



REGULAR SESSION
JUNE 27, 2023
DRAFT MINUTES

For access to supporting documents reviewed by the Planning Commission, visit the Snohomish County Planning Commission webpage at <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/164>

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commissioner Robert Larsen, Planning Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Of the ten (10) currently appointed commissioners, ten (10) were in attendance (a quorum being six (6) members and a majority being six (6) members:

Commissioners Present	Commissioners Absent
Rosanna Brown	
Kimberly Busteed	
Tom Campbell	
Christine Eck	
Robert Larsen	
Mark James	
Ray Sheldon	
Angie Sievers	
Merle Ash	
Neil Pedersen	

Mike McCrary, Planning and Development Services Director served as the Planning Commission Secretary for this meeting.

B. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

No report was given.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of [May 23, 2023](#): were unanimously approved.

E. STATUS OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND PAST RECOMMENDATIONS



- [Upcoming Planning Commission Meeting Topics](#)
- [County Council Actions on Planning Commission Recommendations](#)

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Annual Tree Canopy Monitoring Report: Informational Briefing

Terri Strandberg, Principal Planner, Terri.Strandberg@snoco.org

PDS Staff provided an overview of tree canopy monitoring and regulations and presented findings of the 2022 Tree Canopy Monitoring Report. Following the overview, the commissioners had some questions regarding how much more we are surpassing the code base standards and why, how the significant tree incentive works, and if there is any discussion about increasing goals since the code standard is being surpassed.

For further information, please review the following:

- [2022 Tree Canopy Monitoring Report dated January 31, 2023](#)

2. Comprehensive Plan Update: Urban Tree Canopy Policies: Briefing

Terri Strandberg, Principal Planner, Terri.Strandberg@snoco.org

The Planning Commission was briefed on proposed amendments to the Natural Environment Element of the 2024 Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan. The newly proposed Urban Tree Canopy Subelement would reside within the Natural Environment Element. The Urban Tree Canopy Subelement was drafted in response to a referral from the County Council via Motion No. 22-096 to the Department of Planning and Development Services (PDS) and Planning Commission for consideration and recommendation during the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update. The proposed goal, objectives, and policies have been amended from the original version transmitted with Motion No. 22-096 to reflect input from Snohomish County staff and public comment. While the Urban Tree Canopy Subelement is not required, it is supported and shaped by state law and regulations and local regulations and policies that address the growing topic of urban tree canopy. Chapter 76.15 RCW, which concerns urban forest management, and the Evergreen Communities program is a Washington law that provides a framework for many of the Urban Tree Canopy policies.

Following the briefing there was some discussion and questions regarding the amendments. Topics included canopy supplement 9.C.4 and how to enforce trees that extend over property lines, what qualifies as the Urban area, and the 38%, how do we maintain and increase the canopy, the top objectives of the County preserving tree canopy, and if other incorporated areas had their own tree policies.



For further information, please review the following:

- [Briefing Staff Report dated June 12, 2023](#)
- [Attachment A – Policy Table](#)
- [Attachment B – Introduction](#)

3. Comprehensive Plan Update: Urban Core Subarea Plan Element: Briefing

Matthew Siddons, Senior Planner, Matthew.Siddons@snoco.org

The Planning Commission held a briefing on the proposed Urban Core Subarea element. This is a new element that is being added to the Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan as part of the 2024 update. The Urban Core Subarea element provides detailed policies to the southwest urban unincorporated area of the County that will be serviced by future light rail transit. Light rail is being constructed by Sound Transit as part of the Everett Link extension. The Urban Core Subarea element is composed of subelements including land use, transportation, housing, and parks, recreation, and open space. The proposed policies reflect input received from neighboring jurisdictions, service providers, and the public.

Following the briefing on the proposed new element, commissioners had some discussions and questions. Topics included how is the County facilitating the adoption through interlocal agreements, how does the County see users in the buildout of transportation, and does the County have data on economic development and people working from home.

For further information, please review the following:

- [Briefing Staff Report dated May 10, 2023](#)
- [Attachment A – Narrative](#)
- [Attachment B – Policy Table](#)

H. Roundtable Topics (time permitting)

Commissioners had a “round robin” style discussion about topics that could be of interest. Topics included the Marysville Strawberry Festival, Cities partnering together to deal with common issues, global scale of issues, meetings being hosted in person, and the carbon tax.

I. ADJOURN

A **Motion** to adjourn was made by Commissioner Eck and seconded by Commissioner Pedersen

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.



Snohomish County
Planning Commission
Planning and Development Services

PLANNING COMMISSION'S RANGE OF POSSIBLE ACTIONS:

At the conclusion of its public hearing, the County Planning Commission will consider transmitting a formal recommendation to County Council concerning adoption of the proposal. The Commission may make a recommendation to adopt or to not adopt the proposal. The Commission's recommendation may also propose amendments to the proposal. The Planning Commission is an advisory body and the final decision rests with the County Council.

PARTY OF RECORD / PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

You may become a party of record for any specific topic that comes before the Planning Commission by submitting a written request or testimony to Taylor Twiford, Planning Commission Clerk, PDS, M/S 604, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett, WA 98201 or email at Taylor.Twiford@snoco.org.

WHERE TO GET COPIES OF DOCUMENTS AND WEBSITE ACCESS:

Please check www.snohomishcountywa.gov for additional information or the Snohomish County Department of Planning and Developmental Services, Reception Desk, 2nd Floor, County Administration Building East, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett, WA 98201 or email at Taylor.Twiford@snoco.org.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT NOTICE:

Snohomish County facilities are accessible. The county strives to provide access and services to all members of the public. Sign language interpreters and communication materials in alternate form will be provided upon request of one calendar week. Contact Angela Anderson at 425-262-2206 Voice, or 425-388-3700 TDD.

Snohomish County Planning Commissioners:

<i>Merle Ash, District 1</i>	<i>Tom Campbell, District 4</i>
<i>Mark James, District 1</i>	<i>Neil Pedersen, District 4</i>
<i>Kimberly Busteded, District 2</i>	<i>Rosanna Brown, District 5</i>
<i>Raymond Sheldon, Jr., District 2</i>	<i>Vacant, District 5</i>
<i>Robert Larsen, District 3</i>	<i>Angie Sievers, Executive Appointee</i>
<i>Christine Eck, District 3</i>	

Commission Staff (from Planning and Development Services (PDS) Department):

<i>Mike McCrary, Commission Secretary</i>	<i>Taylor Twiford, Commission Clerk</i>
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