



MINUTES (Approved as Amended on 9-2-20)

TIME: Wednesday, August 19, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT (virtually): Anna Petersen (Chair), Ryan Givens, David Horne, Christopher Karnes, Brett Santhuff, Andrew Strobel, Alyssa Torrez

ABSENT: Jeff McInnis (Vice-Chair), Carolyn Edmonds

A. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM CALL

Chair Petersen called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. A quorum was declared.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

The agenda for the meeting was approved. The minutes for the July 1, 2020, meeting were approved as submitted.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were not accepted at the meeting.

Lihuang Wung, Planning Services Division, reported to the Commission that four (4) comments had been submitted via email, summarized as follows:

- 1) E-mail from Cathy Carruthers, Climate XChange, received on August 13, 2020 – She forwarded a report titled “Building Back Better – Investing in a Resilient Recovery for Washington State” and commented that the document may be helpful in deciding how to rebuild and provide jobs and income after COVID-19 if federal money becomes available.
- 2) E-mail from Mike Fleming, received on August 17, 2020 – He commented that the View Sensitive District Overlay proposal of the 2020 Annual Amendment package is a long-awaited refinement to the original View Sensitive District Overlay. He forwarded four excerpted pages from the City’s 1998 View Study (pre VSD data), and indicated the community urges the Commission to approve passing this Annual Amendment proposal onto the City Council for their consideration.
- 3) E-mail from Richard and Karen Magoon, received on August 18, 2020 – This comment is identical to the e-mail from Mike Fleming.
- 4) E-mail from Eda Roosna, received on August 18, 2020 – This comment is identical to the e-mail from Mike Fleming.

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2020 Annual Amendment

Steve Atkinson, Planning Services Division, began by indicating that COVID-19 had delayed the progress of the 2020 Annual Amendment process, which would now be expected to complete by the end of the year. Mr. Atkinson reviewed the amendment process and presented a proposed schedule for the next steps. He went on to provide an overview and status of each of the four (4) applications in the Amendment package.

Lihuang Wung, Planning Services Division, put forward a suggestion to consolidate the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Amendments into the Minor Plan and Code Amendments, reducing the number of applications in the 2020 Annual Amendment package to three (3). He stated that the scope of work for the TMP Amendments has now been reduced to updating transportation related projects, while other aspects included in the original scope of work have been deferred to a major effort of TMP Update scheduled for 2021-2022. He suggested that consolidating the TMP Amendments into the Minor Amendments would also help streamline the 2020 Amendment process moving forward. The Commission concurred.

2. Transit-Oriented Development Advisory Group (TODAG)

Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager, provided an overview of Progress Report No. 1 released by the Transit-Oriented Development Advisory Group (TODAG) in June 2020. He explained the context for the establishment of the group and their role. The Commission had two (2) representatives, Commissioner Givens and Commissioner Karnes, serving on the TODAG.

Since the group convened, they had focused on the Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE) project. The report summarized their progress to date and recommendations concerning the project. Moving forward, the TODAG would discuss and prioritize their work plan for 2020-2021, part of which was reviewing the TDLE's East Tacoma Station area, the Pierce Transit's Pacific Avenue Bus Rapid (BRT) project and the City's Puyallup Avenue design project.

In addition to those mentioned in the presentation, Commissioner Karnes provided further reasons for the "Close-to-Sounder" option being the preferred alternative for the Tacoma Dome Station area. This option would reduce the need for vertical conveyance, eliminate the need for a mezzanine, and create opportunities for non-transit uses.

Commissioner Givens appreciated the fact that the TODAG had a professional facilitator to help the group start up their process in 2019. He also solicited feedback from the Commissioners on the TODAG's work plan. Mr. Boudet suggested that "TODAG report back" is always part of the Communication Items on the Commission's agenda and Commissioners Karnes and Givens can continue to report back and receive feedback.

3. Planning Commission Annual Report 2019-2020 and Work Program 2020-2022

Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager, indicated that the annual report and work program from the Planning Commission was a requirement in the Tacoma Municipal Code. Once the Commission finished reviewing and approved both, they would be forwarded to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability (IPS) Committee for concurrence before going to the City Council for review and feedback.

Some highlighted accomplishments by the Commission consisted of Urban Design Studio, Residential Infill Pilot Program 2.0, At Home In Tacoma – AHAS Planning Actions 2020-2021, 2020 Annual Amendment, Capital Facilities Program 2021-2026, Consolidated Plan 2020-2024.

Moving forward, the Work Program 2020-2022, due to budget impacts and shifting priorities, would likely be challenging and require more flexibility. This portion of the presentation outlined major work items and their expected completion timeframe.

Chair Petersen asked about the status of the Manitou Annexation project. Mr. Brian responded that the Commission had completed their work on the project by recommending the zoning designation for the area to be effective after its annexation. The City was in the negotiation process with the County, to potentially complete the annexation in 2021.

Mr. Boudet also thanked the Commission for their commitment and hard work despite the limited resources and meeting time.

Commissioner Strobel made a motion to forward the Planning Commission Annual Report 2019-2020 and Work Program 2020-2022 to the City Council. Commissioner Karnes seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

E. TOPICS OF THE UPCOMING MEETING (subject to change)

- 1) 2020 Annual Amendment (releasing package for public review)
- 2) At Home In Tacoma – AHAS Planning Actions
- 3) Urban Design Studio

F. COMMUNICATION ITEMS

- 1) Mr. Atkinson provided the following status reports of the Tideflats Interim Regulations and the Tideflats Subarea Plan:
 - The City Council's public hearing for the proposed 6-month extension of the interim regulations was tentatively scheduled for September 29, 2020. There was ongoing discussion with the Council and the Tideflats Steering Committee about Non-Interim Regulations. The Commission would be updated once more details became available.
 - The Tideflats Subarea Plan had a new contract in place. Staff was working with the consultants on deliverables for the following months. Also included in the meeting packet was a Public Engagement Plan that had been approved by the Steering Committee. With COVID-19, the format of public engagement would continuously be discussed and evaluated. [Commissioner Givens requested that staff provide some additional information at a later date with regard to how the City plans for properties located within the Puyallup Reservation.](#)
- 2) Mr. Wung provided the following update:
 - There were two (2) positions on the Commission, District 1 and Development Community, for which the terms expired in June 2020. The IPS Committee planned to conduct interviews for the positions tentatively on October 28, 2020. The City Council's appointment of new Commissioner(s) or reappointment of current Commissioner(s) was expected to occur in mid-November.
- 3) Additionally, Mr. Boudet informed the Commission of the following:
 - Staff was scheduled to present at the IPS Committee meeting on August 26, 2020, about the History of Mixed-Use Centers (MUCs) and Master Planning. This could potentially lead to some form of subarea planning for the MUCs.
 - The Residential Infill Pilot Program 2.0 was scheduled to go through the City Council's review process starting on October 6, 2020. The Commission would be welcome to attend the meeting and/or join staff's presentation.
 - The At Home In Tacoma – AHAS Planning Actions would be on the City Council Study Session on September 15, 2020.

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

**These minutes are not a direct transcription of the meeting, but rather a brief capture. For full-length audio recording of the meeting, please visit:*

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