

Members

Donald Erickson, Chair
 Sean Gaffney, Vice-Chair
 Theresa Dusek
 Benjamin Fields
 Mark Lawlis
 Tina Lee
 Matthew Nutsch
 Erle Thompson
 Scott Winship



Minutes

Tacoma Planning Commission

Community and Economic Development Department

Ricardo Noguera, 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 10-3-12)

MEETING: Regular Meeting

TIME: Wednesday, September 19, 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, Ben Fields, Mark Lawlis, Tina Lee, Scott Winship

Members Absent: Matthew Nutsch, Erle Thompson

Staff Present: Shanta Frantz, Lucas Shadduck, Diane Wiatr, Lihuang Wung (BLUS); Jennifer Kammerzell (Public Works)

Chair Erickson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. An action was taken to revise the agenda by removing the first General Business item "Tacoma Link Expansion Project."

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Annual Amendment #2013-04 Transportation Element

Shanta Frantz and Diane Wiatr presented the proposed revisions to the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Wiatr provided an overview and the status of implementation of the Mobility Master Plan (MoMaP), an important and unique section of the Transportation Element. Ms. Frantz provided a summary of the proposed amendments, which included updating project information and priorities, adding the provision of "Environmental Justice" to certain policies and to project selection and prioritization criteria, and making minor changes and corrections throughout the document for consistency and for aligning with appropriate industry standards.

The Commissioners provided a number of comments and suggestions. Commissioner Dusek confirmed with staff that Wapato Hills Trail/Open Space will be added to Table 5 – Low-Impact Pedestrian Trails and Shared Use Paths. Commissioner Lee wondered, and staff clarified that, in the "Demonstration Projects" section of the MoMaP, it is based on the recommendation of the community that cycle tracks and shared lane markings are described for Pacific Avenue leading to the Tacoma Art Museum. Chair Erickson noted that the proposed "Environmental Justice" policy provision and associated background information are currently placed in the policy categories of Land Use and Transportation and Multimodal System and in the policies of T-LUT-5 Accessibility and T-MS-7 Special Transportation Needs; he suggested



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relocating the provision and background information to the beginning of the “General Goal and Policies” section so that they would apply to all policies.

The Commissioner voted unanimously to authorize the proposed amendments to the Transportation Element, as modified per discussion, for public review and comment. Staff clarified that the public review is scheduled for February 2013 and is for the whole Annual Amendment package.

2. Annual Amendment #2013-07 Adoption and Amendment Procedures

Lihuang Wung presented the proposed amendments to the *Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) Chapter 13.02 Planning Commission*. He reviewed the scope of work and objectives, and highlighted the changes proposed to the following sections: 13.02.040 (Duties and responsibilities), 13.02.043 (Definitions), 13.02.044 (Comprehensive Plan), 13.02.045 (Adoption and amendment procedures), 13.02.053 (Area-wide zoning reclassifications), and 13.02.055 (Moratoria and interim zoning).

Discussion ensued. The Commissioners concurred with the majority of the proposed amendments, and expressed the following concerns and suggestions:

- Consider retaining the requirement for completing the assessment of applications for proposed amendments within 120 days of receipt of the applications. Although not necessarily needed in the legislative process, this provision sets a timeframe that meets the expectation of the applicants and the public.
- Consider retaining the requirement for the Commission to formulate, through a public hearing process, within 30 days of the City Council's adoption of a moratorium or interim zoning, a recommendation to the Council whether such an action is justified. Although not required by the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A), this provision ensures proper public feedback and the Commission's contribution to the Council's process.
- Consider adding a Council representative, liaison or ex-officio to the Commission's membership, and/or adding some specific requirements to the review/recommendation process (such as joint study sessions), to ensure and enhance the timely communication and interaction between the Commission and the Council regarding the work program.
- Reevaluate the use of “as appropriate and necessary” in some of the provisions contained in TMC 13.02.040 (Duties and responsibilities), because it might unnecessarily make some of the Commission's obligations more discretionary.

The Commissioners also felt that it is somewhat awkward for them to review the proposed amendments to TMC 13.02, which governs what the Commission is and what the Commission shall do; however, they acknowledged that they are well poised to review a majority of the provisions such as those pertaining to the Comprehensive Plan and the adoption and amendment procedures. The Commissioners requested that the discussion of this Application #2013-07 be continued at the next meeting.

COMMUNICATION ITEMS

Chair Erickson acknowledged receipt of the following information/announcements:

1. “Conversation RE: Tacoma” 2012 Lecture Series, scheduled for September 27, October 11 and November 8, 2012.
2. Letter to Dale Cope, September 12, 2012, concerning Electronic Signs.
3. Report to City Council on Planning Commission Accomplishments and Work Activities, September 11, 2012.
4. Planning Commission Tentative Agenda for October 3, 2012.

COMMENTS BY COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING DIVISION

Mr. Wung reported that the City Council considered the following resolutions and ordinances at the meeting of September 18, 2012:

- Resolution No. 38538 (approved) – forming the Joint Shoreline Public Access Committee of the City Council and the Port of Tacoma Commission;
- Resolution No. 38536 (approved) – approving an interlocal agreement with Pierce County concerning Transfer of Development Rights (TDR);
- Resolution No. 38539 (approved) – setting the stage for potential interlocal agreements with King and Snohomish counties concerning Transfer of Development Rights (TDR);
- Ordinance No. 28087 (1st reading) – adding Chapter 1.37 to the Tacoma Municipal Code pertaining to the administration of TDR program;
- Ordinance No. 28088 (1st reading) – adopting amendments to TMC 13.06. 13.06A and 13.12 based on the Planning Commission's recommendations concerning Code Streamlining 2012; and
- Ordinance No. 28089 (1st reading) – adding Chapter 2.19 to the Tacoma Municipal Code pertaining to offsite improvement requirements for existing buildings in relationship with the live-work/work-live code enhancement.

COMMENTS BY PLANNING COMMISSION

Commissioner Lee distributed copies of a brochure containing factual information related to Pierce Transit Proposition 1, a tax increase ballot measure scheduled for November 6, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.