



MINUTES (approved on 7-17-13)

Time: Wednesday, June 19, 2013, 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 16, Tacoma Municipal Building North
Present: Donald Erickson (Chair), Benjamin Fields, Theresa Dusek, Sean Gaffney (excused at 5:30 p.m.), Matthew Nutsch, Erle Thompson
Excused: Mark Lawlis, Tina Lee, Scott Winship

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 the meeting on June 5, 2013 were approved as submitted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update

Brian Boudet and Stephen Atkinson, Planning Services Division, presented the draft scope of work for the 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update – “Tacoma 2040: Growing Tomorrow’s City.” They provided an overview of the legislative background (i.e., the Growth Management Act mandated Periodic Review), the Regional and Tacoma’s growth strategies, the composition and characteristics of the City’s Comprehensive Plan, opportunities for improvement presented by this project, the phased approach and schedule, as well as the public participation strategy.

The Commissioners provide a number of comments and suggestions on issues relating to the visioning process, public participation strategies, mixed-use centers, subarea plans, streamlining the structure of the Comprehensive Plan, and the upcoming Transportation Master Plan to be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. The Commission also requested that staff provide some clarifications at a future meeting about the newly established Transportation Commission in terms of its roles and responsibilities, its coordination and communication with the Planning Commission, and how transportation issues as related to the requirements of the Growth Management Act should be handled by the two commissions.

2. Planning Commission Annual Report 2012-2013

Lihuang Wung, Planning Services Division, facilitated the Commission’s review of the draft Annual Report for 2012-2013 that highlighted the Commission’s accomplishments between July 2012 and June 2013 and outlined the planning work program for 2013-2015. The report was prepared pursuant to the Tacoma Municipal Code Section 13.02.040.L which requires that the Commission “provide an annual report to the City Council regarding accomplishments and the status of planning efforts undertaken in the previous year.” Mr. Wung briefly reviewed the Commission’s accomplishments over the past year and expressed staff’s appreciation for the Commissioners’ dedication and valuable advice. The Commission approved the report unanimously.

3. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2013-2014

In recognizing that the election of officers in June of each year coincides with the changeover of one third of the membership due to term expiration, the Commission discussed the need for deferring the election to a later date. Consideration was given to deferring it to July when the appointments of new Commissioners or reappointments of incumbents are anticipated to be completed or changing the timing of election to September of every year, which would require amendment to the Commission's Rules and Regulations (i.e., By-Laws). Discussion ensued and no significant advantage for any potential change over the status quo was concluded.

The Commission then proceeded to conduct the nomination and election as scheduled. Commissioner Gaffney was nominated and voted unanimously as the Chair for 2013-2014. Commissioners Lee and Thompson were nominated for Vice-Chair and the vote was 3-3 tie. The Commission decided to continue the election process for the Vice-Chair position at the next meeting.

COMMUNICATION ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Mr. Wung acknowledged the three term-expiring Commissioners: Commissioner Gaffney (appointed in July 2008 to represent District No. 2 and reappointed in February 2013 to represent Architecture, Urban Design and Historic Preservation), Commissioner Nutsch (appointed in August 2010, representing District No. 4), and Commissioner Dusek (appointed in May 2012, representing Environmental Community). Chair Erickson and other Commissioners also commended them for their dedication and contributions.
- (b) Mr. Wung noted on the following events:
 - North Downtown Subarea Plan & EIS Public Scoping Meeting, June 26, 2013.
 - Applications for amending the Comprehensive Plan and/or Land Use Regulatory Code for 2014 due August 1, 2013.
 - The July 3, 2013 meeting is canceled; agenda for the July 17, 2013 meeting tentatively includes: Hilltop Subarea Plan and EIS Update, and 2014 Annual Amendment.
- (c) Mr. Boudet informed the Commission that the City Council conducted the first reading of two ordinances on June 18, 2013, for adopting the Planning Commission's recommendations on the 2013 Annual Amendment, one ordinance for code amendments and the other for Comprehensive Plan amendments. The Council introduced several minor revisions to the code amendments. The final reading of the ordinances is set for June 25, 2013.
- (d) Mr. Boudet informed the Commission of two emerging issues concerning Marijuana and Tent City that may be brought before the Commission for discussion in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.