

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

1

September 10, 2009

Regular Meeting

1 **Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order, by Whatcom County Planning
2 Commission Chair, Jean Melious, in Conference Room 513 of the Whatcom County
3 Courthouse at 6:37 p.m.

4
5 **Roll Call:**

6 Present: Jean Melious, John Lesow, Ken Mann, John Steensma, Sean Wilson, John Belisle,
7 Rabel Burdge

8 David Hunter in attendance at 6:52 p.m.

9 Absent: Geoff Menzies

10

11 **Staff Present:** David Stalheim, Wain Harrison, Gary Davis, Michelle Stiles, Samya Lutz,
12 Tyler Schroeder, Royce Buckingham-Prosecutor's Office, Becky Boxx

13

14 **Director's Dialog**

15

16 Director Stalheim outlined the issues for the evening's work session.

17

18 **Open Session for Public Comment**

19

20 Bob Wiesen, Whatcom County: Has an issue with the processes the County is going
21 through. The information to the public is not available to the public in a timely manner.

22

23 **Commissioner Comments**

24

25 Lesow stated it is hard to get information on what is going on when the papers are going
26 under. Stated he felt Commissioner Hunter was not badgering anyone giving testimony at
27 the hearing on September 8th as stated by some members of the public. Stood by his
28 statements to Bob Wiesen, at the September 8th meeting, regarding water commissioners.
29 Stated the Commissioners are never disrespectful to the public giving testimony.

30

31 Belisle read an article regarding the future of the planet.

32

33 Hunter clarified his position regarding the alleged badgering of people giving testimony.

34

35 **Work Session**

36

37 File #PLN2009-00011: To consider changes to the Rural Element of the Whatcom County
38 Comprehensive Plan and to Whatcom County's development regulations pertaining to land
39 uses and densities in rural areas of the County.

40

41 Royce Buckingham, Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office, clarified the legal issues
42 regarding the rural element process. The County was found out of compliance on three
43 issues: there were zoning densities, within urban growth areas, that were not dense
44 enough; the County did not properly set up LAMIRDs and show its work; zoning in the
45 rural residential areas were too dense.

46

47

48 Review of LAMIRD map boundaries

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- 1
2 Acme
3
4 Lesow moved to accept the map as presented. Belisle seconded. The motion carried.
5
6 Smith Road & Guide Meridian
7
8 The Commission debated if a coffee shop, on the southeast corner of Smith and Guide
9 Meridian, with split zoning, should be included in the LAMIRD with General Commercial
10 zoning. This was based on the request of the property owner.
11
12 The Commission debated if a property to the north should be included in the LAMIRD per
13 a request of the property owner.
14
15 The Commission debated a request from a group of land owners, to the north of the
16 proposed LAMIRD, wanting to be included in the LAMIRD as commercial property.
17
18 Hunter moved to accept the map as presented. Lesow seconded. The motion carried.
19
20 Axton Road & Guide Meridian
21
22 The Commission debated if a property, owned by Kirner, should be added to the LAMIRD.
23 Based on new information staff feels it should be in the LAMIRD.
24
25 The Commission debated if a property, to the west of the Hilltop Restaurant, should be
26 included in the LAMIRD, per a request of the property owner.
27
28 Hunter moved to accept the map as presented with the addition of the Kirner property.
29 Lesow seconded. The motion carried.
30
31 Laurel Road & Guide Meridian
32
33 The Commission debated if a property, at the south end of the LAMIRD, should be
34 included, per an owner request. There is a pending plat for commercial development on
35 the property.
36
37 The Commission debated if two properties, on the east side of the Guide Meridian, should
38 be included per an owner request. One of the parcels is for parking associated with a
39 business that is in the LAMIRD.
40
41 Lesow moved to accept the map with the addition of the property at the south end.
42 Hunter seconded.
43
44 Mann made a friendly amendment to add the parcel to the east which is used for parking.
45 The amendment was accepted.
46
47 The motion carried.
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1 Birch Bay

2
3 The Commission reviewed a request for property to be included which was once used as
4 an R.V. park.

5
6 Lesow moved to accept the map as presented. Hunter seconded. The motion carried.

7
8 Glacier

9
10 The Commission reviewed a request from several owners to add the western portion of
11 Glacier known as Miller's Addition to the LAMIRD and an area south of the Mt. Baker
12 Highway.

13
14 Mann moved to accept the map as proposed with the addition of Miller's Addition and the
15 area south of the Mt. Baker Highway. Lesow seconded. The motion carried.

16
17 Hinote's Corner

18
19 The Commission reviewed an owner request to add to the LAMIRD properties located to
20 the east of Hannegan Road.

21
22 Mann moved to include the properties. Lesow seconded. The motion carried.

23
24 The Commission debated taking out of the LAMIRD the housing development known as
25 Vista LaMonte.

26
27 Hunter moved to remove the development. Lesow seconded. The motion carried.

28
29 The Commission also debated removing the land located to the north of Vista LaMonte
30 and west of the proposed LAMIRD.

31
32 Hunter moved to remove the land. Lesow seconded. The motion carried.

33
34 The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

35
36 Minutes prepared by B. Boxx.

37
38
39 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

40
41
42
43 _____
44 Jean Melious, Chair

45 _____
46 David Stalheim, Secretary

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