



Planning Commission Meeting Minutes for March 14, 2012

Members Present: Commissioners Matt Miller, Marty Laumbattus, Bertis Rasco, Laurie Gere, Lin Folsom and John Archibald.

Staff Present: Ryan Larsen, Director of Community and Economic Development, Don Measamer, Assistant Director of Community and Economic Development and Libby Grage, Senior Planner.

Chair Laumbattus called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Minutes of February 8, 2012 were approved as written.

Correspondence

No correspondence was presented.

New Business

Public Hearing – Amendment to Comprehensive Plan to add Goal to Transportation Section and Amendment to AMC to add a Requirement for Public Participation for Quasi-Judicial Matters.

Mr. Ryan Larsen introduced the public hearing for the last two amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Anacortes Municipal Code, Exhibits 5 and 6, submitted by Evergreen Islands. Mr. Larsen provided the intent of the amendments and a brief history of the process of the development of the two exhibits. Chair Laumbattus then opened the public hearing on the two exhibits.

Mr. Tom Glade, 210 Mansfield Court, on behalf of Evergreen Islands, expressed appreciation for the cooperation of all involved in the development of the amendments and is happy with the progress. Mr. Glade discussed the reasoning behind the inclusion of the complete streets (Exhibit 5) which is a federal and state initiative to improve our streets for ultimate transportation.

Commissioner Folsom asked where the complete street definition is listed in the Comp Plan. Mr. Larsen stated that a definition does not exist but a companion ordinance is being worked on that will implement some complete street ideas into the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Larsen stated that a definition could be added for adoption.

Ms. Arlene French, 1411 8th Street, representing Evergreen Islands. Ms. French discussed the process in developing the code amendment and the goals for preparing this submittal. Ms. French believes the future of Anacortes will be shaped by an informed public who can participate and play a role in planning their own neighborhoods in the community with the implementation of Exhibit 6.

Mr. Joe Barnes, 2107 11th Street, representing Evergreen Islands, highlighted some portions of the Exhibit 6 proposal and addressed some issues raised at the meeting on February 8, 2012.

Mr. Ross Barnes, 1004 7th Street. In discussing Exhibit 6, Mr. Barnes suggested insertion of the words “or prejudices” in Section b.5 and provided his reason for the insertion. Mr. Ross read his submission, “Participation or lack of participation in the community participation meeting in no way limits or prejudices an applicant’s, the City’s, or any other person’s standing to participate in later processes or required hearings on the permit application.”

Mrs. Virginia Bunny Heiner, 804 K Avenue. Ms. Heiner believes Exhibit 6 is a good amendment.

Ms. Sally Davis, 3312 K Avenue. Ms. Davis provided her support of Exhibit 6.

Ms. Kathy Lindberg, 1515 34th Street. Ms. Lindberg provided her support of Exhibit 6.

Chair Laumbattus then closed the public hearing and proceeded with deliberation on the amendments between the Commissioners.

Commissioner Gere stated she likes Exhibit 5 and would like to see the complete street definition be part of that exhibit. Commissioner Folsom agreed.

Chair Laumbattus called for a motion. Commissioner Folsom made a motion to accept Exhibit 5, the physically active community resolution provided by Evergreen Islands with a second by Commissioner Rasco. Mr. Larsen clarified that the motion included the definition of the complete streets. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Chair Laumbattus then turned discussion to Exhibit 6, the public participation submission. Commissioner Archibald commented on Section B, subsection 2, and believes having the meeting start at 7 p.m. as opposed to 6 p.m. would better accommodate the community.

Commissioner Gere stated she really likes what Mrs. French said about how this fits the culture of this community and also would like to add the language proposed by Mr. Ross Barnes to that exhibit.

Commissioner Folsom concurs with Commissioner Archibald that 6 p.m. is too early and also suggested Tuesday and Thursday for meeting days because it does not conflict with Council and possibly the Planning Commission. Commissioner Gere moved to make an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan with Exhibit 6 to add a requirement for public participation for quasi-judicial matters with the addition of Mr. Ross Barnes’ language, the change of the meeting time from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., the additions from Mr. Joe Barnes including that city staff moderate the meetings, and to place minutes or notes in the record and a more comprehensive explanation of the intent of the meeting in that they are not setting rules or regulations. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Folsom.

Commissioner Miller expressed concern that the motion was made to amend the Comprehensive Plan but the description of the exhibit includes that the submittal will be included in a possible amendment of the municipal code and asked which one would be amended – the Comprehensive Plan or the Municipal Code. Mr. Larsen responded that Exhibit 6 will be placed in the Anacortes Municipal Code, with the actual section (17 or 19) to be determined at a later date. Commissioner Miller then raised concern over a previous question he had asked regarding whether any contractors had been notified of this change. Commissioner Miller believes that requiring the contractor hold special meetings adds additional costs to the project. Commissioner Miller moved to change the first “shall” to a “should” in paragraph B3. Mr. Larsen reviewed how the sentence would read and stated that the Commissioners would need to take a motion on Mr. Miller’s proposal and then finish the other motion. Commissioner Gere seconded the motion made by Commissioner Miller. The roll for the vote was called with Ayes: Commissioners Gere, Laumbattus, Archibald, Miller, Rasco. Nays: Commissioner Folsom.

Chair Laumbattus then called for a vote on the first motion which was seconded by Commissioner Folsom. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Folsom asked Mr. Larsen for clarification on the process if the amendment is approved. Mr. Larsen responded that the Planning Commission will not hear anything until the project is presented at a Planning Commission meeting. The Commissioners will receive a report in their packets to provide some background on the outcome but the Commissioners will not participate in the actual community meetings, if they are the decision makers on a project.

Chair Laumbattus then adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:48 p.m.