



MINUTES

Meeting: Regular Meeting and Public Hearing
Time: Wednesday, September 18, 2013, 4:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers, Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street
Present: Sean Gaffney (Chair), Scott Winship (Vice-Chair), Benjamin Fields, Mark Lawlis, Tina Lee, Alexandria Teague, Erle Thompson, Stephen Wamback
Absent: Donald Erickson

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gaffney called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and declared a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on August 21, 2013 were approved as submitted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Six-Year Comprehensive Transportation Program

Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works Department, facilitated the Planning Commission's review of the proposed amendments to the *Six-Year Comprehensive Transportation Program* for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan. As required by the State law, the program is updated annually to keep the City eligible for competing for State and Federal transportation grants. Ms. Kammerzell reviewed the proposed amendments to be incorporated into the *Six-Year Comprehensive Transportation Program Amended 2013-2014 & 2015-2020*. The proposed amendments included deleting eight completed projects and adding three new projects, i.e., Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Crossing Signals, S. 17th Street and Jefferson Avenue Improvements, and Walter Road Improvements. Ms. Kammerzell stated that staff is seeking the Commission's concurrence with staff's recommendation to move the proposed amendments forward to the City Council's review/adoption process, which would include the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee's review in October, City Council's study session and public hearing in November, and City Council's adoption by ordinance in December 2013. The Commission concurred.

2. Transportation Commission

Josh Diekmann, Public Works Department, provided an overview of the structure, membership, and roles and responsibilities of the Transportation Commission that was established by the City Council on May 7, 2013, per Resolution No. 38669. He also described the roles of the two advisory groups of the Commission, i.e., the Parking Management Advisory Task Force and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group. He then reviewed the scope and schedule of the Transportation Master Plan, one of the major projects the Commission is tasked with. Mr. Diekmann indicated that the Commission's first meeting has been scheduled for September 18, at 6:00 p.m., and that staff from Public Works and Planning and Development Services will work closely together to ensure that the work activities of the Planning Commission and the Transportation Commission are well coordinated.

3. Temporary Homeless Camps

John Harrington, Development Services Division, reviewed the State law (RCW 36.01.290) enacted in 2010 that authorizes religious organizations to host temporary homeless camps and the City's desire to impose regulatory controls to protect public health and safety for such facilities within the City. He described some of the perimeters to be addressed in such regulations, such as size and number of camps, frequency of use of same property for camps, resident make-up, camp setbacks from residential uses, parking, and transit access. Mr. Harrington presented a benchmarking research of similar regulations from other jurisdictions. He also indicated that staff has begun outreaching to community-based agencies, subject-matter expert entities, stakeholders, and concerned parties to garner input, with the intent to facilitate the Commission's development of draft regulations during the timeline of November 2013 through February 2014. The Commission concurred.

4. Recreational Marijuana

Brian Boudet, Manager, Planning Services Division, provided a status of the Washington State Liquor Control Board's (LCB) rule-making for implementing the voter-approved Initiative 502 regarding recreational marijuana. According to the latest schedule of the LCB, the rules would become effective on November 16 and the LCB would begin to accept applications for all marijuana license types on November 18, 2013. Mr. Boudet indicated that it is likely that the City Council would impose interim regulations by mid-November, in time to provide policy and regulatory guidance for the review of those license applications within the City limits that are expected to come forward after November 18. He also presented a map illustrating where recreational marijuana uses could be located within the City, after factoring in the LCB's buffering requirements. Mr. Boudet stated that the City Council could initiate the interim regulations process on October 1, and if so, the Planning Commission would be required to develop, starting at the next meeting on October 2, findings of fact and a recommendation concerning the appropriate duration and scope of the interim regulations.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Draft South Downtown Subarea Plan

At 5:00 p.m., Chair Gaffney called the public hearing to order and reviewed the procedures. Ian Munce, Planning Services Division, provided an overview of the Draft South Downtown Subarea Plan, dated August 2013. Chair Gaffney called for testimony. The following citizens testified:

(1) **Milt Tremblay, University of Washington Tacoma:**

Mr. Tremblay praised the City for collaborating with the University of Washington Tacoma in the South Downtown Subarea Plan and EIS project efforts, which create vision, catalyze growth, provide an opportunity to categorize and identify mitigation costs upfront, and identify the infrastructure improvements needed to facilitate the growth to happen.

(2) **Jori Adkins, Dome District Development Group and New Tacoma Neighborhood Council:**

Ms. Adkins commended the South Downtown Subarea Plan and EIS project for involving multiple entities in the process and resulting in a good plan that will stimulate transit-oriented development.

(3) **Su Dowie, Foss Waterway Development Authority:**

Ms. Dowie indicated that the South Downtown Subarea Plan updates the Foss Waterway Development Authority's programmatic EIS, is consistent with the FDWA's Master Redevelopment Strategy and the City's recently updated Shoreline Master Program, and will incent development by providing a sense of certainty for prospective developers.

Chair Gaffney closed the hearing and announced that the hearing record will remain open through September 20, 2013 to receive written comments.

COMMUNICATION ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Stephen Atkinson, Planning Services Division, provided a status of the Draft Tacoma Shoreline Master Program, updated in November 2011. He reported that the State Department of Ecology issued a conditional approval of the Shoreline Master Program on August 19, 2013, and the City Council responded by adopting Resolution No. 38734 on September 17, 2013, accepting the majority of the Ecology's Required and Recommended Changes and proposing an alternative intent statement for the S-6/7 Transition District. It is anticipated that the Ecology would accept the City's proposed intent statement and issue the final approval in early October 2013, Mr. Atkinson indicated.
- (b) "Conversations RE: Tacoma – Towards a Livable Community" 2013 Lecture Series includes three sessions, scheduled for September 19, October 10, and November 21 (www.ReTacoma.com).
- (c) The agenda for the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee's meeting on September 25 may include: Wapato Hills Master Plan Update, First Creek Action Plan, and 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update.
- (d) The agenda for the Planning Commission's meeting on October 2 may include: Marijuana Interim Regulations, 2014 Annual Amendment, South Downtown Subarea Plan and EIS, and North Downtown Subarea Plan and EIS.
- (e) Commissioner Thompson encouraged everyone to participate in the Annual Tour of Remodeled Homes on September 28-29, 2013, sponsored by the Master Builder's Association of Pierce County.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.