

SKAGIT COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Planning Commission 2024 Regular Meeting

February 13, 2024

6:00 PM – 7:20 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: present

Amy Hughes: present

Vincent Henley: present

Kathy Mitchell: present

Martha Rose: present

Jen Hutchison: present

Joe Woodmansee: absent

Angela Day: present

Chair called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

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

Public Remarks

Chair Raschko opened the public remarks section of the meeting and asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to address the Commission. Susanne Rohner, from Anacortes, expressed her concern about the use of the word mandate and how it relates to law and requirement and what the Commissions understanding of the word was. Commissioners referred the citizen to reach out to the Planning Department for clarification.

William Diephius from Mount Vernon, attended the previous meeting where climate change planning element was discussed in relation to the Comprehensive Plan update and requested that the County consider Strategy 3 for greenhouse gas emissions.

Nomination and Election of Officers

Chair Raschko asked if anyone would like to nominate officers. Commissioner Henley proposed the Commission retain the current officers, Chair Tim Rashko and Vice Chair Tammy Candler. Commissioner Mitchell asked if both candidates are willing to serve again, both agreed. Commissioner Henley moved to renominate the current slate of officers, Chair Tim Rashko and Vice Chair Tammy Candler. There was discussion among the commissioners of the motion, all were in favor of the motion, motion passed.

Introduction of New Long Range Senior Planner

Chair Rashko introduced the new Long Range Senior Planner, Tara Satushek and asked for her to introduce herself. Ms. Satushek introduced herself and provided a brief background and experience.

Workshop – Commissioner Input on Public Participation Program

Mr. Eckroth provided a summary of the purpose and the components of the Public Participation Program and asked for feedback on the draft program. Mr. Eckroth presented comments received and asked if there was any additional input. Commissioners expressed support of the document and noted that it is inclusive, and provided opportunities for engaging the public where they are at.

Workshop – Presentation on Updates to Housing Element

Mr. Eckroth provided a presentation on the new housing regulation HB1220 and how it will be incorporated into the updated housing element in the comprehensive plan update. June 30, 2025 is the deadline for completion of the Comprehensive Plan update. Mr. Eckroth explained the existing housing element and the new requirements in HB1220 as focused on affordable housing; requiring jurisdictions to plan for and all economic segments and addressing racially disparate impacts in housing.

Mr. Eckroth presented HB1337 regarding accessory dwelling units, however most of legislation pertained to Urban Growth Areas (UGA). The next bill presented was HB1110, the Middle Housing Bill, which only applies to Mount Vernon but could extend into unincorporated UGAs. The bill requires cities of certain sizes to allow multiple dwellings per lot in the form of middle housing. Mr. Eckroth explained that middle housing types include duplexes up to sixplexes, townhouses, stacked flats, courtyard apartments, and cottage housing. Mr. Eckroth shared that

all the information presented at the meeting is available [online](#). The Comprehensive Plan update [webpage](#) is live and will be improved as time goes on and will be actively updated.

Director's Update

Director Jack Moore was not at the meeting. Mr. Eckroth presented a written update. The new permit software is in the testing with the data migration stage and staff are being trained in how to test the software. The Comprehensive Plan kickoff meeting will be on February 22nd. Commerce contract documents to fund the comprehensive plan update have been received have been routed to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for signature. A finalized schedule will be presented to the Commission once completed after kick-off meeting. Agritourism update- moratorium passed by BOCC. Temporary ordinance does not apply to those continuously and substantially operating. Director Moore will be developing a process to get businesses in compliance and this process will be adopted as an Administrative Official Interpretation (AOI). A public hearing regarding this moratorium is scheduled for March 25th at 11:30 AM. The Commission requested to be kept informed of the issue.

Planning Commission Comments/Announcements

Hutchinson and Candler shared their appreciation for staff thoroughness for presentations and welcomed new staff member.

[A full transcript of the discussion is available on our website:](#)

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

Adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Tim Raschko, Planning Commission Chair

Date

Jack Moore, Secretary

Date