

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

1

October 13, 2011

Regular Meeting

1 **Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order, by Whatcom County Planning
2 Commission Chair, Michelle Luke, in the Northwest Annex Conference Room at 6:30 p.m.

3
4 **Roll Call**

5 Present: Michelle Luke, John Lesow, Ken Bell, Rod Erickson, Gary Honcoop, David Onkels,
6 Mary Beth Teigrob

7 Absent: John Belisle, Jeff Rainey

8
9 **Staff Present:** Roxanne Michael, Gary Davis, Pam Brown.

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11 **Department Update**

12

13 Roxanne Michael updated the Commission on the Long Range Planning work program.

14

15 **Open Session for Public Comment**

16

17 Greg Brown, Whatcom County: Stated he was disappointed that the County Council
18 approved the funding for the Ruckelshaus program.

19

20 **Commissioner Comments**

21

22 Gary Honcoop distributed information regarding Florida's repeal of its growth management
23 law.

24

25 John Lesow stated the Commission may want to read his article *UGA's Not the Cause of*
26 *High Housing Costs* for an alternative point of view to Florida's actions, which can be
27 found at johnlesow.com.

28

29 **Approval of Minutes**

30

31 September 8, 2011: Lesow made a correction to page 1, line 22 to read: ~~Commissioner~~
32 ~~Lesow discussed electrical charge stations for vehicles.~~ Commissioner Lesow distributed
33 information titled *A Better Plan for A Better Place* and a memo regarding a meeting which
34 took place on August 26, 2011 with Regan Clover and Pete Kremen. Lesow moved to
35 approve the minutes as changed. Erickson seconded. The motion carried.

36

37 September 22, 2011: Lesow moved to approve the minutes as written. Honcoop
38 seconded. The motion carried.

39

40 **Public Hearing**

41

42 File #PLN2011-00022: Proposed amendments to the Whatcom County Code (WCC Title 20)
43 to permit electric vehicle infrastructure (EVI) in residential, commercial, and industrial zones.

44

45 Gary Davis presented the staff report. In 2009 the Washington legislature passed a bill
46 which requires counties to allow EVI in all non-residential zones within one mile of I-5.

47

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1 There are three levels of charging stations. Level 1, the equivalent of a standard 110 volt
2 outlet, can charge an electric car's battery in 16-24 hours. Level 2, a 220 volt outlet
3 comparable to an electric dryer hookup, can charge an electric car's battery in 4-6 hours.
4 Both level 1 and 2 charging stations can be used in home applications. Level 3 charging
5 stations are 480 volts and can charge an electric car's battery in less than 30 minutes.
6 These stations are relatively expensive and are typically used in public, commercial
7 settings. There are also battery exchange facilities which do not yet exist in North
8 America. The effect of the proposed ordinance would be to allow all three levels as an
9 accessory use in all zones and allow level 3 charges and battery exchange facilities as
10 permitted uses in Commercial and Industrial zones.

11

12 The hearing was opened to the public.

13

14 Greg Brown, Whatcom County: Does not like public parking lots being included as this is
15 public money that is being used to facilitate the stations. Has concerns regarding the wait
16 times and how people will spend that time. Has concerns regarding no maximum voltage.
17 Encourage zoning and discourage the regulations.

18

19 The hearing was closed to the public.

20

21 Some of the Commissioners stated these regulations are not needed because it is old
22 technology; there won't be electric cars driving in the area; charging would be a
23 cumbersome process for people; this is already permitted, though not specified as a
24 permitted "use", for levels 1 and 2; level 3 chargers and battery changing areas are a
25 safety issue.

26

27 Gary Davis stated if the Commission does not like the recommendations the County may
28 still comply with State law by keeping a simple definition and saying level 1 and 2 are
29 allowed but not listing them as a permitted use. Level 3 stations could be permitted as an
30 accessory use to a service station.

31

32 **Commissioner Bell moved to have staff rework the wording to allow levels 1 and**
33 **2 in all zones and bring back proposed wording to the next meeting. Lesow**
34 **seconded. The motion carried.**

35 **Commissioner Bell moved to reword 20.97.113 to read: Electric vehicle charging**
36 **station" means a public or private parking space that is served by battery**
37 **charging station equipment that has as its primary purpose the transfer of**
38 **electric energy (no more than 220 volts, by conductive or inductive means) to a**
39 **battery or other energy storage device in an electric vehicle. An electric vehicle**
40 **charging station is allowed accessory to any principal use and meets or exceeds**
41 **any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and**
42 **consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540. Lesow seconded.**

43 **Commissioner Lesow made a friendly amendment to reword 20.97.113 to read:**
44 **Electric vehicle charging station" means a ~~public or~~ private parking space that is**
45 **served by battery charging station equipment that has as its primary purpose**
46 **the transfer of electric energy (no more than 220 volts, by conductive or**

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1 **inductive means) to a battery or other energy storage device in an electric**
2 **vehicle. An electric vehicle charging station is allowed accessory to any principal**
3 **use and meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by**
4 **chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.**
5 **Honcoop seconded. The amendment carried.**

6
7 The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

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9 Minutes prepared by B. Boxx.

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11
12 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

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16
17 _____
18 Michelle Luke, Chair

19 _____
20 J.E. "Sam" Ryan, Secretary

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