

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Environmental Board**

6:30 PM
January 11, 2023

MINUTES

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave.
NW, Issaquah

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board members:

Jamie Finch, Chair
Don McQuilliams, Vice Chair
Nancy Davidson
Rishi Hazra*
Cameron Fisher
Lara Lebeiko (Virtual)
Dan Hintz
Anne Newcomb (Virtual)
Ashwin Manoharan*

Administration/Staff:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability
Manager
David Reedy, Sustainability Coordinator
Billy Almanza, Sustainability Intern
Tisha Geiser, City Clerk

Janet Wall, Alternate
Tom Anderson, Alternate
Mathangi Ramanathan, Alternate (Unexcused
Absence)

*Youth/young adult members.

CALL TO ORDER

Jamie Finch called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair introduced the minutes, which were included in the agenda materials. The minutes were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

- a) Minutes of December 14, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CONNIE MARSH, Resident, provided comments and concerns over the language of the Title 18 draft. Where she felt that the intent was to protect critical surface areas, the language was not easily read or well organized to effectively protect the environment. She suggested a technical edit to improve the way the code protects fish and wildlife habitat area interface with streams and wetland. She expressed concern over the number of “deviations” and exemptions in the code. She questioned how this language could allow for developers or entities to circumvent the protections by allowing compensatory contributions over tree planting where needed and urged the board to thoroughly read the code in these instances as she felt that these were the only tools to stop developer overreach.

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **Amendments to Rules & Regulations: Virtual Attendance (A)**

Presented by:
Tisha Gieser, City Clerk

TISHA GIESER presented on the amendments to rules and regulations for the virtual meeting policy, based on input from the December 2022 meeting. The Board had clarifying questions on whether all meetings would have a virtual component. All regular meetings would have the

virtual component, but joint and special meetings would not. In response the Board would like to receive a notification if virtual attendance was not possible. The Board member Dan Hintz proposed to approve amendments with all board members in favor. Through unanimous consent, the motion was passed, and the Board stated that they would work with the clerk's office to implement the new rules and regulations.

b) **Title 18 Complete Draft Clarifying Questions (I)**

Presented by:

Minnie Dhaliwal, Community Planning and Development Director

MINNIE DHALIWAL responded to clarifying questions on the Title 18 draft. The Board asked clarifying questions about home remodels, homes near critical areas, and tree canopy preservation and requirements. The Board asked about development agreements and were informed that the existing code conversations would be held on a case-by-case basis. The Board asked about utilities and their ability to adjust critical areas seemingly without limits. The Board questioned if there were revisions that could be made to restrict impact. The Board asked about tree maintenance responsibility when interference with powerlines is apparent. A larger conversation with PSE is likely necessary. In addition, the Board wanted clarification on what the enforcement mechanism was for maintenance efforts where at times a permit is required and at times it is not.

c) **Sewer and Wastewater Master Plan (D)**

Presented by:

Matt Ellis, Utility Engineering Manager

MATT ELLIS presented on the sewer and wastewater master plan. ELLIS shared that there are homeowners on septic that would like to be connected to sewer, but financing was a barrier. The Board asked who is inspecting OSS and was informed that it was certified inspector but that the cost would fall on the homeowner. In terms of capital funding priority, the Board wanted to know how they weighed which developments, either based on environmental impact or by those requesting. In response to the potential time period for extending sewers, the Board wanted to know if the city was looking into alternative methods such as composting toilets or gray water collection. Many of the proposed projects were on a 20-40 year timeline. The Board asked if climate change impacts such as droughts or more intense rain fall flooding the system were being considered. Overall, the board had no objections with the direction that the city was headed and was interested in learning more as the project progresses.

REPORTS

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Updated Environmental Board Schedule

STACY VYNNE MCKINSTRY provided updates to the board schedule. The Board was informed that there would be a special meeting on February 1st, a tentative Feb 16 CIP summit, and a January 30th sustainability open house (optional for Board members). Updates were also given on the work being done with Gibson Ek students, the sustainability fair for April, and the Eastside Climate Partnership interlocal agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.