

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

1

November 12, 2009

Regular Meeting

1 **Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order, by Whatcom County Planning
2 Commission Chair, Jean Melious, in the Northwest Annex Conference Room at 6:35 p.m.

3

4 **Roll Call**

5 Present: Jean Melious, Ken Mann, John Lesow, Rabel Burdge, Geoff Menzies, John
6 Steensma, John Belisle

7 Absent: David Hunter, Sean Wilson

8

9 **Staff Present:** David Stalheim, Suzanne Bosman, Michelle Stiles, Rodney Vandersypen –
10 Engineering, Becky Boxx

11

12 **Director's Dialog**

13

14 Director Stalheim stated Gary Davis, PDS Senior Planner, won the Washington State
15 Planning Association Barbara Grace Award for his work on the LAMIRD project.

16

17 There will be four vacancies on the Planning Commission at the end of 2009.
18 Commissioners Menzies, Hunter, Mann and Steensma will be leaving the Commission.

19

20 The Director updated the Commission with the County Council schedule. The Council will
21 have a public hearing on the UGA update on November 24th. Executive Kremen has stated
22 he may veto the Council recommendation.

23

24 The LAMIRD issues have been forwarded to the Council for them to act on.

25

26 **Open Session for Public Comment**

27

28 Jack Petree, Whatcom County: stated he found a book relating to agriculture written in
29 the 1940's. The Commission is welcome to look at it.

30

31 **Commissioner Comments**

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33 Lesow stated he had submitted written testimony regarding the Fairhaven Highlands DEIS
34 as a private citizen, not a Planning Commissioner. A copy of his comments were submitted
35 to the Planning Commission Coordinator. He also distributed an article regarding
36 agriculture in Canada and an article regarding agriculture in Snohomish County.

37

38 **Approval of Minutes**

39

40 September 10, 2009: Lesow moved to approve as written. Mann seconded. The motion
41 carried.

42

43 September 22, 2009: Melious amended page 2, line 29 to read: Melious ~~voted~~ moved to
44 not have... Mann moved to approve as amended. Lesow seconded. The motion carried.

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46 October 8, 2009: Lesow amended page 2, line 1 to read: Wilson moved to ~~deleting~~ delete
47 the areas... Lesow moved to approve as amended. Mann seconded. The motion carried.

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1 October 15, 2009: Mann moved to approve as written. Lesow seconded. The motion
2 carried.

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4 October 22, 2009: Lesow amended page 1, line 25 to read: Lesow stated he had testified
5 at the hearing regarding the Fairhaven Highlands DEIS as a private citizen, not a Planning
6 Commissioner. A copy of his comments were submitted to the Planning Commission
7 Coordinator. Mann moved to approve as amended. Lesow seconded. The motion carried.

8
9 **Public Hearing**

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11 File #PLN2009-00005: To consider new language to provide a better mechanism to
12 effectively enforce zoning code violations. This amendment will change the existing
13 enforcement and penalties section of the zoning code to be consistent with enforcement
14 language within other adopted Whatcom County codes.

15
16 Suzanne Bosman presented the staff report.

17
18 The purpose of the amendments are to cease issuing citations and implement new code
19 language that will allow for a timelier and more effective way to issue penalties while
20 providing the right for due process. Also, this amendment will make the Zoning Ordinance
21 (Title 20) consistent with the enforcement language in the other County codes.

22
23 The hearing was opened to the public.

24
25 There was no public testimony.

26
27 Lesow moved to recommend approval. Menzies seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Belisle,
28 Burdge, Lesow, Mann, Melious, Menzies, Steensma; Nays – 0; Abstain -0; Absent: Hunter,
29 Wilson. The motion carried.

30
31 **Work Session**

32
33 File #PLN2009-00019: Presentation of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Plan.

34
35 Michelle Stiles gave an overview of the history of the Committee and its work on the Plan
36 Staff recommends the Commission approve the plan and forward it to the County Council.

37
38 Committee members Jeff Margolis, Scott Thompson, Ellen Barton and Rodney
39 Vandersypen, of Whatcom County Public Works, spoke to the merits of the plan as a
40 guidance document for the County and asked the Commission to forward it to the County
41 Council for adoption.

42
43 Belisle moved to approve the plan and forward it to the County Council. Menzies
44 seconded. The motion carried.

45
46 The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

47
48 Minutes prepared by B. Boxx.

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1 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

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Jean Melious, Chair

David Stalheim, Secretary

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