

City of Mount Vernon
Planning Commission Meeting
Minutes from February 2, 2016

Vice Chairperson Shelley Acero called the meeting to order. Present were Planning Commission members Al Lyon, Adair Orr, and new member Chris Bollinger. Staff members Bob Hyde, Rebecca Lowell, Mayor Boudreau and Council member Dale Ragan were also present. Planning Commission members Tom Waller, Linda Piazza and Fred Clark were absent.

Other attendees included Tom Theisen, Jim Vandermay, Gene Van Selus, and Dick Nord. They are members of Housing Affordability and Availability Task Force, a group formed in response to the homeless in Skagit County.

Minutes:

The minutes from November 3, 2015 were tabled due to members that attended the November 3rd meeting were absent.

Swearing in New Planning Commission Member:

Mayor Boudreau administered the oath to the newest Planning Commission member Chris Bollinger. Mr. Bollinger replaces the position held by Donnie Keltz. Planning Commission member Al Lyon was re-appointed for another four year term.

Homeless Issues in Skagit County:

Joan Penny, consultant for Skagit Community Action; and members of Housing Affordability and Availability Task Force (HAATF), were present to address the Planning Commission about homelessness in Skagit County.

Ms. Penny provided statistical information on the homeless population within Skagit County. She reported an increase of 355 people last year; of which 120 are families. The number of homeless people in Skagit County is 3,000 to 4,000. The waiting list for affordable housing is between 6 to 7 years. Additional housing is needed for seasonal farmworkers.

Other points of discussion included the costs of caring for the homeless, the architectural design of affordable housing, and density. Members of the HAATF stated it is not economical feasible to build multi-family units with the current density allowed. Mrs. Lowell stated the issues of affordable housing and the homeless population is complex and shouldn't be tied together. She further stated the Planning Commission needs informed discussion. She will bring more information on this issue to future meetings.

Introduction to Transportation Planning:

Mrs. Lowell provided an overview of transportation planning featuring future growth, State, Regional & local planning, arterial streets, modeling, and Level of Service (LOS). Mrs. Lowell explained this is one element of the City's comprehensive plan, and required to be consistent with the State's transportation plan as well as local and regional government. She described

how arterial streets are analyzed and traffic counts are calculated. Level of Service, or LOS, is a rating given to streets. An A represents the best and F is failing. Planning Commission will review city streets and intersections that have failing levels of service and how the City mitigates these failures at the next meeting. Transportation modeling is a method of counting to estimate future use. Housing and employment are added to vehicle trips.

Mr. Orr reminded the Planning Commission members the importance of completing their vision statement.

There being no further business Mr. Lyon moved, second by Mr. Orr, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.