



PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 20, 2014

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Friedman called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM in the Council Chambers at 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

ROLL CALL:

Chair Jon Friedman and Commissioners Steve Marshall, Craig Olson, Bryan Cairns, David McCann, Suzanne Skone, and Richard Weinman were present. City staff was represented by Lindsay Brown, Planner, Scott Greenberg, Development Services Director, and George Steirer, Principal Planner.

APPEARANCES:

No one from the public requested to address the commission.

MINUTES:

Vice Chair Weinman moved to approve the minutes from the August 6, 2014 meeting. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously approved the minutes.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

Agenda Item #1 – 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update

Lindsay Brown, Planner, provided a brief staff presentation on proposed policy changes to the Land Use Element, and the impacts of extending the housing and employment growth target horizon to 2035.

The Planning Commission reviewed the working draft and provided feedback to be incorporated. The Planning Commission agreed to move the draft forward to the formal draft and public hearing, with the following changes to be incorporated:

1. Insert the following language to Land Use Policy 6.3: *...with recognition of regional growth targets by maintaining...*
2. Move the existing planning horizon from 2031 to 2035, to reflect the requirement in the Growth Management Act.
3. Add a policy discouraging higher or additional housing targets in future planning periods.

The Commission also directed Planning staff to email them the Town Center Visioning Subcommittee's list of priorities, and Commissioner's McCann's written comments. Planning staff will also informally survey buildings in the Town Center, to try and obtain data on car ownership and occupancy rates in condos and apartment, per Commissioner Skone's request.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Staff discussed the Public Participation Plan prepared for the 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update, and the potential for additional outreach to the public in the near future. Also, staff provided an update on future Planning Commission meeting scheduling including upcoming zoning code text amendments. Additionally, George Steirer took a photo of all the Commissioners, which will be used to update the Planning Commission webpage.

PLANNED ABSENCES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

Commissioners Cairns and Marshall will not be at the September 3rd meeting. Commissioner Skone will not be at the October 1st or 15th meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Commissioner Skone announced an upcoming event on September 12- Art Uncorked, which will take place in the Town Center near the sculpture park.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Planning Commission meeting will be September 3, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Planning Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lindsay Brown, Planner