



PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 5, 2014

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Friedman called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM in the Council Chambers at 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

ROLL CALL:

Chair Jon Friedman, Vice Chair Richard Weinman, Commissioners Bryan Cairns, Steve Marshall, David McCann, Suzanne Skone, and Craig Olson were present. City staff was represented by, George Steirer, Principal Planner. Christina Schuck, Assistant City Attorney, Will Piro, Planning Technician.

APPEARANCES:

Klaus Jennerson, of 9325 SE 57th St, addressed the Planning Commission regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Olson moved to approve the minutes from October 15, 2014. Chair Richard Weinman seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

Agenda Item #1 – ZTR14-002 Amend wireless code and related definitions

Kristen Larson of Bush Law Firm PLLC gave a presentation on small cell technology. Discussion included an examination of improving wireless communication facilities, including small cell technology. The proposed communications improvements include allowing small cell facilities in residential zones, altering the permitting process for modification of existing facilities, and expanding the area in which wireless facilities are permitted. Additional comments and clarification was provided by Carol Tagayun (AT&T External Affairs Director for WA).

Agenda Item #2 – 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update: Introduction; Capital Facilities Element; Utilities Element

Commission reviewed changes to the text and figures of the Draft Introduction, Capital Facilities Element, and Utilities Element of the 2015 Comprehensive Plan. Questions were answered by George Steirer. A majority of the commission requested the following changes:

Exhibit #1 – Introduction

1. In the Background section, on page 2, change the 3rd paragraph to read, "Plan update *built* upon the efforts begun in the previous decade."
2. In the Background section, on page 2, change the sentence to read, "Between 2004 and 2014, eight mixed use projects were constructed in the Town Center consisting of approximately xxxx housing units." Round off the number of units constructed in the time period.

3. For Community Values, on page 5, add the following value statement on “Fiscal Responsibility”: *Mercer Islanders expect fiscal responsibility from its municipal services in light of limited resources and heightened competition for tax revenues.*
4. For Housing, on page 8, remove the word “diversity”.
5. For Population, on page 8, change population figure to include current population and expected growth by 2030 to provide context.
6. For Citizen Participation & the Comp Plan, on page 10, add a sentence to bridge the timeline between “Adoption of the remaining four planning elements occurred in October, 1994...” and “City continues to be committed...”

EXHIBIT #2 – Utilities

1. For Water Utility, on page 3, add a sentence discussing the 2014 water quality issue.
2. Policies - Water Issues, on page 5, Policy 2.7, staff is to verify if the policy can be removed.
3. Policies - Water Issues, on page 5, Policy 2.8, remove the last sentence which starts with “The goal of the City’s efforts shall be a significant and lasting reduction in Mercer Island’s...”
4. Policies – Water Issues, page 5, Policy 2.9, remove the entire policy, as it appears outdated.
5. For Sewer Utilities, on page 7, staff will to research if a more recent Sewer Lakeline Replacement study exists than 2002, and if the City will be replacing additional lines prior to 2020. Planning staff will to check with the Maintenance Department and update the draft language based on the conversation.
6. For Stormwater, first paragraph under Future Needs, on page 10, planning staff will confirm if there is more recent language regarding compliance with stormwater runoff, and update if necessary.
7. For Electricity, on page 16, remove paragraphs 2 and 4.
8. For Electricity, Future Needs, on page 16, remove the sentence that starts with “In 2004, the electricity consumption was 107,210,400/KWH...”
9. For Electricity, Future Needs, on page 16, remove sentence, “staff will check to verify the capacity of the PSE system is adequate to handle growth”, and change accordingly
10. For Electricity, Future Needs, on page 16, staff is to research the status of the Memorandum of Agreement with PSE.
11. For Natural Gas, Future Needs, on page 20, staff is to research if the natural gas information is readily available.
12. For Telecommunications, on page 22, change the sentence in paragraph 5 to read, “Mercer Island has seen its wireless communications service providers grow from two in 1995 to an excess of four providers in 2015.”

13. For Telecommunications, page 23, remove 1st and 2nd paragraph. Keep Introduction of paragraph on pg. 22 through to “cell sites.” Starting on page 23.
14. For Telecommunications, Pg. 23, update number of customers Comcast is serving on Mercer Island if available.

EXHIBIT 3 – Capital Facilities

1. For Capital Facilities Financing, on page 11, remove the first paragraph, which starts with “In light of recent...”.
2. For Capital Facilities Financing, Table 2 on page 9, add a row place holder, “Parking Facilities” with “TBA” placed in the remaining of cells of the row.
3. For Capital Facilities Financing, on page 11, revise the sentence in the 2nd paragraph, to read “Substantial investments in transportation facilities, including parking, sewage collection and...”
4. For Capital Facilities Financing, on page 21, remove first section VII “Summary and Conclusion.”

STAFF COMMENTS:

Staff provided an update regarding, the public hearing on November 19th, and the Shoreline Master Program.

PLANNED ABSENCES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

Chair Friedman and Commissioner Steve Marshall will be absent for November 19th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

There were no announcements.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for November 19th, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Planning Commission meeting was adjourned at 10:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Will Piro, Planning Technician.