

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

1

February 25, 2010

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 6:37 p.m.

3

4 **Roll Call**

5 Present: Jean Melious, John Belisle, Rod Erickson, Rabel Burdge, Michelle Luke, Gary
6 Honcoop, John Lesow, Jeff Rainey

7 Absent:

8

9 **Staff Present:** David Stalheim, Wain Harrison, Warner Webb, Royce Buckingham –
10 Prosecutor's Office, Becky Boxx

11

12 **Director's Dialog**

13

14 Director Stalheim stated the vacant Planning Commissioner position will be filled at the
15 March 16, 2010 Council meeting.

16

17 **Open Session for Public Comment**

18

19 There was no public comment.

20

21 **Commissioner Comments**

22

23 Commissioner Honcoop thanked Commissioner Melious for the planning program she
24 presented at WWU the previous evening.

25

26 Commissioner Lesow discussed meeting with Chief Fields, of Fire District #21 to discuss
27 Birch Bay capital facility issues.

28

29 **Approval of Minutes** of February 11, 2010

30

31 Lesow moved to approve as written. Honcoop seconded. The motion carried.

32

33 **Work Session**

34

35 Short Course on Local Planning

36

37 Director Stalheim and Royce Buckingham, from the County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
38 presented an overview of the following:

39

40 *Legal Issues*

41 > The difference between legislative and quasi-judicial actions

42 > Appearance of Fairness/Conflict of Interest

43 > Open Public Meetings and Public Records

44

45 *Planning Commissions and Authority*

46 > State Planning Authority

47 > Role and Authority of the Planning Commission

48 > Planning Enabling Act

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- 1 ➤ Planning in Washington
2 ➤ Legislative/Administrative Actions
3

4 *State Planning Statutes/ History and role of GMA*

- 5 ➤ History of the Growth Management Act
6 ➤ The original 13 GMA Goals
7 ➤ County-wide Planning Policies
8 ➤ Comprehensive Plans/Elements
9 ➤ County Amendment Process
10

11 *Implementing the Plan*

- 12 ➤ Development Regulations and Amendments to Regulations
13 ➤ Concurrency
14 ➤ Public Facilities and Services
15

16 **Work Session**

17
18 Long Range Work Program
19

20 Director Stalheim gave a brief overview of the Planning Department work program for
21 2010-2011. The Commission unanimously recommended, with emphasis on the task
22 relating to fire protection level of service, that the County Council support the proposed
23 plan.
24

25 **Unfinished Business**

26
27 Recommendation to Council regarding proposed changes to the Birch Bay Community Plan
28 fire level of service.
29

30 Staff reviewed a memo they prepared giving the history of this proposal and the reasons
31 for the Planning Commission not forwarding a positive recommendation, which was asked
32 for by the Planning Commission at their meeting on February 11, 2010.
33

34 Honcoop moved to forward the wording from the staff memo dated February 25, 2010.
35 Luke seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Erickson, Honcoop, Luke, Rainey; Nays – Lesow,
36 Melious; Abstain – Belisle, Burdge; Absent – 0. The motion failed. Staff will forward a
37 memo to the Council stating the reasons no recommendation was achieved.
38

39 The Commission agreed to form a subcommittee which will meet with Fire District #21
40 and members of the Birch Bay community to further discuss the issues.
41

42 The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.
43

44 Minutes prepared by B. Boxx.
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46
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1 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

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Jean Melious, Chair

David Stalheim, Secretary

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