

## League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

**Name of Agency:** Pullman Planning Commission Regular Meeting

**Date:** 03/27/2024

Observer Reporting: Jessica D. Cassleman

Length of meeting: 7:00PM – 8:01PM

### **Commission Members Present:**

Brent Carper (Vice-chair), Scott Hodge, Jeff Joswig-Jones, Joe O'Callaghan, and Angela Taylor.

### **Commission Members Absent:**

John Anderson (Chair), Lorena O'English.

**Others Present:** RJ Lott (Pullman Director of Community Development); Ariel Medeiros and Cynthia Goodwater (City of Pullman); Larry Clark (Environmental Resilience Commission Chair) and Jessica Cassleman (LWV observer).

### **Minutes:**

Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 29, 2023 – **Approved unanimously.**

### **New Business:**

- Elect a Chair and Vice Chair for 2024
- Two volunteers needed for CIP committee for May 8, 2024, at 2:00 PM
- Conduct a public hearing on draft climate resiliency Comprehensive Plan amendments.

### **Items discussed:**

- **Elections:**  
John Anderson will continue as Chair and Brent Carper as Vice-Chair for 2024 (Unanimously).
- **Volunteers from CIP:** Joe O'Callaghan and Angela Taylor, with Scott Hodge as an alternate
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- **Draft Climate Resiliency Comprehensive Plan amendments.**

Ms. Ariel Medeiros explained the recommendations.

*The Community Development Department was invited by the Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce) in August of 2022 to join a pilot program. The pilot was designed to test and improve the Model Climate Element with resilience planning guidance. This Model Climate Element illustrates how counties and cities can develop and implement plans, goals, and policies that build community wide climate resilience. The Model Climate Element provides different pathways for communities who have done some or limited climate planning. The Planning Division (Planning) had*

*meetings with Commerce every two weeks working through the Model Climate Element Guidelines, assisting with providing current plans for an audit, and working with the Consultants (Cascadia Consulting Group and Berk Consulting, Inc.) on the Guidance Workbook. Instead of creating a new Climate Element the City opted to add climate resiliency language throughout the current Comprehensive Plan. The Consultants created maps showing Vulnerability and Risk Assessments and proposed language changes and updates to the current Comprehensive Plan. In March 2023, the Planning Commission started reviewing the proposed changes; in April the Commission requested to postpone continuing review until the new Environmental Resilience Commission (ERC) reviewed the proposed changes. The ERC started reviewing the proposed changes in September, at their meeting on March 1, 2024 they completed the review of the changes and voted unanimously to send the changes to Planning Commission for final recommendation to City Council. Per RCW 35A.63.070 and Pullman City Code 17.110.020 and 17.180.030, a public hearing is required before a recommendation is forwarded to the City Council. The Draft Climate Resiliency Amendments has the previous version Planning Commission reviewed in black with underlines and strikeouts. The portion that the Environmental Resilience Commission reviewed is in red. ATTACHMENTS A Draft Climate Resiliency Amendments B Draft Resolution No. PC-2024-1 to Approve C Draft Resolution No. PC-2024-1 to Deny*

**Discussion:**

Larry Clark, Environmental Resilience Commission Chair, was present at the meeting to respond to questions from the Planning Commission regarding suggestions the ERC had made to the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Clark shared that they looked at the plan and identified items that needed some tweaking and to follow what the state requires, basically to be prepared in case of a drastic climate event.

Joe O’Callaghan asked if comments related to noise and light pollution are pertinent to the ERC. Jeff Joswig-Jones suggested that comments stay with modifications as they relate to environmental issues. No one was against the comments and opted that comments stand.

The Commission decided to keep the amendments to the comprehensive plan as suggested by ERC. Items that are included in the plan are: buildings, housing on an event of a disaster, development on empty lots, traffic modification, divert commercial traffic from downtown, pedestrian safety, etc.

The Planning Commission approved unanimously the recommendations by ERC and will submit document for approval to the City Council,

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- April 24, 2024
- May 22, 2024
- June 26, 2024

**Adjournment:** 20:01PM