

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Planning Policy Commission

6:30 PM
June 13, 2019

Council Chambers
135 E. Sunset Way

MINUTES

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Commissioners:

Joan Probala, Chair
Ron Faul, Vice Chair
Janice Carle
Randy Harrison
Bill Rinehart
Jason Voiss

Commissioners Not Present (Excused):

Joy Lewis
Robin Beukers, Alt.
Thomas Haskins, Alt.

Administration/Staff:

Trish Heinonen, Policy Planning Manager
Doug Yormick, Assistant Planner
Lucy Sloman, Land Development Mgr.

Others Present:

Maria Sandercock, Ecology
Alex Capron, The Watershed Company

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) MOVED BY FAUL, SECONDED BY RINEHART that minutes of the meeting on May 23, 2019 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 6-0.
- b) MOVED BY VOISS, SECONDED BY HARRISON that minutes of the meeting on May 29, 2019 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 6-0.

PUBLIC HEARING(S) - Continued from 5/23/19

- a) **Amendments to IMC 18.10.940 Shoreline Master Plan Program, (R)**

Presented by:

Doug Yormick, Assistant Planner

Yormick continued staff's presentation on the 2019 Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) update that was initially discussed at the May 23, 2019 PPC meeting. He noted that suggestions and changes to the goals and policies in the SMP made by PPC at the last meeting have been incorporated. He gave PPC members an update on the issue of changing the City's wetlands standards to reflect 2018 Ecology guidance. In reply to a question from HARRISON, he provided more information about how the City's wetlands standards and Ecology's guidance differ, primarily how wetlands are scored and categorized.

PROBALA asked staff to be sure to include the Arts Commission in the City's signage and wayfinding update. Staff made a note of it. Sloman gave more information about the parties that have been identified to work on the signage update.

Yormick continued his presentation on specific regulations that are proposed for change in the SMP, and asked PPC members to email staff with any grammatical and/or minor wording changes. He described the "mandatory," "recommended," and "no change needed" modifications provided in the gap analysis prepared by the City's consultant, The Watershed

Company. He continued his presentation on the top changes in the Gap Analysis, as described in the agenda packet.

FAUL asked for clarification of the change to the “floodway” definition. Yormick replied the change is primarily being proposed for consistency with the State, the SMP, and the City’s land use code. FAUL asked will the change have any effect on residents who want to purchase flood insurance. Yormick replied no, it will not. Sloman referred to the definition of “floodway” on page 48 in the May 23, 2019 agenda packet.

Yormick continued his presentation on the top changes being proposed for consistency with adopted plans and regulations. RINEHART asked whether “trail use” includes horses, ATV, mountain bikes, and so on. Yormick said staff has been assuming it refers to non-motorized use, but made a note of the comment.

FAUL asked whether actions on the SMP would affect any new or potential trails within Lake Sammamish State Park. Capron, The Watershed Company, noted an open house will be held next week on plans for Lake Sammamish State Park Master Plan. He added any new trail development would be in the wetlands buffer area and be subject to stringent requirements and the City’s review process. Yormick added any new trails would have to comply with the City’s trail regulations. FAUL asked whether the amendments under discussion should include language specifically about new trails in Lake Sammamish State Park. PROBALA said the language would cover all trails in the City, so any new trails would be subject to the City’s review process. Staff agreed, and FAUL said his concern was satisfied.

CARLE noted that the new language states that trails “... shall be the minimum necessary based upon safety and anticipated volumes,” and that no maximum is given. Yormick replied the language is based on accommodating the expected volume. CARLE asked so the “minimum” is in the judgment of the City. Yormick replied yes.

FAUL asked whether the SMP has been reviewed by the Parks Department and Friends of Lake Sammamish. Sloman replied staff from the Parks Department has been coordinating with planning staff on the SMP update. She noted Ecology is intending to balance a variety of goals with the Lake Sammamish State Park Master Plan, and is looking at how trails can add value and access to the park in ways that are also not harmful. This language addresses an existing gap in that it specifies that trails are allowed and in what ways they are allowed.

Yormick continued with an update on the SMP Table 2, pages 40-44, to reflect zoning changes in Central Issaquah. He noted some other minor corrections to zoning information have also been made.

PROBALA noted that PPC looked at the SMP in 2012-2013 and made recommendations on setbacks and so on. She said she was pleased to see those recommendations were approved by the Council and are included in this update, and that the explanations staff has provided include the reasons why PPC made those recommendations. Sloman noted the 2012-2013 work on the SMP was a major overhaul; this revision is not as extensive.

PROBALA asked whether the representative from Ecology would like to comment. Sandercock, Ecology, replied the next step in this review process is for the City to submit its proposed amendments for an initial review by Ecology to ensure the proposed changes are consistent with the Shoreline Management Act. Ecology will provide the City with some preliminary comments on its proposal, then the City will continue its review process and submit the SMP to Ecology for a final determination. She noted Ecology has already given some preliminary

comments to City staff, and added we have found it valuable to give municipalities some upfront feedback before they submit a final plan to Ecology for approval.

Public Comment

PROBALA reopened the public hearing (continued from May 23, 2019) at 7:04 PM. Hearing no requests to speak, she closed the public hearing at 7:05 PM.

Decision

MOVED BY FAUL, SECONDED BY RINEHART to approve the Findings of Fact and Amendments 1-4 for the Shoreline Master Plan as presented, with no additional modifications or corrections, and to recommend approval to the City Council. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 6-0.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Training. PROBALA referred to the recent training session for Commissioners on May 29 and asked for feedback. It was the general consensus that the training session was valuable. The Commissioners discussed how best to ensure that PPC meetings are productive and include an opportunity for everyone to be heard. The Commissioners also discussed a suggestion made at the training session that Commissioners establish an email account for their Commission activities separate from a personal email account.

b. Other. HARRISON noted that a public meeting is planned for June 25 at Pickering Barn on the long-range master plan for Lake Sammamish State Park, and encouraged PPC members to attend. Heinonen said information on the meeting was emailed to PPC members today. HARRISON also shared a resource for interesting reading he found at the public library—"Past and Present in Issaquah," published in 1967, authored by Edward R. Fish with illustrations by Harriett Fish—and noted the authors expressed concerns in the 1960s about the effects of growth on the City.

c. Schedule. Heinonen noted the meeting schedule is currently in flux, and the next PPC meeting date, scheduled for June 27, may change.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to conduct, PROBALA adjourned the meeting at 7:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowe
Recording Secretary