

Members

Donald Erickson, Chair
 Sean Gaffney, Vice-Chair
 Theresa Dusek
 Tina Lee
 Matthew Nutsch
 Erle Thompson
 Scott Winship
 (vacant)
 (vacant)



Minutes

Tacoma Planning Commission

Community and Economic Development Department

Ryan Petty, Director
 Peter Huffman, Assistant Director
 Charles Solverson, P.E., Building Official

Public Works and Utilities Representatives

Kurtis Kingsolver, Assistant Director/City Engineer, Public Works Department
 Heather Pennington, Resource Planning Manager, Tacoma Water
 Diane Lachel, Community and Government Relations Manager, Click! Network, Tacoma Power

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(Approved on 6-20-12)

MEETING: Regular Meeting

TIME: Wednesday, June 6, 2012, 4:00 p.m.

PLACE: Room 16, Tacoma Municipal Building North
733 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

Members Present: Donald Erickson (Chair), Sean Gaffney (Vice-Chair), Theresa Dusek, Tina Lee, Matthew Nutsch, Erle Thompson, Scott Winship

Staff and Others Present: Brian Boudet, Ian Munce, Lucas Shadduck, Lihuang Wung (BLUS); William Osborne (planning consultant)

Chair Erickson called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. The minutes of the regular meeting and public hearing on May 16, 2012 were approved as submitted.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Medical Cannabis Land Use Regulations

Ian Munce and Lucas Shadduck facilitated the Commissioners' deliberation of their recommendation on the proposed Medical Cannabis Land Use Regulations, in response to the City Council's requests (per Medical Cannabis Moratorium Ordinances No. 28010 and 28021). The Commissioners reviewed the Medical Cannabis Alternatives Evaluation Sheet, a matrix developed by Chair Erickson laying out the main provisions of the three alternative schemes of land use regulations (i.e., Alternatives "A", "B", and "C" released for public review for the purpose of the public hearing on May 16, 2012) and comparing them against the directives from the City Council pursuant to the moratorium ordinances.

The Commissioners provided various comments, concerns, and suggested modifications to the alternatives. The Commissioners took preliminary votes on the following three measures: (1) By a vote of 5 to 2, a motion forwarding Alternative "A" to the City Council, with the understanding that some conditions could be addressed through licensing rather than through the Land Use Code, was approved; (2) By a vote of 2 to 5, a motion modifying Alternative "A" by adding a requirement of "500-ft setback from other medical cannabis uses" was denied; and (3) By a vote of 2 to 5, a motion modifying Alternative "A" by adding a requirement of "1,000-ft setback from parks" failed. In all three cases, the two minority votes were cast by Commissioners Nutsch and Thompson.



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At the conclusion of the discussion, the Commissioners agreed to modify Alternative "A" to require that signage not exceed 7.5 square feet and not be of any dimension greater than 36 inches. The motion to forward Alternative "A", as modified, to the City Council for consideration, passed with a vote of 5 Ayes, 1 Nay (Commissioner Nutsch), and 1 Abstain (Commissioner Thompson). The Commissioners acknowledged in their findings that they declined to make recommendations regarding what they understood to be substantial questions of law including whether the City has the authority to enact zoning regulations relating to marijuana uses, whether such regulations are preempted by federal law, and whether such regulations would conflict with local, state and federal laws that make possession of marijuana a crime.

COMMUNICATION ITEMS

Chair Erickson acknowledged receipt of the following information/announcements:

1. Letter from Dale Cope, May 30, 2012, re: "Electronic Reader Boards".
2. The Planning Commission has three openings available, representing Council Districts 2, 3 and 5, for a three-year term from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015. Applications are due to the Mayor's Office by Friday, June 8, 2012.
3. The Planning Commission is accepting applications for amending the Comprehensive Plan and/or Land Use Regulatory Code for 2013 through June 29, 2012.
4. "Short Course on Local Planning" provided by the State Department of Commerce on June 12, 2012, 6:30 p.m., in Lacey.
5. Planning Commission Tentative Agenda for June 20.

COMMENTS BY LONG-RANGE PLANNING DIVISION

Mr. Munce stated that the Urban Forestry Landscaping Code Amendment project will be delayed to allow for more stakeholder engagement. Through the public process thus far, staff has received a lot of comments and concerns expressed by the Planning Commission and various agencies and individuals. Staff will regroup, conduct more outreach, re-examine the proposed revisions, and return to the Commission at a later meeting. The Commissioners concurred.

Lihuang Wung stated that, on recruiting citizens to fill the three vacant positions on the Commission, the Mayor's Office has received applications for Districts 2 and 3, but none for District 5. He suggested that the Commissioners contact their affiliates and encourage those who may be interested to apply.

Mr. Wung reported that the City Council conducted a study session and a public hearing on May 22, 2012, concerning the Commission's recommendations on the 2012 Annual Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Regulatory Code. The Council also heard the first reading of two adopting ordinances on June 5, and is scheduled to adopt the ordinances on June 12, 2012.

COMMENTS BY PLANNING COMMISSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.