

SKAGIT COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Planning Commission 2024 Regular Meeting

January 23, 2024

6:00 PM – 7:02 PM

Please refer to transcript and video recording of the Planning Commission meeting for in-depth information about these meeting minutes. Meeting materials, the full transcript, meeting agenda, and referenced video recording of this meeting can be viewed at the Planning Commission Schedule and Agenda page:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PlanningCommission/PCminutes.htm>

Summary of Meeting

Roll Call

Tim Raschko: present

Tammy Candler: absent

Amy Hughes: present (participating remotely)

Vincent Henley: present

Kathy Mitchell: present

Martha Rose: present

Jen Hutchison: present

Joe Woodmansee: present

Angela Day: present

Approval of Minutes

Chair Tim Raschko asked for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Henley motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Public Remarks

David Strich, Washington Department of Transportation, introduced himself and told the Planning Commission that he plans to be monitoring and participating in the Comprehensive Plan update process.

Introduction of new Planning Commissioner, Angela Day (District 1)

Chair Raschko introduced the newest member of the Planning Commission, Angela Day, and asked for her to introduce herself. Commissioner Day introduced herself and provided the rest of the Commission with her background and experience.

Update on the 2025 Periodic Comprehensive Plan Update

Senior Planner Robby Eckroth provided an update on the Comprehensive Plan update. Skagit County now has a contract with a consultant team which will provide assistance with the Comprehensive Plan update. The County has been approved for two separate grants to fund the update process and pay the consultant teams – One grant is for the overall Comprehensive Plan update and the other is to fund the development of the climate change element. The County is still waiting on the final contracts in order to receive the grant money. In mid-February, the Skagit County team tasked with working on the Comprehensive Plan Update will be meeting with the consultant team to kick-off the update process. Mr. Eckroth has also been meeting with other Skagit County departments, including Public Health and the Department of Emergency Management.

Questions were asked by the Commissioners about the timeline of the Comprehensive Plan and the consultant team.

Public Participation Program Overview

Mr. Eckroth provided a summary on the purpose and the components of the Public Participation Program and asked for feedback on the draft program. Chair Raschko stated that he was not prepared to provide feedback at that meeting. Mr. Eckroth said that another workshop can be held at the next Planning Commission meeting to give the Commission more time to review the document and provide feedback at the next meeting. Questions were asked by the Commissioners and answers were provided by Mr. Eckroth.

Climate Planning Element Presentation

Mr. Eckroth provided a presentation on the new State climate planning law that will require Skagit County to develop a new element in the comprehensive plan addressing climate change. The new climate element will have two sub-elements: greenhouse gas emissions reduction and climate resilience. Mr. Eckroth provided detail on both of the required sub-elements in the presentation.

The Commission asked questions following the presentation. Commissioner Day provided data on Statewide greenhouse gas emissions and past data on emissions in Skagit County.

Director's Update

Director Jack Moore was not at the meeting. Robby Eckroth, Senior Planner, did not have an update but informed the Planning Commission that the next meeting will include an update on State mandated requirements for the Comprehensive Plan update that will require the County to address housing affordability. Commissioner Mitchell asked questions about the required housing updates. Mr. Eckroth answered those questions and mentioned that more prepared information will be provided at the next meeting.

Planning Commission Comments/Announcements

The Commissioners welcomed Commissioner Angela Day.

[A full transcript of the discussion is available on our website:](https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PlanningCommission/PCminutes.htm)

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PlanningCommission/PCminutes.htm>

Adjourned at 7:02 PM.

Tim Raschko, Planning Commission Chair

Date

Jack Moore, Secretary

Date