



## MINUTES

### PLANNING POLICY COMMISSION JOINT MEETING 6:30 p.m. - Thursday, February 23, 2023

---

#### 1. Call to Order

The hybrid meeting was called to order at 6:31p.m. by CHAIR VOISS.

Commissioners Present: Chair Voiss, Vice-Chair Bader, Commissioners Esemuede, Kennedy, and Milligan,

Absence: Commissioners Altimore, Lewis, and Patterson

Staff Present: Thomas Valdriz, Senior Transportation Planner  
Christen Leeson, Senior Planner  
Stephen Padua, Long Range Planning Manager

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

CHAIR VOISS asked for corrections regarding the January 12, 2023 meeting minutes and there were none. The minutes were approved.

CHAIR VOISS asked for corrections regarding the January 19, 2023 meeting minutes and there were none. The minutes were approved.

CHAIR VOISS asked for corrections regarding the January 26, 2023 meeting minutes. VICE-CHAIR BADER stated that, on page six of nine, the name BADER is spelled BADEN. Staff would make the correction and the minutes were approved.

#### 3. Public Comments (General)

There were no requests to speak.

#### 4. Regular Business

## 02-23-23 Planning Policy Commission Meeting Minutes

a) **Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update Overview, (D)**

*Presented by:*

*Stephen Padua, Long Range Planning Manager*

Padua began the presentation. (00:03)

COMMISSIONER MILLIGAN asked for clarification regarding functional plans in the Comprehensive Plan. Padua replied that visions and goals do not specify why, but the Comprehensive Plan spells out why, how to achieve the visions and goals.

CHAIR VOISS asked for clarification that the Comprehensive Plan is an overview of all elements without strategies and financing, and Padua replied yes, and that there will be overlap.

COMMISSIONER ESEMUEDE asked for clarification that the meeting is regarding the Comprehensive Plan, to be followed by functional plans. Padua replied that now and in the near foreseeable future, the Comprehensive Plan update will be the focus. There will be some discussion regarding functional plans to help with conversations.

Padua continued the presentation. (00:12)

COMMISSIONER MILLIGAN asked if functional plans for 2023 will come before or after the update to the corresponding element of the Comprehensive Plan. Padua replied that plans highlighted for 2023 will come before the Comprehensive Plan but will be incorporated in the update. COMMISSIONER MILLIGAN asked for clarification regarding interaction for consistency. Padua replied that functional plans are developed based on the Comprehensive Plan goals and policies, and revisit how goals and policies may need to be changed.

Padua continued the presentation. (00:16)

COMMISSIONER MILLIGAN asked for clarification regarding sequencing and if the action plans, being based on the former version of the Comprehensive Plan, will fall out of synch, and asked who is updating the action plans. Padua replied that Economic Vitality will be updated by the Economic Development group and Economic Vitality Commission. The Parks Strategic Plan will be updated by the Parks Board. Regarding keeping action plans and the Comprehensive Plan in synch, the Comprehensive Plan can only be updated at least once per year all together. VICE-CHAIR BADER asked for clarification that the process of holding conversations regarding updated goals and policies is occurring and Padua replied yes, and what is required by the State must match, a certification process with the Metropolitan Planning Organization and the State. VICE-CHAIR BADER asked if, at the year 2035, the Comprehensive Plan will be extended. Padua replied that the Comprehensive Plan will move to the next growth targets, 2044.

Padua continued the presentation. (00:20)

## 02-23-23 Planning Policy Commission Meeting Minutes

CHAIR VOISS asked if design will be brought to the Commission or if staff will work with a consultant internally. Padua replied that everything that will change in the Comprehensive Plan will be brought to the Planning Policy Commission.

Padua continued the presentation. (00:24)

CHAIR VOISS asked if Land Use is separately worked on by both Planning Policy and Environmental Commissions and Padua replied yes, that one is not more important than the other, but for transparency. Sustainability goals are in the Land Use element. Separating makes the Comprehensive Plan more usable.

Padua continued the presentation. (00:27)

COMMISSIONER MILLIGAN asked for the difference between a sub-area and a neighborhood. Padua replied only the title. Leeson stated that the sub-area map is incorrect, not updated over time. COMMISSIONER ESEMUEDE asked if boundaries would affect school zones. Padua replied no, school zones have own boundaries, managed by the School District. Leeson replied that boundaries are not where Council prioritizes Capital projects, but are used for planning purposes.

Padua continued the presentation, and asked what the Commissioners would like to see in methodologies of engagement in terms of receiving information from the community. (00:30)

VICE-CHAIR BADER stated that equity needs to be at the forefront of all conversations, and not only coming from the Equity Board. Padua replied that each element would be examined regarding incorporating new policies related to equity, city services and amenities. The city is developing an equity framework to help provide the lens, but will not be ready by the time the Comprehensive Plan project is completed. There will be more analysis when the equity framework is available, and the Equity Board is assisting.

COMMISSIONER MILLIGAN asked about how the direction for economic vitality and economic sustainability for the city is developed. Padua replied by the conversations with interest groups. Topics that come up in Commission meetings will be discussed in joint meetings with the Economic Vitality Commission.

COMMISSIONER MILLIGAN stated a concern that aspirational goals may not be able to be fulfilled long term. Padua replied that staff will be doing reality checks throughout the project in relation to specificity and cost. Different topics will be discussed by the various Boards and Commissions, and staff hopes to bring Land Use related conversations to the Planning Policy Commission which is within purview.

CHAIR VOISS stated that each Board and Commission will be addressing elements within purview, with some joint meetings. There will be discussions on Land Use following issues brought forward with the Title 18 update. CHAIR VOISS asked what will be expected of the

## 02-23-23 Planning Policy Commission Meeting Minutes

Planning Policy Commission. Padua replied primarily Land Use and growth discussions. The design of the Comprehensive Plan will be brought to all Boards and Commissions. Sub-committees may be formed to provide recommendations. CHAIR VOISS stated that the Planning Policy Commission had ceded some responsibilities in the past to create new Boards, in example, the Equity Board was created in 2020.

VICE-CHAIR BADER asked what the vision conversation will look like. Padua replied that data will be provided to determine what conversations are needed in the next couple of months. VICE CHAIR BADER asked if there is a city mission guiding work and Padua replied that the full vision for the city needs to be consistent across different elements, but there is not a mission for the Comprehensive Plan.

COMMISSIONER MILLIGAN asked if instructions will be given from City Council. Padua replied that on the process flowchart, the city-wide Strategic Plan is between Resources and Financing Implementation, providing priorities from functional plans filtering down to how the city budget, programs, and projects should be assembled. COMMISSIONER MILLIGAN asked if City Council would be giving instructions in objectives and priorities such as was done during Title 18. Padua replied the process is different, more of a community driven project. If there is direction from the Council, it will be to make sure the Planning Policy Commission has a comprehensive view of what the vision should be. Leeson replied that there will be a docket with a list and Public Hearing.

COMMISSIONER ESEMUEDE asked if historical data will guide the vision forward and Padua replied yes, there will be a multitude of data related to Land Use, growth, and housing. COMMISSIONER ESEMUEDE asked for clarification that data will be available regarding businesses and zoning, and Padua replied yes.

Padua continued the presentation. (00:46)

CHAIR VOISS asked for Commissioner input. (00:48)

CHAIR VOISS asked how conflict will be handled in the event of pushback on State mandates. Padua replied that legal ramifications would need to be considered and discussed. Other options to meet State mandates while still addressing recommendations from the city will be offered.

CHAIR VOISS asked if joint meetings with other Boards could be expected once every two months, in example, and Padua replied yes, and there may be times when the Planning Policy Commission will be invited to attend another Board or Commission meeting.

CHAIR VOISS stated that, regarding 2044 goals, targets are always moving, and the date will continue to be pushed out. The year is for the data being worked with. The Comprehensive Plan will be revised again before 2044.

## 02-23-23 Planning Policy Commission Meeting Minutes

VICE-CHAIR BADER asked if changing goals moves the targets or if goals are met before changing. Padua replied that performance metrics for the city and further data will be provided. VICE-CHAIR BADER stated that it would be helpful to know what the city is very good at, and what areas need a more conservative approach.

COMMISSIONER ESEMUEDE stated that knowing areas of medicine that are not currently available to be treated in Issaquah is a good topic. Padua replied that available information outside of HIPPA can be discussed in terms of how the Human Services team can evaluate operations.

COMMISSIONER MILLIGAN stated wanting to see housing mix proportions, in example, the proportion of middle housing or affordable housing early on, and participation with the Development Commission. Leeson replied that the Housing Report Card comes out in March or April each year, which includes the request of COMMISSIONER MILLIGAN as well as other information to inform the housing element. Padua replied that the Development Commission will be invited with an eye to how often per month they meet. COMMISSIONER MILLIGAN stated that working with the Development Commission to anticipate outcomes of the policies discussed will be helpful.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY stated liking the high-level view of the city vision and not wanting to see visions become tactics. Details on the Growth Management Act will be helpful. Padua stated that links will be sent to Commissioners such as a teaching series on Comprehensive Plans from the Department of Commerce website. The Metropolitan Planning Organization will have courses available in the coming months for Planning Commissions and elected officials. The Growth Management Act will be addressed in the courses. CHAIR VOISS asked where the Growth Management Act develops, and Padua replied through the legislature in terms of amendments.

Leeson stated that a Lobbyist who attends legislative sessions has offered to speak at a meeting if desired. Padua replied that there may be changes in the latest legislative agenda that could influence the Comprehensive Plan.

VICE-CHAIR BADER asked for affordability in general in the conversation. Leeson replied that the subject will come up. A topic that Congress has not resolved is missing middle, affordability without convenience. A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) will return with historic data to fill in blanks. VICE-CHAIR BADER asked if Permanent Supportive Housing will be discussed, and Leeson replied yes, HB 1220.

COMMISSIONER MILLIGAN asked for clarification regarding HB 1220 and Supportive Housing. Leeson replied that Supportive Housing is affordable housing but also permanent and temporary shelters. Density is the missing middle portion. There are two different topics. Padua replied that HB 1220 was adopted in 2021 without missing middle, but that there are current bills now addressing missing middle.

## 02-23-23 Planning Policy Commission Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER ESEMUEDE asked for clarification that affordable housing addresses a small portion of the population but that missing middle would apply to a larger portion of the population. Padua replied missing middle will address more diversification of housing to provide different levels of affordability, but not specifically affordable housing, a separate topic.

CHAIR VOISS asked for clarification that the missing middle idea is to provide a broad range of different housing to choose from and not about income level and Padua replied correct. Leeson replied that targets will be required to be adopted for affordable housing at 30%, 60%, 80%. There is currently a target that 40% of housing must be affordable to people up to 80%. The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is considering city-specific target requirements. CHAIR VOISS asked for clarification and Leeson replied that the city would have to accommodate for it, similar to housing and job targets, through incentivizing such as inclusionary zoning or Development Agreements.

COMMISSIONER ESEMUEDE stated that what the population can afford will be a good discussion. Padua replied that the conversation will occur.

COMMISSIONER MILLIGAN stated that homeownership provides qualities to the community that could be examined to enhance or preserve. COMMISSIONER ESEMUEDE stated that the comment of COMMISSIONER MILLIGAN is a great point. CHAIR VOISS stated agreement that homeownership enhances communities.

5. **Reports (01:11)**  
a) **Council Update**

Padua stated that the Planning, Development and Environment Council Committee will review Title 18 for the last time on February 28, 2023, subsequently forwarding a recommendation to City Council. City Council will review Title 18 on March 13, 2023.

6. **Other Business/Announcements**  
a) **Upcoming Schedule**

Padua stated that there will be "To Be Determined" (TBD) on future calendars to provide flexibility in the Comprehensive Plan process.

Padua stated that the next meeting on March 9, 2023 will include introductions to Housing and Land Use, and Commission Equity Discussion (tentative).

Padua stated that applications for Boards and Commissions are open and asked that Commissioners forward the information to interested parties. Applications are due on March 1, 2023. Questions can be forwarded to Padua.

7. **Adjournment**

02-23-23 Planning Policy Commission Meeting Minutes

With no further business to conduct, CHAIR VOISS adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Garza, LLC  
Recording Secretary