
PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES



Wednesday, November 20, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The Planning Commission was called to order by Chair Goodman at 6:09 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers at 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Chair Tiffin Goodman, Vice Chair Craig Reynolds, Commissioners, Carolyn Boatsman, Daniel Hubbell, and Ted Weinberg were present. Commissioners Jennifer Mechem and Lucia Pirzio-Biroli was absent.

STAFF PRESENT

Evan Maxim, CPD Director, Andrea Larson, Senior Administrative Assistant, Mona Davis, Planning Manager and Robin Proebsting, Senior Planner

MINUTES

It was moved by Boatsman, seconded by Hubble to:
Approve the October 16, 2019 minutes as amended.
Passed 5-0

It was moved by Hubble, seconded by Boatsman to:
Approve the October 30, 2019 minutes as amended.
Passed 4-0-1

APPEARANCES

Ira Appleman. He stated that he believes that the Planning Commission is at a low point and that the Planning Commission authority has been taken away due to the Council's lack of trust in the Planning Commission. He stated that he does not believe that we need a Planning Commission. He talked about how the community is watching and that he hopes the Commission takes this very seriously.

Amy Lavin, 7835 SE 22nd PI, CEO SJCC. She voiced the appreciation in the Planning Commission for working with organizations and the community to find solutions.

Eric Thuau, head of the FASPS. He echoed what Amy Lavin said spoke to his appreciation of the Commission.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Agenda Item #1: Community Facility Regulations

Evan Maxim, CPD Director, gave a presentation on the Community Facility Regulations.

The Commission requested additional information on:

- Cost of an application and preparation of materials for an applicant
- How are underlying development standards address in current zoning? Is there an additional process that could be used to address this?
- Is there a way to have a design code that is enforceable on itself?
- Explore limits on intensity

The Commission discussed the different options presented.

The Commission discussed the problem statement.

The Commission took a break until 7:51pm.

The Commission continued to discuss the problem statement.

The Commission would like to make sure that the problem statement includes these concerns:

- Regulations do not address impacts to adjacent neighborhoods and need to be more predictable
- There needs to be a meaningful public process
- Replace “grow” with “thoughtfully evolve”
- Current methods for enforcement may be inadequate
- The intensity in use
- Community input on the process
- Number of things that can result in impacts on neighborhoods including intensity, light, traffic

The Commission took a break until 8:25pm

Agenda Item #2: Wireless Communication Facility / Small Cell Code Amendment

Robin Proebsting, Senior Planner, gave a presentation introducing the Wireless Communication Facility / Small Cell code amendment.

The Commission discussed the scope of the proposed code amendment. They discussed noise, design and location of small cells.

Gregory Bush, Wireless Policy Group on behalf of AT&T answered questions regarding small cells.

The Commission indicated that they would like to proceed with the scope to include:

- Add definitions of new terms
- Review existing standards for potential conflicts with FCC rules
- Review interim design standards
- Modify design standards
- And potentially explore location preference criteria

OTHER BUSINESS

Evan Maxim, CPD Director, updated the Commission on the November 19, 2019 City Council meeting regarding the code amendment to bring the City into compliance regarding Parcel 12 and the Tully’s site.

PLANNED ABSENCES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Commissioner Hubble will be absent on December 4.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The next Planning Commission meeting is on December 4, 2019 at 6:00PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 pm.