

PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Remote Participation
Wednesday, April 7, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 pm by Chair Cronin

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Cronin, Jennifer Davis, Janice Huxford, Todd Welch, Linda Hoult, Mike Duerr and Vicki Oslund

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Community Development Director Russ Wright and Senior Planner Levitan

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilmembers Steve Ewing and Gary Petershagen

Chair Cronin called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and led the pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: All present.

Guest business: None

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Commissioner Huxford, to approve the minutes for 03-03-2021 seconded by Commissioner Hoult (7-0-0-0).

Discussion items:

The first item on the Agenda was a briefing on a citizen-initiated request to reduce the required buffer between marijuana processing facilities and child care centers from 1000 ft to 250 ft, if certain conditions are met. Senior Planner Levitan gave a recap of the process thus far, including previous work sessions with the Planning Commission and City Council, and that staff was proposing to amend the proposal to also include a citywide limit on marijuana processing facilities, somewhere in the vicinity of 30-35,000 sf. He also noted that Mayor Gailey has been working with the City Council on a separate but related process to charge licensing fees on marijuana production and processing facilities, and the City Council is generally supportive of the proposed code amendment.

The Commission had questions on how the proposed licensing fee amounts were established, and what they would be used to fund. Director Wright provided some general history on the licensing fees and that Council had requested additional information, including a quantitative analysis of the licensing fees and on how they would be utilized. He also noted that the two topics (licensing fee and code amendment) were moving forward on a similar schedule, but were not directly related, and the licensing fee was generally outside of the Commission's purview.

After discussion amongst the Commissioners, they agreed that the proposed amendment was ready to move forward to a public hearing.

The second briefing was on some proposed changes to Shoreline Master Program

(SMP). Potential amendments identified by staff include to remove references to Multi-family Residential in the SMP's use table and related section; a map amendment to a city-owned parcel; updates to clarify the SMP's non-conforming use and development section; and an amendment to the SMP Shoreline Environment Designations map to reflect any boundary changes resulting from recent annexations.

The Commissioners were generally agreeable to this proposal and directed staff to move forward and initiate the update process with the Department of Ecology.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Duerr reported he attended the Department of Commerce's Short Course on Local Planning, which satisfied the requirements for Open Public meeting training that all commissioners must meet. Responding to a question from Commissioner Davis, staff noted that commissioners could check in with City Clerk Kelly Chelin to check their compliance status. Commissioner Hoult inquired about getting speed bumps on 116th Ave, 117th Ave NE and Cedar Rd. Commissioner Cronin announced the Bert Cronin Award has two scholarships available for application.

Director's Report:

Director Wright invited the Commissioners to attend the April 8 public meeting on the proposed Civic Center via Zoom.

MOTION: Moved by Commissioner Hoult, seconded by Commissioner Welch to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. The motion carried (7-0-0-0).


Jennie Fenrich, Planning Commission Clerk