



MINUTES

PLANNING POLICY COMMISSION 6:30 p.m. - Thursday, July 13, 2023

1. Call to Order

The hybrid meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by CHAIR VOISS.

Commissioners Present: Chair Voiss, Vice-Chair Bader, Commissioners Altimore, Kennedy, Krass (Alternate), and Patterson

Absence: Commissioners Esemuede (Excused) and Milligan (Excused)

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Regarding the May 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes, Vice-Chair Bader stated that her absence should be marked *Excused*.

There were no corrections to the May 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

CHAIR VOISS stated that both Meeting Minutes were approved.

3. Public Comments (General)

There were no requests to speak.

4. Regular Business (00:02)

a) Comprehensive Plan: Land Use Element Overview, (D)

Presented by:

Christen Leeson, Senior Planner

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Leeson presented the Land Use Element.

COMMISSIONER KRASS asked for clarification that the amendments are not required by the state, and that there are no conflicts with state requirements. Leeson replied correct and stated having contacted the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) to verify. Amendments are being asked for by staff and not by the state.

Leeson continued the presentation.

COMMISSIONER KRASS asked if sub-areas and neighborhoods are the same, and Leeson replied yes.

Leeson continued the presentation.

CHAIR VOISS opened Commission questions and feedback. (00:19)

VICE-CHAIR BADER stated agreement with the proposed amendments by staff and asked if there are policies such as to create jobs and economic development that support population growth outside of housing. Leeson replied that there is a policy in the Housing Element regarding a jobs-housing balance, and that economic development should address jobs. Preventing the loss of jobs may need to be strengthened in policy. Conversations with utilities regarding future populations occur regularly. There is a Human Services Element and policies are being worked on.

COMMISSIONER KRASS asked how culture and character is quantified. Leeson replied that individual plans are not being addressed at this time, two plans per year to follow, and are high-level topics to be updated every five years for regular conversations with neighborhoods. COMMISSIONER KRASS asked if where final decisions will come from will be a part of the policy document and Leeson replied that the question is part of the Neighborhood Plan. Policy is written following neighborhood meetings, then followed by the Commission and Council public processes. While Council makes the final decision, the decision is based on input from the neighborhood. COMMISSIONER KRASS asked for clarification that after the process presented at this time, each neighborhood plan will be examined. CHAIR VOISS replied that sub-area plans are proposed to be moved towards neighborhoods, and like Olde Town, part of the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Leeson replied yes, similar to Olde Town; in example, a specific policy is to open public access to Issaquah Creek where possible and property owners are worked with to achieve the goal.

COMMISSIONER ALTIMORE asked if agreeing with staff amendments is to agree to set a process and guideline of how to achieve, but not actual implementation. Leeson replied yes. CHAIR VOISS stated that public meetings and hearings will be part of the implementation.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY asked how many neighborhoods need Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&S) to be addressed, and Leeson replied unknown at this time.

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COMMISSIONER PATTERSON asked for the process for approval to update a sub-area map to a neighborhood map, and Leeson replied part of the Comprehensive Plan process.

CHAIR VOISS asked if traffic can be a consideration in the Land Use Element. Leeson replied that there is a Transportation Advisory Board and Element. The Environmental Impact Statement covers traffic and impacts. CHAIR VOISS asked if Eastside Fire will be a part of discussions regarding Community Wildfire Preparedness and if education for the public refers to, in example, controlled burning. Leeson replied that staff is working with Eastside Fire & Rescue on all considerations.

COMMISSIONER ALTIMORE asked if presentation chart slides would be emailed, and Leeson replied that the presentation would be sent.

COMMISSIONER PATTERSON asked that what is added and deleted from the Environmental Element be made clear. Padua replied that an Environmental Board has been worked with to identify goals and policies to move. There is ongoing work with vulnerability assessment by the Sustainability staff. New goals and policies will be introduced into the Element. Commissioners will be kept informed. Leeson replied that Green Building issues and Fire Protection would stay in Land Use as development.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY asked if language will be proposed next, and Leeson replied yes, that a draft will be broken down at the next presentation.

- b) **Comprehensive Plan: Equity Tool, (D) (00:37)**
 Presented by:
 Stephen Padua, Long Range Planning Manager

Padua presented Equity Tools.

COMMISSIONER ALTIMORE asked if all dimensions of equity are being addressed, and Padua replied yes, and that racial equity also addresses equities in other population groups.

Padua continued the presentation.

COMMISSIONER ALTIMORE stated that core tenants of Implicit Bias Training are important to be available and visible and Padua stated agreement.

COMMISSIONER KRASS asked if past decisions will be examined to learn from. Padua replied that providing understanding, tools and processes will help Commissioners make better recommendations for the city.

Padua continued the presentation.

VICE-CHAIR BADER stated that power sharing is an important piece, and asked if there is a process for the Commission to connect with people with experience in inequities in the city, as

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to not make assumptions on behalf of others, and how ideas will be tested and not only identified. Padua replied that the presentation is to help the Commission begin the process and stated agreement. The task at this point is to identify the issues and determine why the issues have evolved.

Padua stated that for next steps, staff will be following up with the Commissioners regarding how best to provide needed information, tools, and discussions.

VICE-CHAIR BADER asked if the three questions in the presentation will be added to Commissioner packets going forward and for clarification regarding the implementation timeline. Padua replied that the suggestion can be arranged. VICE-CHAIR BADER asked if the city is considering an Equity Toolkit Template such as in Seattle for the Comprehensive Plan process to set Equity goals. Padua replied that goals and process are being examined.

VICE-CHAIR BADER thanked the city for examining Equity and Padua stated that staff appreciates being able to have conversations on how to address inequities in systems.

CHAIR VOISS stated that there is a different perception of what equity means to everyone, but education will help as well as seeing how the city puts equity into practice. CHAIR VOISS praised Issaquah School District efforts. Padua replied that the discussion is the beginning.

COMMISSIONER KRASS stated that critically looking back at past decisions will be more grounded of an example and concrete.

COMMISSIONER ALTIMORE asked if Public Hearings are ever conducted outside Council Chambers and Padua replied typically no. COMMISSIONER ALTIMORE asked if Commission rules would be followed at a public meeting run by staff, if more voices could be heard in that manner. Padua replied that the City Clerk has been researching how best to hear more voices as part of the discussion while still meeting state requirements.

Padua encouraged any further questions and comments going forward.

- c) **Tours: Middle Housing Types, (D)** (01:09)
Presented by:
Stephen Padua, Long Range Planning Manager

Padua gave an overview of the June 2023 Middle Housing tours given to Commissioners and asked for feedback.

COMMISSIONER KRASS stated that transit is key. Micro-units may not fit into Issaquah in the immediate future because of transit. Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) possibilities were interesting.

CHAIR VOISS stated agreement that transportation will be key.

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COMMISSIONER PATTERSON stated being interested in Cottage Housing particularly seen next to one house lots. The ADU unit viewed was confusing and possibly not always a successful option. Micro-units provide options for different lifestyles.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY stated that the tour had been very helpful, seeing examples in person.

COMMISSIONER ALTIMORE stated that the setback discussion was important.

VICE-CHAIR BADER stated that a micro-unit development in Kirkland was impressive. There are places for all housing types in the future.

COMMISSIONER ALTIMORE asked if King County Metro or Sound Transit is engaging in regional discussions around transit hopes of different communities and Padua replied yes. Some discussions have changed from pre-pandemic plans.

CHAIR VOISS thanked staff for taking the time to conduct the tours.

5. Reports (01:24)

a) **Council Update**

Presented by:

Stephen Padua, Long Range Planning Manager

Padua stated that Council has adopted new housing definitions, incorporating Courtyard, Cottage, and Micro-units. A link will be sent to Commissioners.

6. Other Business/Announcements

a) **Upcoming Schedule**

There were no announcements.

CHAIR VOISS stated that the next meeting would be July 27, 2023.

7.. Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, CHAIR VOISS adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Garza, LLC
Recording Secretary