

Planning Policy Commission
12-13-18

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
PLANNING POLICY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

6:30 PM
December 13, 2018

Council Chambers
135 E. Sunset Way

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

<p>PPC Commissioners Present: Joan Probala, Chair Joy Lewis Bill Rinehart Lindsey Walsh Commissioners Not Present (Excused): Ron Faul, Vice Chair AJ McGauley, Alt. Troy Rahmig Jason Voiss, Alt.</p>	<p>Administration/Staff Present: Trish Heinonen, Planning Policy Manager Keith Niven, Econ. Dev. and Dev. Services Director Emily Arteche, Senior Planner</p>
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1. CALL TO ORDER

PROBALA, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. MOVED BY WALSH, SECONDED BY RINEHART that minutes of the PPC's meeting on November 8, 2018 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 4-0.

b. MOVED BY RINEHART, SECONDED BY LEWIS that minutes of the PPC's meeting on November 15, 2018 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 4-0.

3. REGULAR BUSINESS

a. PUBLIC HEARING: 2018 AMENDMENTS TO ISSAQUAH'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (D)

*Presented by: Trish Heinonen, Planning Policy Manager
Emily Arteche, Senior Planner*

Staff Presentation

Heinonen began staff's presentation on the 2018 amendments to Issaquah's Comprehensive Plan. She explained the process that was used to develop the docket of amendments to be reviewed in 2018 and the work PPC did on them during 2018. She continued that all the amendments in the docket to be reviewed are listed in Table 1 in the agenda packet, and all have been reviewed by PPC except two: Item #11, Utilities and Public Services Element, and Item #16, Capital Facilities Element, which will be presented and discussed tonight. She explained the proposed amendment to the Utilities and Public Services Element is based on a proposed update of the City's 2012 Water System Plan. The Capital Facilities Element is an inventory and needs list required as part of the update of the Capital Facilities Element, which will be used to continue the City's work on the Fire Impact Fees.

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Heinonen continued her presentation with a summary of the proposed amendments. She referred to an email submitted by WALSH in advance of tonight's public hearing and the clarifications staff provided to the questions in WALSH's memo. She referred to Table L-5, Population and Household Projection (page 35 of 98), and explained changes made in the final version of growth projections as a result of a question raised by WALSH. She continued with proposed changes to the definitions section of the Comp Plan, and changes to the Land Use Element; the Transportation Element; the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element; and Appendix B Implementation Strategies.

Arteche continued staff's presentation on proposed amendments to the Capital Facilities Element and Utilities and Public Service Element being presented tonight. She explained the many changes that have taken place since the Water System Plan (WSP) was updated in 2012, including added connections, additional policies, changes in treatment of groundwater, and so on. She explained the review process that the WSP update has received so far. She summarized the basic changes to the elements as the need to revise capital needs for Fire Service; revise language for the School District's six-year plan; and revise the Municipal Facilities Map. She said under the current review schedule, these amendments may not come back to PPC for additional review unless the Council directs PPC to look at them again in 2019.

WALSH asked whether policies should be included about water fluoridation, exceeding standards for treatment, and so on. Arteche said that is a possibility, but it isn't anticipated by Public Works right now. WALSH said her understanding is that the City has two sources of water, and one of them is fluoridated and one is not. She said it seems to her that we don't have a lot of the information needed to review the fluoridation policies, for example, in the WSP. LEWIS agreed. She asked whether there would be an opportunity to fine-tune this next year. Arteche said it's possible to bring this back to PPC next year for additional review, however it is unclear whether changes could be made to the WSP. WALSH said she would feel comfortable with that. LEWIS agreed, and said she could support approving this now with that caveat.

Heinonen added portions of the WSP, such as the goals and some policies, are determined by the state, and it isn't clear whether the City could go to the state and ask for changes in those goals and policies, for example. WALSH said she wasn't thinking of reviewing the entire plan, just the portions over which the City has control. PROBALA noted fluoridation, for example, is not regulated by the state. LEWIS spoke in favor of having staff do more research on which portions of the WSP are dictated by the state and which are not, and then the City can develop its own plan based on that research. Heinonen said the Council could do its review after staff has done more research, then the resulting policy changes as a result of Council's discussion could be brought back to PPC for more discussion.

Arteche continued her presentation on minor changes to the Capital Facilities Element as a result of an update to the Fire Impact Fees schedule, including creating an inventory list of fire stations and vehicles and a list of needed capital facilities. She also referred to minor edits that would update the section on the School District's Capital Facilities Plan and the City's Municipal Facilities Map. PROBALA asked when the Fire Services Plan was last updated, and whether fire service capacity is keeping pace with growth. Heinonen replied the plan was last updated in 2006. The rate study has not been updated since then, but the Fire Department has kept current with requests for increases in facilities, services, and so on to maintain the same level of service.

WALSH asked when more information will be available about a new fire station located north of I-90. Niven replied the Fire Department has already done a response study that has identified

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where the new facility would optimally be located. The scarcity of available property, however, means that it will not be easy to identify that location. He continued a parcel was under consideration on East Sammamish Parkway but it could not accommodate a fire station, so the Fire Department is looking for another option now. He said a meeting will be held with the Fire Chief next week to discuss how to proceed, and noted identifying a location is on as fast a track as possible.

Heinonen noted the next step for approving the 2018 Comp Plan amendments is review by the Land and Shore Committee and the Services and Safety Committee at meetings in January, February, and March, leading to expected Council action in March.

Commission Discussion

PROBALA asked whether the projects listed on page 49 of 98 in the Transportation Element (“Transportation Capital Requests for the Budget Years 2019-2024”) in the column “2019” have been funded. She noted that some of them, such as the project at the Providence Point intersection, have been in the plan for 20 years. Niven replied at the Council’s budget deliberations this year, the Council had a brief discussion about projects that they assumed were fully funded but are not. Providence Point was identified as an \$8 million unfunded project. As a result of that discussion, that project was included in 2019 budget, and the Council will discuss other projects that have not been fully funded in 2019. He said he doesn’t want to speak authoritatively on which projects in the TIP have been funded for 2019 and which are only partially funded, but staff can arrange for Public Works Engineering staff to speak to PPC for more discussion on that if PPC so chooses.

WALSH suggested that because Fire Services is a six-year plan, it should be included in the list of “Longer-Term Actions, 2023-2030” on page 89 of 98. Staff made a note of it.

PROBALA said page 51 of 98 in the Transportation Element states that, “... Reducing the trip generation rate... will help achieve the City’s goal that transit and pedestrian trips will account for approximately 17 percent of all PM peak hour trips by 2031.” She asked how staff arrived at that 17-percent figure. Heinonen said when the original transportation study was done for Central Issaquah, the mode split indicated that the City was at a 7-percent non-single occupancy vehicle level. The goal then was to double that in 20 years. PROBALA asked how achieving that 17 percent level will help traffic in the City. She said the City is making road improvements, working with employers on commute-trip reduction, and so on, but we will still experience an increase in traffic as the City takes actions to increase density. Heinonen said reducing the number of Non-Drive Alone Trips (NDAT) in Central Issaquah should help traffic not only in Central Issaquah but all over the City. She continued the concurrency update scheduled for 2019 will indicate what has changed since the last update was done in 2015. In addition, she continued, the Council has authorized a new Transportation Advisory Board to help develop a Master Mobility Plan over the next year, including looking at ST-3 (Sound Transit 3) and the City’s current transportation problems. Staff will be updating PPC about the new Transportation Advisory Board’s activities.

LEWIS said page 28 of 98 refers to the City’s goal of “reducing the citywide greenhouse gas emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 25 percent by 2020...” and asked how is the City doing in reaching that goal. Heinonen said she can refer that question to David Fujimoto, the City’s Sustainability Director, for an answer to that question.

LEWIS referred to page 25 of 98 about the City’s tree canopy, and said during public comment on this issue a suggestion was made to develop a catalog of the City’s trees, using technology

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such as drones. Has there been any traction on that, she asked. Heinonen replied the Parks Department will be updating the City's tree canopy data in 2019 as part of the Parks Strategic Plan. PPC will review and update the tree canopy goals in the Comp Plan once that data is available.

PPC expressed appreciation for the work done by staff on the 2018 Comp Plan amendments.

Public Comment

PROBALA opened the public hearing at 7:29 PM. Hearing no requests to speak, she closed the public hearing at 7:29 PM.

Commission Decision

After a short discussion, the Commission agreed that staff should summarize tonight's discussion, including PPC's request that the WSP come back to PPC for additional review in 2019 after it has been reviewed by Council, and include that summary and request in staff's presentation of PPC's recommendation to the Council.

MOVED BY WALSH, SECONDED BY RINEHART that PPC recommend approval of the amendments presented at tonight's meeting to the Comprehensive Plan, Central Issaquah Plan, Issaquah Municipal Code, and the Central Issaquah Development and Design Standards to the City Council. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 4-0.

4. OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/SCHEDULE

Heinonen noted that the January 10, 2019 PPC meeting is cancelled; the next PPC meeting will be January 24, 2019.

5. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

None.

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business to conduct, PROBALA adjourned the meeting at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowe
Recording Secretary