



PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES JUNE 6, 2018

CALL TO ORDER:

The Planning Commission was called to order by Chair Daniel Hubbell at 6:23 PM in the Council Chambers at 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

ROLL CALL:

Chair Daniel Hubbell, Vice Chair Tiffin Goodman, Commissioners Ted Weinberg, Bryan Cairns, Carolyn Boatsman and Jennifer Mechem were present. Lucia Pirzio-Biroli arrived at 8:33pm. Commissioner Mechem left at 10:00pm

City staff was represented by Evan Maxim, Interim Director, Nicole Gaudette, Senior Planner, Robin Probesting, Senior Planner, Kelsey Salvo, Administrative Assistant, Bio Park, Assistant City Attorney.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Agenda Item #1: Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Election of Planning Commission Chair and Vice-Chair, Pro Tem for the next 2 meetings
Commissioner Cairns nominated Commissioner Hubbell for Chair. The vote passed 6-0
Commissioner Cairns nominated Commissioner Goodman for Vice chair. The vote passed 6-0

Agenda Item #2: Planning Commission Bylaws

Review and adopted amendments to the Planning Commission Bylaws.
Commissioner Goodman motioned, Commissioner Boatsman seconded.
Commissioner Weinstein motioned to strike out the second quasi-judicial matters (paragraph 1),
Commissioner Boatsman seconded the motion.
Commissioner Hubbell motioned to strike 5.2.2
Motion to strike 5.2.2 approved and the bylaws passed 6-0

APPEARANCES:

Ira Appelman at 9039 Shorewood Dr, expressed opposition to agenda item 4 (Arts & Cultural). Concerned with putting arts in the Land Use Element because of the negative public comments when MICA was potentially going to be at Mercerdale park.

Amy Lavin at 7835 Southeast 22nd PL, supports of comprehensive plan amendment 3 (SJCC, FASPS, Herzl-Ner Tamid amendment). The FASPS/JCC school help bring in valuable diversity and offers a communal gardening space.

Eric Thau at 18945 Northeast 20th Court is the head of FASPS school and is for the comprehensive plan amendment. Staff shop on the island and support local business. Try to mitigate traffic as best they can if the plan moves forward.

Susan Griesse at 4717 89th Ave SE, supports agenda item 3 (SJCC, FASPS, Herzl-Ner Tamid amendment). They chose to live on the island because of FASPS. Promotes multi-cultural diversity. Brings in monetary funds from off island.

David Fain at 4895 Forest Ave SE, moved here because of the community and supports agenda item 3 (SJCC, FASPS, Herzl-Ner Tamid amendment). He supports trying to find a reasonable plan that works for the island.

John O'Rourke at 4043 97th Ave SE. Wants the discussion to happen with the citizens and the City about the changes. Wants to make sure the dialogue happens, and we don't rush into it. Worries about the traffic this

may cause, on the island and to get off the island, and wonders if there should be a traffic impact study done.

Joel Espelien at 9920 se 40th ST. Has 3 students, they go to FASPS, moved to the island because of the school. Thinks the property is suboptimal. Likes the process, but wants the commission to hear all the comments and that FASPS is important

Meg Lippert at 4052 94st Ave SE. Is against agenda item 4 (Arts & Culture Plan). Could be at odds with other parts of the plan. It has unwieldy goals, seeks to provide guidance, but the goals are not land use, should be cultural. The language is vague and may allow art structures in parks.

Paul Shoemaker at 4240 Forest Ave SE. Supports putting the Arts in the Comprehensive Plan.

Suzanne Zahr at 8110 SE 70th ST. In support of agenda items 3 and 4. Has children at FASPS. Great program for children to be in, and agenda item 3 ties into to promoting the arts (agenda item 4).

Sabina Chang at 9726 SE 40th ST. They live very close to the school location. They utilize the camps at the SJCC, FASPS, and Herzl-Ner Tamid, wants dialogue for the residents to have inputs into the plan. Clarified realizes they are only talking about comprehensive plan process, wants the public to have time to understand this as well as be able to give input.

Matthew Goldbach at 9980 SE 40th ST. In support the JCC, but wants residents to have input for the comprehensive plan before the construction happens. Would like more time to do outreach and potentially make a presentation to the commission.

Cheryl D'Ambrosio at 3712 EMW. Stated they live very close to the FASPS and JCC property. Wants more outreach. Is against the rezoning. Wants the commission to think through it before making the master plan to do this. Make sure to take in the comments of the residents who live close to the property.

Genevieve Morton at 7654 79th Ave SE. In support of the arts on the island, but the infrastructure doesn't help support it. Wants a place where children and others can preform and watch the arts, wants a dedicated space.

Winky Lai at 3716 EMW. Wants transparency in the process and wants more outreach to the neighbors.

Julie Garwood at 9772 SE 41st ST. Would like more outreach. Wants the public to give input and wants more time for residents to discuss.

Liz Friedman at 2035 80th Ave se. In support of the comprehensive plan amendments. Chair for the board for the SJCC. Wants us to promote the services that help benefit the community. Keep up the open dialogue.

Jackie Dunbar at 7116 82nd Ave SE. 3 – wants the commission and arts to have a discussion with citizens, as well as how are we creating a space for the arts with the deficit the city is in.

Bryce Taylor at 5204 WMW. In support 3 and 4. Member of the JCC for years with his family. Happy with all the information given and how the plan will benefit the community and the plans that have been shown. Great success for all. Need to maintain arts on the island.

Sharon Perez at 3404 79th Ave SE. 4 – Happy we have an Arts Council and lots of arts activities. Adds value to the community and we need to have it and supported adding it to the comprehensive plan.

Manuel Coally, YTNW director. Arts are a huge benefit to the community, and should be part of the plan, they generate lots of money on the island, if given a place could generate more.

Dan Thompson at 7265 NMW. Happy the Commission rejected the comprehensive plan to up zone the Town Center. Need to be more transparent. Would also like the City to revisit the design regulations for the Town Center. Tired of design regulations without development regulations. For MICA for the arts. Comprehensive

plan to move site specific rezone, doesn't want this is residential zones. Opposed to the FASPS / SJCC / Herzl-Ner Tamid Comprehensive Plan amendment.

John Hall at 9970 SE 40th ST. Residents need more time to review the FASPS / SJCC / Herzl-Ner Tamid Comprehensive Plan amendment and understand what is being proposed.

Donna Tomlinson at 9729 se 40th ST. Values these organizations, upset they were not informed. The community is not designed for high volumes of people to come onto the island. Make sure this is designed with everyone in mind (residents and special interest groups).

Don Robinson at 9715 SE 40th ST. Residents do not understand and have not had enough time. What are the consequences across the community? Could impact the community building and the residents.

The Commission recessed at 7:51PM
The Commission reconvened at 8:01PM

REGULAR BUSINESS:

Agenda Item #3: CPA17-002 – SJCC / FASPS / Herzl-Ner Tamid

Nicole Gaudette, Senior Planner provided a staff presentation on the purposed Comprehensive Plan and code amendments.

Second meeting to review proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Code.

Commissioner Boatsman indicated that the City reword the first policy in Land Use 8 to state “the community should accommodate community facilities”.

The Commission proposed that the City come up with an encompassing term for social and cultural wellbeing and traffic mitigation in the policy. The Commission indicated that it should include pedestrian and non-vehicular elements.

Commission asked the City to define the word community.

Commission wanted to make sure that the community facilities co location make sense on each property, work force housing supports the primary uses in the zone. The Commission wanted to prevent the policy to allow multifamily housing, and to make sure that the community gets to respond and have input for these onsite facilities. The Commission indicated there should be a policy to require applicants to have a master plan for the community facility.

The commission proposed that the City add a policy that included community design dialogue element. Commissioner Cairns proposed to add “existing” community facilities in the policy.

Agenda Item #4: CPA18-001 – Arts & Culture Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Evan Maxim, Interim Director of Development Services, provided a brief staff presentation on the Arts and Culture Comprehensive Plan amendment.

Second meeting to review and discuss proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments prepared by the Arts Council, supporting the cultural arts.

Vice-Chair Goodman requested that staff cleanup the language in these policies to make it easier to evaluate.

Commissioner Pirzio-Biroli suggested including a creative district and accountability strategy – such as replacing lost art spaces.

Chair Hubbell asked that the Arts Council/City define public and privately-owned art.

Commissioner Pirzio-Biroli indicated that the Mercer Island's schools arts program and marching band should be added to 23.1 by providing educational arts with the FAAC through school and the Parks and Recreation.

Staff will prepare amendments for Planning Commission following the August 29th public hearing.

The Commission recessed at 9:51PM

The Commission reconvened at 10:00PM

Agenda Item #5: ZTR18-001 – Procedural Code Amendment

Nicole Gaudette, Senior Planner provided a staff presentation on the Procedural Code Amendment.

Review and deliberation followed by recommendation to City Council on proposed Procedural Code amendments.

Commissioner Boatsman would like tree removal permits and ROW permits to be the new type 2, requiring public notification.

Vice-Chair Goodman motioned to approve the proposed amendments, including the correction of a typographical error on page 43. Commissioner Weinberg seconded the motion.

Commissioner Boatsman made a motion to include ROW use permits and Tree permits in the type 2 process. Commissioner Weinberg seconded the motion. The motion failed 2-4-0.

The code amendment is approved 6-0-0.

Agenda Item #6: CPA18-001 – Critical Areas Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Robin Proebsting, Senior Planner, provided a staff presentation on the Critical Areas Comprehensive Plan amendment.

Introduction and discussion of docketed Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 7, a place holder for possible critical areas goals and policies.

The Planning Commission discusses possible amendments.

Commissioner Pirzio-Biroli would like the City to have a goal in the comprehensive plan that encompasses sustainability and preserving future generations to meet their own needs.

Commissioner Boatsman asks that the City add language about protecting species of local concern, such as bald eagles.

OTHER BUSINESS:

No other business.

PLANNED ABSENCES

Chair Dan Hubbell will be absent June 20, 2018.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting will be June 20, 2018 at 6:00PM at Mercer Island City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Daniel Hubbell adjourned the meeting at 11:28PM