



PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 1, 2014

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Friedman called the meeting to order at 7:03 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, and Craig Olson were present. City staff was represented by Scott Greenberg, Development Services Director, George Steirer, Principal Planner, and Patrick Yamashita, City Engineer. Also representing the City were John Davies and Michael Lapham of KPG, for the Transportation Element.

APPEARANCES:

No one from the public requested to address the commission.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Weinman moved to approve the minutes from September 17, 2014. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

Agenda Item #1 – 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update (Transportation Element)

Michael Lapham presented on proposed Transportation Element changes, including the changes provided since the last Planning Commission meeting. Questions were answered by Patrick Yamashita, George Steirer, and Scott Greenberg. A majority of the commission requested the following:

1. For policy 2.6, change "centers" to "the Town Center".
2. For policy 1.1, add "travel" after "promotion of non-motorized".
3. Change terms such as "establish". For example, see policy 7.6.
4. Provide a version of the Transportation Element for the open house with call out boxes that includes the source of the requirement (i.e. CWPP, GMA, etc) for any newly proposed policies. For example, 5.6 on page 8 regarding climate change.
5. Provide a copy of the Growth Management Act requirements regarding the transportation element.
6. Add the following new language in "Upcoming Changes" in page 2 at the end of the first paragraph: "The current park and ride at North Mercer Way is frequently at or near capacity, and parking demand will increase when the center HOV lane is closed and with the addition of Light Rail. The City should address the overall parking for Mercer Island citizens, the total funding costs, and work with other agencies."
7. Add language to the memorandum to City Council requesting resources to look at parking for the future light rail.

8. Recognize that by 2035 a lot of transportation innovation may occur, and the city needs to be adaptable.
9. On page 3, 2nd paragraph under Land Use Assumptions, change 2014 to 2015 in the sentence that currently reads “Within the 2014 to 2035 planning period”, to be consistent with the planning period of this update.
10. On page 32, under Future Travel Demand, add the following underlined language to the beginning of the third paragraph: “For areas outside of the Town Center, traffic growth is expected to be low with approximately....”
11. On page 32, at the end of the 2nd paragraph under Baseline Traffic Operations, change the Level of Service for Island Crest Way and SE 68th to be consistent with Figure 6.
12. For Figure 6 add “Baseline” or “Without Improvements” into the title.
13. Change policy 4.4 to read: “Investigate opportunities self-supporting for constructing and financing park and ride lots for Mercer Island residents only.”
14. Add the following underlined language to the end of policy 12.1: “Maximize the safety of bicycle safety, regarding road shoulder, and are to be distinguished from designated bicycle paths.”

Shauna Tolfred (spelling not provided), who “owns property in the town center” asked a question about previous City Council direction. Staff will contact her regarding the question.

Agenda Item #2 – 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update (Land Use Element)

George Steirer provided a brief presentation on the two additional sustainability policies that were proposed to be added.

The commission unanimously approved the two policies for the draft to be presented at the public hearing.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Staff provided an update regarding the public open house on October 23rd, the public hearing on November 19th, and the Shoreline Master Program.

PLANNED ABSENCES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

Richard Weinman will be absent for October 15th. Chair Freidman and Commissioner Marshall may be absent on November 19th, but will let staff know shortly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Chair Freidman discussed the desire to have a council liaison for non-judicial actions.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Planning Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted by George Steirer, Principal Planner.