1. **6:30 P.M. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Lane called the October 20, 2010 meeting of the Thurston County Planning Commission to order at 6:30 p.m. Commissioners provided self-introductions.

**Attendance:** Chair Chris Lane, Commissioners, Kathleen O’Connor, Christine Spaulding, Bill Jackson, Tom Cole, & Liz Kohlenberg

**Absent:** Scott Nelson, Christopher Earle & Edward Fleisher

**Staff:** Scott Clark

2. **6:31 P.M. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Commissioner O’Connor moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Jackson seconded. Motion carried.

3. **6:32 P.M. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS** (Not associated with topics for which public hearings have been held.)

No members of the audience chose to speak.

The official audio is available on line at: http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/planning/planning_commission/planning_comm_minutes.html


**Staff:** Scott Clark

Mr. Clark explained to the Commission that he had combined all of the feedback from the public at the open house meetings, websites, mailings etc. and made a presentation for them and a summary of all the public comments. All of the questions that were asked on paper at the open house meetings will be displayed on the web site with an answer from staff. Staff has continued to meet with other groups and services as well to continue to educate people on the proposed changes. The biggest concerns of the public seem to be buffers, gophers and non-conforming uses. Three public notices were sent out, one announcing the date and times of the open house meetings, fact sheets and then the first was re sent out again as a reminder. The Olympian has been doing articles on the open house meetings and the proposed changed to the CAO but no other papers have taken much interest.

There was a lot of support at the meetings for the open space tax incentive program. Many people did not know that this was available to them and the display and staff where able to answer many questions.
Concerns about impacts to agriculture are valid and there is an interim measure in process right now which is the Ruckleshaus Amendment active in the State Legislature. Environmental groups, the Tribes and Agricultural interests have this process going on where they are trying to figure out how to go about managing and regulating agricultural lands in regards to these types of things i.e. the Growth Management and the Critical Areas. Therefore whatever the Planning Commission may pass for the Critical Areas, the Ruckleshaus Amendment prohibits that from being enforced on agricultural lands. If the whole process falls apart then staff is not sure where the process will go, we will probably end up with new regulations on agricultural lands.

Tax assessments should change due to impacts on property values due to the Critical Areas amendments? Currently a request has been made to the Assessor’s Office to work through some examples and see how they will apply an assessment after critical areas have been put on a piece of property.

The new FEMA flood maps are out and the County has a copy of them. Staff is working to get them published online. FEMA is going through a process where within the next 60-90 days they will be taking public comment.

Staff has met with Department of Fish and Wildlife to consider changes to the gopher regulations. A discussion ensued.

5. 7:34 P.M. STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Clark provided the following staff updates:
   • The Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners annual potluck is on October 26, 2010.

6. 7:30 PM ADJOURN

With there being no further business, Chair Lane adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Chris Lane, Chair

Prepared by Carrie Toebbe, Recording Secretary