



Snohomish County

Planning Commission

Planning and Development Services

3000 Rockefeller Avenue, M/S #604, Everett, WA 98201

Clerk Email: Taylor.Twiford@snoco.org

REGULAR SESSION

JULY 25, 2023

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 eleven (11) currently appointed commissioners, eight (8) were in attendance (a quorum being six (6) members and a majority being six (6) members:

Commissioners Present

Kimberly Busted
Christine Eck
Robert Larsen
Mark James
Ray Sheldon
Angie Sievers
Neil Pedersen
Merle Ash @5:40 pm (on and off)

Commissioners Absent

Rosanna Brown
Tom Campbell
Karl Niemela

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

B. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

A new commissioner was appointed for District 5; Karl Niemela. Commissioner Niemela was unable to join tonight but will be joining the meeting in August.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of [June 25, 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

No new Council Action Report. The next meeting in August will cover the Tribal and Transportation Elements as well as the CIP briefing. Special note that September 12th is the target date for the Special September meeting, and it will be in person.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Comprehensive Plan Update: Housing Element: Briefing
Amber Piona, Senior Planner, Amber.Piona@snoco.org

The Planning Commission was briefed on proposed amendments to the Housing Element of the 2024 Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan. The proposed changes are intended to meet the requirements under the Growth Management Act and to provide consistency between the housing policies in PSRC's VISION 2050 regional plan and the recently adopted countywide planning policies. The proposed policy changes also reflect public input and recommendations from the best available science related to environmental protection and environmental hazards.

Following the presentation, commissioners had some comments regarding land supply and supply versus demand. They also had questions regarding the management of housing, the numbers lift in income and mortgage, the definition of affordable housing, and where funding would come from.

For further information, please review the following:

- [Staff Report dated June 30, 2023](#)
- [Attachment A – Housing Element Narrative](#)
- [Attachment B – Policy Table](#)
- [Presentation dated July 25, 2023](#)

2. Comprehensive Plan Update: Climate Change Element: Briefing
Eileen Canola, Senior Planner, Eileen.Canola@snoco.org

The Planning Commission was briefed on a proposed Climate Change and Resiliency Element as part of the 2024 Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan ("Plan"). The proposed element is modeled after early drafts of the Washington State Department of Commerce climate change guidance document. The intent of this element is to increase the county's climate resiliency, support state, regional, and local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide greater consistency between the County's Plan and the climate change policies in PSRC's VISION 2050 regional plan and the Snohomish County Countywide Planning Policies. The proposed policies build from the existing Climate Change and Sustainability framework from



the Natural Environment Element. The draft policies reflect input from the public, County departments, and recommendations from the best available climate science related to climate change projections.

Following the presentation commissioners had questions on where a copy of the previous comprehensive plan could be found, what percentage of the goals the County believe they actually can achieve, what goals was the County unable to do in 2015, and what “fluorinated” means.

For further information, please review the following:

- [Briefing staff report dated June 26, 2023](#)
- [Attachment A – Draft Policy Table](#)
- [Attachment B – Draft Narrative](#)
- [Presentation dated July 25, 2023](#)

3. Comprehensive Plan Update: Capital Facilities and Utilities Element: Briefing
Eileen Canola, Senior Planner, Eileen.Canola@snoco.org

The Planning Commission was briefed on the proposed Capital Facilities and Utilities Element (CUE) of the 2024 Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan. Due to the extent of changes, this is a repeal of the existing Capital Facilities Plan to be replaced by the CUE. The proposed changes are intended to provide greater consistency between the County’s plan and the public service policies in PSRC’s VISION 2050 regional plan and the public service and essential public facilities policies from the Snohomish County Countywide Planning Policies. The proposed policy changes also reflect input from the public, service providers, and County departments.

Following the presentation, commissioners questions and comments on the Health Department’s input now that they are part of the County, how much water are homes taking in, conservation plans, and district specific maps.

For further information, please review the following:

- [Briefing staff report dated June 28, 2023](#)
- [Attachment A – Draft Policy Table](#)
- [Attachment B – Draft Narrative](#)
- [Presentation dated July 25, 2023](#)

H. Roundtable Topics (time permitting)

Commissioners had a “round robin” style discussion about topics that could be of interest. There was some discussion on the magnitude of the goals and taking a balanced approach while trying to plan out to 2044 in a rapidly changing world.

I. ADJOURN

A **Motion** to adjourn was made by Commissioner James and seconded by Commissioner Ash

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.



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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:

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| <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 Busteed, District 2</i> | <i>Rosanna Brown, District 5</i> |
| <i>Raymond Sheldon, Jr., District 2</i> | <i>Karl Niemela, 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):

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