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

Chair Nelson called the April 16, 2014 meeting of the Thurston County Planning Commission to order at 6:30 p.m. Commissioners provided self-introductions.

**Attendance:** Chair Scott Nelson, Commissioners Bill Jackson, Jennifer Davis, Christine Spaulding, Tim Kramer, Christopher Earle, Chris Lane, Donna Nickerson, Ed Fleisher

**Absent:**

**Staff:** Cynthia Wilson, Christy Osborn

2. **6:30 P.M. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Spaulding moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Earle seconded. Motion carried.

3. **6:31 P.M. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS** (Not associated with topics for which public hearings have been held.)

*No public in attendance chose to speak.*

The official audio is available online at:

[http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/planning/planning_commission/planning_comm_minutes.html](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/planning/planning_commission/planning_comm_minutes.html)

4. **6:31 P.M. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Earle moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Kramer seconded. Motion carried as amended.

Commissioner Davis recommended the following change:

Page 4, Line 11: Remove the word “accept” and replace with “except”.

Commissioner Spaulding recommended the following changes:

Page 3, Lines 19 and 31: Change Judy’s last name to “Rogers”.

Commissioner Nelson recommended the following changes:
5. **6:33 P.M. STAFF UPDATES**

Ms. Wilson stated the pocket gopher was officially listed as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act last week and will go into effect May 9, 2014. The County’s permitting department continues to issue development permits and has been working with Fish and Wildlife to create an interim permitting strategy (time period is between the listing and the HCP going into effect) to keep our counter open by clearly identifying what protection strategies are available at this point. The website has also been updated with frequently asked questions. The PHAM (prairie habitat assessment methodology) which is in progress would also be incorporated into the interim permitting strategy.

The consultant firm which will aid in the development of the HCP will be selected shortly once Scott returns from leave.

She also stated there will be more prairie experts speaking at future meetings as the HCP process is implemented.

Ms. Wilson will check the bylaws to confirm if the Commissioners need to vote to set public hearings.

5. **6:48 P.M. WORK SESSION: Open Space Applications**

*(Staff: Christy Osborn)*

There are 4 open space applications to review. As background, the assessor’s office is systematically reviewing current use classifications to make sure people assessed under Farm/Ag or Designated Forest Land still meet the criteria and if they do not, there is a possibility they can apply for our Open Space Open Space program. Due to budget cuts, the assessor’s office were behind on these reviews but are now catching up and due to this, there will probably be quite a few more applications to review next year. (When people change programs from the assessors’ to ours, there may be a tax increase that would benefit the county.) The Commission asked questions to which Ms. Osborn responded.

6. **Commissioner Fleisher moved to set a Public Hearing on the For Open Space Applications on May 7, 2014. Commissioner Earle seconded. Motion carried.**

7. **Commissioner Davis moved to set a Public Hearing for Emergency Amendments to: Capital Facilities Plan for the Replacement of the Salmon Creek Bridge (L-4) and Prather Road (Between Grunenfelder and Lundeen Road) on May 7, 2014 . Commissioner Spaulding seconded. Motion Carried.**

8. **7:24 P.M. CALENDAR**

April 30, 2014 – Nothing on the agenda yet but keeping on the schedule.
8. **7:25 P.M. ADJOURN**

With there being no further business, Chair Nelson adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Scott Nelson, Chair

Prepared by Polly Stoker, Recording Secretary

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