



MINUTES (approved on 9-18-13)

Time: Wednesday, August 21, 2013, 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 16, Tacoma Municipal Building North
Present: Sean Gaffney (Chair), Scott Winship (Vice-Chair, arrived at 4:40 p.m.), Donald Erickson, Mark Lawlis, Tina Lee, Alexandria Teague, Stephen Wamback
Absent: Benjamin Fields, Erle Thompson

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gaffney called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and declared a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on August 7, 2013 were approved as submitted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. South Downtown Subarea Plan and EIS

Ian Munce, Planning Services Division, provided a comprehensive overview of the Draft South Downtown Subarea Plan, dated August 2013. He described the planning perimeters for the development of the plan, including planning allocations in population and employment, key planning policies, project goals and deliverables, and long-term approach. He also highlighted a number of recommended initiatives addressing the issues of land use, housing, mobility, and protection/clean-up/open space. A set of priority capital facilities projects was also reviewed.

Discussion ensued. The Commissioners brought up several issues and comments, with respect to traffic impacts and mitigations, level of service, setting aside parcels for parks and schools, envisioning Tacoma with all growth assumptions accommodated, view and height limits, and whether industrial uses are still appropriate for downtown where the long-term goal is to become a transit hub. The Commission voted unanimously to authorize the distribution of the Draft South Downtown Subarea Plan for public review and set September 18, 2013 as the date for a public hearing to receive public comment.

2. 2014 Annual Amendment

Lihuang Wung, and Brian Boudet, Manager, Planning Services Division, facilitated the Commissioners' review of the following eleven applications for amending the Comprehensive Plan and the Land Use Regulatory Code for 2014. The review focused on Applications #1, #2, and #7, since all other applications had been reviewed at a previous meeting on July 17, 2013.

1. Point Ruston Mixed-Use Center (private application)
2. Point Defiance Park Land Use Policies (private application)
3. Growth Strategy and Mixed-Use Centers Review
4. Mixed-Use Centers Code Review (MUC-lite)
5. Land Use Designations (Intensities)
6. Affordable Housing Regulations (Phase 2)
7. Container Port Element

8. Open Space Habitat and Recreation Element
9. Sustainability Code Amendment
10. Urban Forestry / Landscaping Code Update
11. Plan and Code Cleanup

Staff had compiled an Assessment Report and concluded that these applications met the assessment criteria as set forth in Tacoma Municipal Code Section 13.02.045 and were ready for technical analysis. After brief discussions, the Commission approved the Assessment Report, and accepted all applications and moved them forward for technical analysis during the 2014 Annual Amendment cycle.

COMMUNICATION ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) The Washington State Liquor Control Board has recently revised its timeline for implementation of Initiative 502 concerning Recreational Marijuana, allowing additional time to incorporate public comments into the proposed rules and rescheduling the effective date of the rules from September 16 to November 16. In response, the City Council has decided to hold off the consideration for initiating the interim regulations until early October.
- (b) The agenda for the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee's meeting on August 28 may include: Six-Year Transportation Program, and Schuster Corridor Shared Use Trail.
- (c) The agenda for the Planning Commission's meeting on September 4 may include: Transportation Commission, 2014 Annual Amendment, 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update, and North Downtown Subarea Plan and EIS.
- (d) The City Council approved the Sands' Application for Open Space Current Use Assessment on August 20, 2013, based on the Commission's recommendation of May 1, 2013.
- (e) Mr. Boudet proposed that he and senior staff plan to meet with individual Commissioners, in informal settings, to discuss issues and concerns that the Commissioners may have. The Commissioners concurred.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.