

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
City Council
Planning, Development & Environment Committee

6:30 PM
September 9, 2024

MINUTES

Council Chambers
135 E. Sunset Way

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Committee Members:
Victoria Hunt, Chair
Lindsey Walsh
Zach Hall

Administration/Staff:
Wally Bobkiewicz, City Administrator
Tisha Gieser, Deputy City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Councilmember Hunt called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a) The following individual provided public comment:
- Connie Marsh, resident, made comments regarding the Comprehensive Plan, requesting changes to the process being used for the missing middle housing changes and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of July 9, 2024.
Chair Hunt requested changes to the July 9 minutes to correct the spelling of "Big" and add the following under agenda item, COM 0061 - Annual Amendments to Title 18 and Title 3:
- "Committee recommended that the City not have specific requirements in code regarding aesthetic screening of heat pumps given the City wants to encourage them."

The minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **COM 0015 - Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update - Draft Review**
Presented by:
Stephen Padua, Long Range Planning Manager

The following public comment was provided:

- Connie Marsh, resident, expressed concern with a lack of community input in the Comprehensive Plan Update, asked that community values be returned to the Introduction section of the Plan, that the Issaquah Treasurers be promoted in the Plan, and requested the level of service be clarified for Parks.

Committee feedback included:

- Requested all changes be in the matrix or the track changes document when this returns to the Committee as well as why the changes were made. Changes were made inconsistently in some places.

- Requested a track changes version of the Plan.
- Requested more policy language and strengthening of changes made in response to the recommendation of the Affordable Housing Committee.
- Requested staff review of the document again to ensure readability given many changes have been made.
- Ensure Issaquah specific policies and examples are used.
- Requested information about how the community values were developed.
- Appreciated feedback from Environmental Board, but still feel some tension between their comments and staff response. Consider adding introductory language to acknowledge their input.
- Introduction section should tell more of a story: how we got here, where we are, where we are going. Emphasize some of the larger influences or changes.
- Requested the staff memo provided in the Committee materials also be shared with the full City Council.
- Suggested clarity around what assumptions are being made regarding population growth scenarios as highlighted by the Environmental Board.

b) **COM 0071 - Comprehensive Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

Presented by:

Mandi Roberts, Otak Principal Planner

The following public comment was provided:

- Connie Marsh, resident, expressed concern that the scenarios being analyzed as part of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement are not realistic.

No specific feedback was requested of the Committee on this topic.

The Committee discussed implications of the alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- Suggested more succinctly identifying the differences in the three alternatives in the Draft EIS in the future public engagement.
- Highlighted that Alternative 3 is most clearly aligned with the policies in the Comprehensive Plan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:58 PM.

Victoria Hunt, Chair

Tisha Gieser, City Clerk