

## League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report Form

Name of Agency: Pullman Planning Commission Date: October 24, 2018  
Observer Reporting: Alice Schroeder Length of Meeting: 1.5hrs  
Members Present/Absent: Jon Anderson, Brent Carper, Dave Gibney, Marcia Gossard, Scott Hodge, Joe O'Callaghan, Bob Olsen, Stephanie Rink, Scott Vik  
Others Present (i.e., media, public): Planning director, Pete Dickinson, secretary, Two members of the public

### **Content (What is being discussed):**

1. This was a public hearing to rezone land being sold by WSU to R3 high density. A zoning change is required when WSU sells land. The land is across from the Marriott hotels and the developer is planning apartments, probably with short term rentals for WSU visitors. No one spoke for or against this proposal but the College Hill Association did send a letter of support for the change. The proposal was approved.
  2. Pete notified the commission that a proposal would probably be coming to install 5G facilities in Pullman. The cells for this are small so there will need to be one on almost every pole in town. There will need to be a public hearing. He is suggesting permitting installations on existing private and public poles but requiring a conditional permit if equipment must also be placed on the ground. There may be a lot of requests for that.
  3. In other business, Pete asked for input from the commissioners on a City Staff suggestion to hire a hearing examiner to hear routine cases coming before the Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment. This would be an attorney with extensive experience in land use law. The State insurance pool is pushing for this as it might decrease litigation by making sure decisions are in line with the law, more reliable and consistent. It would mean that local citizens would no longer be making rulings about zone changes, conditional permits etc. They would still review all long range plans, such as proposed zoning changes, ordinances and street vacations. The commission felt this was not good. They felt the citizens expected local citizens to make these decisions and decisions made by a local committee were better. They felt they could do a better job than an examiner as long as they had training and local experts to help on questions of law. No outside hearing examiner is going to see these areas. The commission will write a letter to the administration with their views.
- Public Meetings of interest to League** There will be a special meeting on Nov. 7 on rezoning the new City Hall property and on annexation of land on Sunnyside Hill. There will also be a meeting on Nov. 28 but none in Dec.