Chair Colin Brandt, Commissioners Susanne Foster, Lara Sanderson, Daniel Hubbell, Tami Szerlip and Hui Tian were present.

Staff was represented by Kirsten Taylor, Assistant City Manager, Scott Greenberg, Development Services Group Director, Alison Van Gorp, Administrative Services Manager and Ombudsman, Shana Restall, Principal Planner, Travis Saunders, Senior Planner and Karen Reed of Karen Reed Consulting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Hubble moved approval of the January 6 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Szerlip and passed unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMENTS:

Additional comments received since the packet was produced were handed out in hard copy to the Commission, in addition to those provided in the packet.

COUCNIL PLANNING SESSION:

Scott Greenberg provided a report on the presentation and discussion at the Council Planning Session.

Discussion:

- Commissioner Skone thanked Commissioner Hubbell for the role he played as spokesperson for the Commission during the Q&A.
- Commissioner Hubbell recapped some of the questions posed by Council on the Joint Commission schedule, building height and massing, density and growth targets, etc. He also discussed some of the answers he gave, including how the Joint Commission is differentiating policy decisions and code decisions.
- Commissioners that attended the planning session (Hubbell, Skone and Goodman) felt there was general support from the Council for the direction the Joint Commission is taking.

Commissioner Tian arrived at 6:17.

SCHEDULE:

Scott Greenberg reviewed two options for schedule and work flow for the remaining Joint Commission meetings.

Direction:

- Proceed with schedule option 1
- Developer panel: March 2
- March 9 Hearing prep: Feb 24 (remove from March 2 and delegate finalization of the materials to the architectural and communications subcommittees).
- Keep Meeting 13 (April 6) open for any emerging topics/issues.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Karen Reed provided an overview of the Summary of Public Comments she prepared.

Discussion

- Commissioners discussed how the input received should be utilized in their decision making process.
- One commissioner suggested that the Commission circle back to review these comments again further into the process to keep the comments in mind as decisions are made.
- Another commissioner suggested the public comments must be balanced by the consultant analyses and other data available to the Commission.
- The commissioners will have to evaluate tradeoffs in their decisions and that should be communicated back out to the public. The decisions will be based upon their informed, professional judgement.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Scott Greenberg updated the Commission on applicable rules. Conflict of interest is not applicable in this situation since the Joint Commission is a recommending body and is not taking any quasi-judicial actions. Commissioner Skone disclosed that she owns a business on a small lot in Town Center (Auto Spa).

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN POLICIES:

Scott Greenberg provided an overview of the draft Comprehensive Plan policies, noting that this is the Town Center component of the larger Comprehensive Plan. Commissioners provided detailed feedback on Goals 4 through 6 and 8, directing staff to make a number of revisions.

OTHER DISCUSSION:

The Commission directed staff to add information to the website to address issues raised in public comments, such as number of school children residing in Town Center, information on infrastructure capacity and street level of service.

NEXT MEETING:

The next special Joint Commission meeting is scheduled for FEBRUARY 3, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice Chair Weinman adjourned the Joint Commission meeting at 9:17 PM.