



Skagit County Planning Commission

www.skagitcounty.net/planningcommission

Chair Tim Raschko **Vice Chair** Tammy Candler
Members Vincent Henley, Amy Hughes, Jennifer Hutchison, Mark Knutzen, Kathy Mitchell,
Martha Rose, Joe Woodmansee

SKAGIT COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Planning Commission Agritourism Work Session

July 25, 2023

6:00 PM – 10:15

Please refer to transcript and video recording of 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

Chair Rashko began the meeting with a roll call.

Tim Raschko: Present

Kathy Mitchell: Present

Mark Knutzen: Present

Amy Hughes: Present

Joe Woodmansee: Present

Martha Rose: Present

Tammy Candler: Absent

Vincent Henley: Present

Jennifer Hutchison: Present

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from last meeting approved.

Public Remarks

There were no public remarks.

A full transcript of the discussion is available on our website:

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



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Director's Update

Jack Moore the director shared that Skagit County was successful in securing a \$700,000 state grant for their comprehensive plan update. The county will be meeting with governor's office to discuss orca relocation.

Agritourism Public Hearing

Sarah Ruether, the Long-Range Planning Manager for Skagit County, provided an update on a supplemental memo that came out on July 19, 2023. This memo explained the proposed code changes that would change the use allowances under current code. The Agricultural Advisory Board's (AAB) proposed code changes would not change use allowances for u-pick, farm stands, farm-based business or home-based business. The AAB's proposed code changes would reduce the number of events permitted that are classified as temporary events and would add a new definition of Agritourism along with new criteria for Agricultural Accessory Use.

The process for review includes the public hearing held on July 25, 2023, in which testimony will be taken, a tentative review of comments on AAB's proposed code recommendations on September 26, 2023, and the planning commission will tentatively deliberate on AAB's proposed recommendations on October 10, 2023.

Public Hearing Comments

Public testimony was taken on the proposed AAB code recommendations. There were comments that supported and opposed the proposed agritourism code changes. There were also comments that asked for more time for public comment on the proposed code amendments.

The public comment period was set to close on July 27, 2023 but the Planning Commission discussed extending the comment period. The Planning Commission voted to extend the comment period for agritourism comments for another couple weeks. Staff will re-notice the extended comment period to meet legal requirements.

Adjourned at 10:15



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Tammy Candler, Planning Commission Chair

Date

Jack Moore, Secretary

Date