

**Planning Commission
MS Team Virtual Meeting
Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2021**

Approved: kmcd



Chair Adam Yanasak called the meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance: Kathryn Beck and Charles Adkins.

Commissioner Lavra joined the meeting after Roll Call.

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Holland, Commissioner Zelinski, Commissioner McGinn, Commissioner Finch, and Commissioner Lark

Staff Present: Yorik Stevens-Wajda, Rebecca McCrary, and Kathy Davis

Commissioner Reports

None

Staff Comments

Yorik Stevens-Wajda, Planning Director, provided an update on the buildable lands report and countywide planning policies. Upcoming items: home occupation regulations and six-year Transportation Improvement Program. Update on interdepartmental team working on light rail extension project, and code amendments.

Meeting Minutes

Motion: Commissioner Beck made a motion to approve the May 4, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Adkins seconded the motion.

Vote: Commissioner Adkins, yes; Commissioner Lavra, yes; Commissioner Beck, yes; and Chair Yanasak, yes.

Motion Carried.

Item 1: Rethink Housing Action Plan Update

Rebecca McCrary, Long Range Planning Manager, presented information on the Housing Action Plan final project schedule, the community housing forums and chat session discussions, survey results, and the short-term, mid-term and long-term actions addressed in the draft plan.

Commission Discussion

Chair Yanasak asked about transit-oriented communities and the impact that the possible delay of light rail to Everett would have in those areas along with the uncertainty of Everett Transit. Ms. McCrary

responded there would still be opportunities for transit-oriented development in terms of Everett's existing neighborhoods and what was currently happening in the area; however, light rail would help amplify that type of development. Mr. Stevens-Wajda added that the most pessimistic delay of light rail to Everett would still be within the City's Comprehensive Plan update planning period. Light rail could be transformative in the three or four station areas; however, light rail is only one piece of a transit network that will always lean heavily on Everett Transit and Community Transit for most day-to-day trips. The City is currently conducting a review of transit services through the Rethink Transit process.

Commissioner Beck asked about Everett's Bicycle Plan. Ms. McCrary responded that topic had come up during chat sessions. She would check with City staff on the update and consider the comment about electric bikes during the transit-oriented area discussions. Commissioner Beck stated that a smaller investment over the next few years could include parks and recreation, and trail systems that connect to hubs around the City which would increase community livability, vibrancy, and attractiveness. Commissioner Beck encouraged the City to consider prioritizing what the City already had in terms of infrastructure improvements and creating connections to help leverage the bigger assets. She would also like to encourage the City to educate the public about parking vehicles on sidewalks.

Chair Yanasak understood the challenges facing the City on growth and wondered how the City effectively plans for future housing options and choices thirty to forty years out. Ms. McCrary responded in terms of introducing new housing types in single-family neighborhoods, the City would increase their efforts to do more public outreach and education around housing affordability and opportunity since there wasn't a lot of participation in the public forums.

Commissioner Beck encouraged staff to think outside the box to address the lack of public participation in the process. The City should consider public outreach as a campaign to get the word out to the community by attending events and farmer's markets. The City needs to diversify public outreach to make it more meaningful to the community. Commissioner Beck added that the City should be creative to engage people at a different level than what was previously done.


Citizen Comments

None

ADJOURNED 7:41 PM




Planning Commission Secretary



Date



Administrative Assistant



Date