

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman Planning Commission Meeting

Date: 04/26/23

Observer Reporting: Jessica D. Cassleman
8:21PM

Length of meeting: 7:00PM –

Commission Members Present:

John Anderson (Chair), Brent Carper (Vice-chair), Scott Hodge, Jeff Joswig-Jones, Joe O'Callaghan, Lorena O'English.

Commission Members Absent: Angela Taylor

Others Present: RJ Lott (Pullman Director of Community Development); Staff member; Lauren Schubring (SCJ Alliance Consulting); Mike Manning (SCJ Alliance Consulting).

Items discussed:

1. Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan related to climate resiliency.
2. Housing Action Plan.
3. Shoreline Master Program updates.

Minutes:

Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 22, 2023.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation on the draft Housing Action Plan by SCJ Alliance staff

Lauren Schubring from SCJ Alliance presented to the Commission on the draft.

She included the need to update on zonings, development regulations, and making better use of land.

Some suggestions include:

- Considering cottage style housing, backyard cottages, senior living housing to lower housing costs.
- That City resources are dedicated to the plan as Leavenworth has done.
- The importance of encouraging maintenance of existing housing.
- Minimizing displacement of people. Trying to keep people in Pullman as costs go up is important.
- Offering tools and programs to preserve and enhance housing giving community character.
- The importance of engaging developers and providing design standards.
- Implementing and monitoring the use of land – more units per acre.

There is a need to go deeper to identify what's wanted and needed by the community and to update the draft. A survey was conducted before suggestions were offered but the Commission questioned the validity based on the results she was presenting.

RJ Lott indicated that the City will look into this deeper as they look at the draft. City will start working on codes.

There was a conversation by members of the Commission on what are the priorities and strategies to follow in Pullman, while emphasizing that Pullman is different from towns of similar size considering the large number of students who usually stay here for 4 years or so, and who mainly rent. The stable population is very different to the transient population of students.

Joswig-Jones also brought up that it is important to not disregard the real poor who live in Pullman.

It was reported that the Average cost of housing in Pullman was \$450 with a high of \$856 that are very high for the income earnings of many people.

Water is a problem, and it certainly needs to be addressed as well.

Edits of draft Housing Action Plan will happen at future Planning Commission meetings.

2. Review draft Shoreline Master Program (SMP) updates.

Mark Manning with SCJ Alliance presented on changes needed on the Shoreline Master program including definition, administration (WSDOT), shoreline permits, exemptions (fish passage – DOE updates, ADA language), conforming uses, structures, lots, etc. These changes are related to the discussion of an earlier draft of the Shoreline Master Program (SMP), provided by Whitman County.

3. Review draft Comprehensive Plan amendments related to climate resiliency.

Continuation of the discussion and possible revisions to the Draft Comprehensive Plan amendments as prepared by Cascadia Consulting Group and BERK Consulting through the Washington State Department of Commerce Climate Resiliency Pilot program.

There is a need to address parking – reducing parking – and zoning districts.

Carper added that environmental resiliency needs to be discussed and evaluate what fits within the Comprehensive Plan.

E. UPCOMING MEETINGS

1. May 24, 2023
2. June 28, 2023 (one absence was indicated)
3. July 26, 2023

F. ADJOURNMENT:

8:21PM

Business Pertaining to League Positions or Topics of Interest: Include in this section:

- 1) Housing Action Plans
- 2) Comprehensive Plan for Pullman

https://www.pullman-wa.gov/government/departments/community_development/planning/comprehensive_plan

- 3) Shoreline Master Program

Public Meetings of interest to League:

May 24th there will be a Public Hearing related to the Shoreline Master Program

Process & Protocol:

It was a well-run meeting and efficient use of time.