MINUTES - Regular Meeting

Thurston County Planning Commission
Wednesday, August 15, 2001
County Courthouse Complex
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW
Building 1 - Room 152
Olympia, Washington 98502

1. Call to Order

Chair Bower, followed by introductions of Planning Commission members, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

a. Attendance

Members Present: Bob Bower, Tom Cole, Liz Lyman, Janet Reiner, Peggy Paradise, Thomas Smith, and Mark Lovrien

Members Absent: Brian Fagernes and Barbara Frost

Staff Present: Jennifer Hayes, Fred Knostman, Jeff Fancher, and Sandy Norton

Guests: Marie Cameron, Mark Swartout, Dick Blinn, Scott Lindblom, Jim Bachmier, Scott Schimelfenig, Tim Ransom, Dale Rancour, Chuck Groth, and Jim Wilcox

b. Approval of Agenda

Introduction of Tim Ransom, Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team was added to agenda item #3 as 3 a.

Commissioner Cole moved, seconded by Commissioner Paradise to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

2. Public Communications

None.

3. Open Public Meetings Act – Review of Recent Case Law

Jeff Fancher, Thurston County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney provided the Commission with additional information on the Open Public Meetings Act. Mr. Fancher referenced a recent case, Battleground School District vs. Jennifer Wood in which the ruling said that email could constitute a violation of the Open Public Meetings Act. A violation would be if there was an active exchange of
ideas and opinions among Planning Commission members. Passive receipt of information is ok. He suggested that the Planning Commission should avoid any discussions outside open meetings if three or more Commissioners were involved. Discussion among two Commissioners is fine.

a. **Introduction of Tim Ransom, Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team**

Commissioner Lyman invited Tim Ransom to introduce himself. Mr. Ransom stated he was the local liaison coordinator with the Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team, which is part of the Office of the Governor. Mr. Ransom passed out information on the Team, which can provide support to local policy-makers on water quality and Puget Sound issues. Mr. Ransom stated he was available to assist the Planning Commission as they undertook review of County policies affecting water quality.


Marie Cameron, Capital Projects Coordinator, facilitated the briefing on the 2002 – 2007 Capital Facilities Plan. Ms. Cameron then introduced Mark Swartout as her replacement once she retires.

Ms. Cameron distributed a handout titled “Key GMA Requirements for the CFP” to each Commission member. Ms. Cameron went over the handout briefly to help enlighten the new Commissioners who were not familiar with the process.

Ms. Cameron referred the Commissioners to the following handouts, which were made part of the Commission mailing:

1. Staff Report – Amendment of Chapter 6, Thurston County Comprehensive Plan
2. Thurston County Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendments for Chapter 6, Capital Facilities Plan

Ms. Cameron also handed out a replacement titled Chapter 6 – Capital Facilities Plan. This handout replaces page 6-1 to the Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendment for Chapter 6, Capital Facilities Plan, CO-1. The handout provided some minor changes to Section A. Level of Service Standards. Ms. Cameron introduced representatives from each capital program area: Jim Wilcox - County Buildings, Chuck Groth - Parks, Jim Bachmeier - Sewer-Water, Scott Schimelfenig - Solid Waste, Scott Lindblom - Stormwater, and Dale Rancour - Transportation. Each representative spoke briefly on new/expanded projects, projects completed in 2001, where the capital construction goals are not being met, and what future funding decisions are yet to be made, using the handouts from the Commission mailing. Commissioners asked questions as follows:

*Solid Waste*

Commissioner Bower asked about pyrolysis. Mr. Schimelfenig responded that the County was
looking into feasible alternatives for waste recovery, including a waste-to-energy facility.

Commissioner Bower requested that the landfill seek permanent structural solutions instead of building facilities on unstable soils that will have to be rebuilt in the future.

Commissioner Cole asked if VOCs had been detected in wells east of the landfill. Director of Water and Waste Management Dick Blinn stated that they could not answer that question due to potential litigation.

Stormwater
Commissioner Lyman asked if the projects for Salmon Creek Basin would be funded by stormwater utility fees. Mr. Blinn responded that the Salmon Creek study was being funded by grants and some utility funds by rate-payers.

Commissioner Bower asked that the Planning Commission be given an update on the County’s shellfish project. Staff said a briefing will be scheduled.

Sewer and Water
Commissioner Bower asked about levels of nitrogen in Puget Sound and how much was coming from treatment plants. Commissioner Bower also asked if staff could report back on the status of a well and water source inventory in Thurston County.

Central Services
Commissioner Cole questioned the number of beds being estimated for jail facility need. Commissioner Cole also stressed his preference for siting an expanded jail facility on the current courthouse campus instead of trying to find an entirely new site.

**Commissioner Lyman moved, seconded by Commissioner Reiner to set a public hearing on the 2002-2007 Capital Facilities Plan for September 5, 2001 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Room 152 of the Thurston County Courthouse. Motion carried.**

5. **Planning Commission and Staff Updates**

Development Services Director Position
Mr. Knostman stated that it would be several months before someone is hired for the Director of Development Services position.

GMA grant for comprehensive plan updates
Some funding has been made available to the County by the legislature via a grant process administered by the Office of Community Development. Staff is submitting a proposal for funding over the next two years to address needed comprehensive plan updates related to critical areas and natural resource lands based on ESA compliance issues and new best available science rules.
2001 Comprehensive Plan Amendments
Staff gave an update on the adoption schedule. The Board of County Commissioners may adopt the amendments on August 27, 2001 including the Green Cove Creek amendments. They are discussing with the City of Olympia final down zone options and the potential to pull in the urban growth boundary. City of Olympia will likely be withdrawing the parks/open space plan this year.

6. Calendar (Tentative)


The first briefing on the 2001 Development Regulation Amendments will be September 19, 2001.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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Bob Bower, Chair
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE OF REQUEST</th>
<th>ISSUE/REQUEST</th>
<th>AUTHOR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/24/01</td>
<td>What percentage of SEPA projects were in the UGA last year?</td>
<td>Bower</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/18/01</td>
<td>How much money are the cities paying to the County for Parks?</td>
<td>Bower</td>
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<tr>
<td>06/06/01</td>
<td>Is a Planning Commissioner prohibited to testify as a member of the public on issues before the Commission if they are not acting as a member of the Planning Commission?</td>
<td>Lyman</td>
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