



City of Tacoma
Planning Commission

Donald Erickson, Chair
Theresa Dusek
Benjamin Fields
Mark Lawlis
Tina Lee
Matthew Nutsch
Erle Thompson
Scott Winship
(vacant)

MINUTES (Approved on 1-16-13)

Time: Wednesday, December 19, 2012, 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 16, Tacoma Municipal Building North
Present: Donald Erickson, Theresa Dusek, Benjamin Fields, Tina Lee, Matthew Nutsch, Scott Winship
Excused: Mark Lawlis, Erle Thompson

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Erickson called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and declared a quorum present. At the staff's request, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to revise the agenda by removing General Business Item #2 "Annual Amendment #2013-11 Trail-Oriented Development".

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 5, 2012 were reviewed. Chair Erickson proposed revisions to the first discussion item pertaining to "Shoreline Public Access Alternatives Plan", as described below, and the minutes were approved as amended:

"The Commission ~~did not understand when it recommended that the Port undertake a Public Access Master Plan last year~~ ~~understood~~ that State laws allowing public agencies ~~(e.g., Port of Tacoma)~~ to undertake their own ~~public access~~ planning ~~that is then adopted through interlocal agreements, are not subject to~~ ~~and was concerned that~~ the Commission ~~may be precluded from the~~ review process. ~~It was suggested that the Commission should share its concern on this issue with the City Council since master plans by public agencies (Metro Parks, Tacoma School District, etc.) would also appear to be excludable from Commission review.~~ The Commission suggested that consideration be given to adopting the PAAL as an element of the Comprehensive Plan, so that it would have more standing in budgeting and project implementation."

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Planning and Development Services Department

Peter Huffman, Interim Director of the newly established Planning and Development Services Department, provided an overview of the department's mission, objectives, organizational structure, budget, performance measures, and initiatives for 2013-2014.

2. Annual Amendment #2013-08 Platting and Subdivision Regulations

Shanta Frantz, Comprehensive Planning, presented the proposed amendments to the Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) Chapters 13.04 and 13.05, which were revised in response to the Commission's feedback at its December 5, 2012 meeting. She noted that, while the primary purpose is to increase maximum size of a short plat from 4 to 9 lots, two other benefits of the code update are to reduce the level of service for 5-9 lot divisions from 90 days to 30 days and that unbuildable tracts would no longer be counted towards the total number of lots created under a platting application.

Discussion ensued. With respect to removing the in-lieu of dedication fee for recreation and open space, Ian Munce, Acting Manager of the Comprehensive Planning Division, also provided some background explaining why current and previous City Councils have not supported an "impact fee" program for Tacoma.

The Commissioners provided some additional suggestions, such as that plat layout documents should show the location and dimension of tracts, and that the definition section for tract, parcels and lots should be consistent with the platting code definitions of the same. The Commissioners voted unanimously to authorize the distribution of the proposed amendments for public review with a tentative public hearing date of March 20, 2013.

3. Shoreline Public Access Alternatives Plan

Lihuang Wung, Comprehensive Planning, noted that Stephen Atkinson, the presenter, was not present due to a family obligation, but will continue to facilitate the Commissioners' review and discussion of the draft document at the next meeting. He suggested that the Commissioners provide feedback and comments, if any, to Mr. Atkinson via e-mails. The Commissioners concurred.

COMMUNICATION ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS

1. The Commission voted unanimously to cancel the next meeting on January 2, 2013.
2. Mr. Wung briefly reviewed the tentative agenda for the January 16, 2013 meeting.
3. Mr. Wung reported that Vice-Chair Sean Gaffney resigned, as of December 18, 2012, for not being eligible to continue to represent District No. 2 due to redistricting, and that the recruitment process to fill the unexpired term ending June 30, 2015 will begin immediately. The Commission also decided to elect a new vice-chair at the next meeting on January 16, 2013.
4. Brian Boudet, Comprehensive Planning, encouraged the Commissioners to review and provide comments on the Draft MLK Subarea Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) released in early December.
5. Mr. Wung summarized the Commissioner's accomplishments during 2012 and expressed staff's appreciation for their dedication, guidance and advice.
6. Commissioner Nutsch wondered about the procedures for the City Council to request work of the Planning Commission. Mr. Munce and Mr. Boudet indicated that such requests could come through a resolution (e.g., approval of a work program), an ordinance (e.g., referring a moratorium), or a meeting between the Council and the Commission (e.g., a study session). Conversation ensued, and it was suggested that the Commissioners would work through and coordinate with staff when responding to Council requests.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.