



MINUTES (Approved on 5-15-13)

Time: Wednesday, May 1, 2013, 4:00 p.m.
Location: City Council Chambers, Tacoma Municipal Building, 1st Floor
Present: Donald Erickson (Chair), Tina Lee (Vice-Chair), Theresa Dusek, Benjamin Fields, Matthew Nutsch, Mark Lawlis, Scott Winship
Excused: Sean Gaffney, Erle Thompson

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Erickson called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and declared a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 17, 2013 meeting were approved as submitted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2013 Annual Amendment

Lihuang Wung, Planning Services Division, facilitated the Planning Commission's consideration for making a recommendation to the City Council on the Proposed Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Regulatory Code for 2013 ("2013 Annual Amendment"). The Commission concurred with the additional modifications to the Tacoma Municipal Code Chapter 13.02, the Tacoma Waterfront Design Guidelines, and the Public Access Alternatives Plan, proposed by staff in response to the Commission's requests made at the last meeting on April 17, 2013. The Commission then voted unanimously to approve the Draft Letter of Recommendation and the Draft Findings and Recommendations Report, and to forward the 2013 Annual Amendment to the City Council for its consideration for adoption.

2. Schuster Corridor Multi-Use Trail

Stephen Atkinson, Planning Services Division, provided an overview and status of the Schuster Parkway multi-use trail feasibility and conceptual design study. The study for the 1.5-mile long shoreline is the first step towards completing a key segment of the "Dome to Defiance" public access system and enhancing the capacity of the system for all users. Project considerations include an overwater or waterside trail, a reconfiguration of Schuster Parkway and the existing sidewalk, linkages to the Stadium Way and Pacific Avenue streetscape improvements, Ruston Way streetscape planning, the Bayside Trail system, as well as slope stability measures along the Bayside Slope. The Commissioners provided some comments including a suggestion from Commissioner Dusek that the City should begin seeking funding for the project implementation and funds should be used to address pedestrian safety issues first.

3. Public Hearing – Sands' Application for Open Space Current Use Assessment

Chair Erickson called the public hearing to order at 5:00 p.m. Dustin Lawrence, Planning Services Division, provided an overview of the subject of the hearing and the public notification efforts. He indicated that two written comments were received by the deadline of May 1, 2013, at 12:00 noon, and have been included in the Commission's agenda packet. Chair Erickson called for public testimony, and seeing no one coming forward, declared the public hearing closed at 5:05 p.m.

4. Sands' Application for Open Space Current Use Assessment

Mr. Lawrence facilitated the Commission's consideration for making a recommendation to the City Council on the Sands' application for Open Space Current Use Assessment. Commissioner Dusek was concerned that the application is receiving points for wetlands that are not regulated and non-jurisdictional. Staff offered that preserving small, non-regulated wetlands that may otherwise be developed deserves some credits. Ms. Linnea Sands, the applicant, who arrived after the public hearing was closed, was permitted to speak. She noted to the Commission that there used to be a creek on the property and that the property has been family owned for multiple generations. Discussion ensued. The Commissioners also provided some comments concerning the public access and the Public Benefit Rating System. Chair Erickson called for a vote. By a vote of 6 to 1 (Commissioner Dusek voting no, and Commissioners Gaffney and Thompson absent), the Commission approved the Draft Letter of Recommendations and the Draft Findings and Recommendations Report, forwarding a recommendation to the City Council that Parcels "A" through "G" of Sands' property receive 20 points under the Public Benefit Rating System and qualify for an 80% tax reduction.

COMMUNICATION ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) The agenda for the next meeting on May 15, 2013 would tentatively include two discussion items: South Downtown Subarea Plan and Draft EIS Update, and Mixed-Use Centers Zoning Code Update.
- (b) Mr. Wung distributed the Amtrak Station Relocation Citizen Advisory Committee's Recommendations Report and a letter of transmittal that were being forwarded to the City Manager. The Committee was formed by the City of Tacoma to review the proposed relocation of the Amtrak train station, currently located at 1001 Puyallup Avenue, to the Freighthouse Square mixed-use retail facility at 2501 E. 'D' Street. Mr. Wung acknowledged Chair Erickson for his leadership in presiding over the Committee and Vice-Chair Lee for her active participation in the Committee's efforts.
- (c) Mr. Wung stated that the term of three Commissioners representing District No. 4, "Environmental Community", and "Architecture, Historic Preservation, and/or Urban Design" will expire on June 30, 2013, and the recruitment process for filling the impending vacancies will begin in mid-May.
- (d) Brian Boudet, Planning Services Division Manager, expressed his appreciation to the Commissioners for working with staff in accomplishing the 2013 Annual Amendment process.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.