

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman Planning Commission

Date: 7/28/2021

Observer Reporting: Jessica D. Cassleman

Length of meeting: 7:00 – 7:38 PM (38 min)

Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission, **in-person** at the Council Chambers at Pullman City Hall, 190 SE Crestview St., Bldg. A.

Members Present: John Anderson (Vice-chair), Scott Hodge, Joe O'Callaghan, Bob Olsen, Scott Vik.

Members absent: Dave Gibney (Chair), Brent Carper, Marcia Gossard and Stephanie Rink.

Others Present: RJ Lott (Pullman Planning Director); Valerie Weaver (city); and someone else I did not recognize. Jessica Cassleman (LWV Observer) and a community member that joined the audience midway.

Meeting can be viewed at: <http://go.boarddocs.com/wa/pullman/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C57P99637FD4>

Items discussed

1. Review for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan a proposal to vacate a portion of the SE Harvest Drive right-of-way at its intersection with SE Brelsford Drive.
Short discussion followed and the recommendation was approved to recommend Public Works to give the approval.
2. Conduct a discussion regarding the amendment of Article III, Section 9, relating to motions and voting.
Five members attending will meet quorum.
Simple majority of those attending: Recommend to the Council
Tied: No recommendation to the Council.
Vote: Unanimous approval
3. Discuss the Downtown Master Plan
For next meeting commissioners think there is no need to go line by line of the Master Plan.
No public hearing, and meeting would take place in September.

A discussion continued regarding topics for the next meeting. Scott Vik feels there is a need for a public meeting through the Planning Commission on the Master Plan. The City Council would rather organize a public hearing themselves only. It seems the Council is only looking for recommendations from the Planning Commission.

Another topic discussed relevant to the Downtown Plan was brought up and Scott suggests that suggestions should be given to the Council.

RJ indicated that the Council is only looking for recommendations to the large version with 3-4 items only to consider. Council is eager to accept plan.

There is a concern among commissioners that ideas might not be moved forward. It was recommended that they should be talking to individual members of the Council if new ideas or concerns come up. RJ indicated that he is available at any time.

Bob suggested to come up with ideas, and discuss at next meeting and send recommendations as a commission or as individuals.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38PM.

Additional comments/opinions:

A very quick meeting, with quite a bit of participation by the commissioners.

Strong concern about Downtown Master Plan but not enough opportunities to offer suggestions.

There is a sense of disappointment that the City Council does not want the Planning Commission to have a public hearing regarding the many suggestions the Commission made on the Comprehensive Plan as they carefully reviewed it. Next meeting will be a special, on-line, meeting to discuss next steps to submit the suggestions/revisions made to the Comprehensive Plan. It will be virtual as the consultants will not be able to travel to Pullman. Wednesday, August 11th at 7:00 PM.

The next regular meetings scheduled to be in-person at the City Hall – Council Chambers are:

August 25, 2021

September 22, 2021

October 27th, 2021

Process & Protocol: *Did the members appear to have done their “homework”?* There was active participation by the members on the three items discussed. It was a quick meeting and voted on the three items set by the agenda. **Were members courteous to each other and the public?** YES, very. **Was access to materials for certain agenda items available to you?** Information on the meeting was received from Valerie Weaver, Administrative Specialist 5 days in advance.

Additional comments/opinions: Four members were unable to attend this meeting and minimum quorum was reached and all three items voted on were approved unanimously.

Submitted, August 2nd, 2021