

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman Planning Commission Date: 12/18/2019
Observer Reporting: Helen Catanese Length of Meeting: 7:30-10:14
Members Present: Dave Gibney, Chair; John Anderson, Brent Carper, Marcia Gossard, Scott Hodge, Scott Vik
Members Absent: Stephanie Rink, Bob Olsen, Joe O'Callaghan (JO and BO come in after the vote)
Others Present (e.g., media, public) about 22 members of the public, two journalists

Business pertaining to League Positions or topics of interest

Rezoning a parcel from industrial to residential (a proposal to amend the comprehensive plan map. The area proposed for change is by North Grand Ave and Albion Rd., from industrial to residential zoning.

Continuation of the rezoning discussion from last meeting

Director Dickinson says his team put together an update to the comprehensive plan for the commission to consider.

They discuss the matter of how fast the university is growing, which was brought up at the last meeting to some confusion. Over the last 5 years, the growth was a bit over 1% per year, although it was down slightly in the last year.

The present members agree unanimously to forward the matter to city council with a **recommendation to approve**.

Commissioners O'Callaghan and Olsen sat out this part of the meeting because they were not present for the first portion of the discussion.

Proposed regulation changes around fowl

Previously the commission came to a consensus that residential lots of any size should be allowed to have up to 6 chickens and 8 outdoor animals. The staff want to suggest they consider limiting it to 4 chickens and 6 outdoor animals.

The commission discusses the distinction between hens and chickens, as well as for other animals like alpacas.

Commissioner Gossard asks about another change the staff suggested, about moving the setback from 5 to 10 feet.

A local woman speaks on behalf of her son in favor of keeping the limit change to 6 chickens.

Another local woman and a boy bring in another chicken and speak in favor of allowing chickens as household pets.

Another woman who used to own chickens on a large plot speaks in favor of the 6 chicken 8 pet limits. The committee asks her about situations where poor chicken stewardship could cause problems.

The first woman responds to the problem of coop smell, she says the setback change won't make a

difference.

The committee establishes that there are already provisions in the code pertaining to foul smells.

They discuss whether the setbacks should be the same as for any other structure. And agree they should.

They vote unanimously to approve the proposed changes.

5G regulation draft amendments

Commissioner Anderson suggests the matter of safety is more appropriate for the city council to discuss. Director Dickinson says that once the issue is in motion it's their job to respond to it in some way.

One woman (I believe representing Frontier) says that federal regulations prevent the city from considering the health effects of 5G.

A Moscow resident who visits Pullman frequently speaks against 5G on the grounds of environmental and health concerns.

A woman responds to the proposed zoning changes. She puts forward some potential concerns in terms of security and safety.

Seven other people speak briefly on the health concerns of the technology, particularly the issue of industry influence on research and regulation. They generally argue the issue should be put off.

The commission closes public comment for the night, but agrees to reopen it on February 26.