

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
LAND USE PLANNING DIVISION
MULTNOMAH COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**

MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2021

I. Call to Order: Chair Ingle calls the virtual Zoom meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. on Monday, January 4, 2021.

II. Roll Call:

Present - Susan Silodor, Tim Wood, Chris Foster, Bill Kabeiseman, Kari Egger, Stephanie Nystrom, Alicia Denney, and John Ingle

Absent - Victoria Purvine

III. Approval of Minutes: July 6, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Kabeiseman; seconded by Nystrom.

Motion passes unanimously.

IV. Opportunity to Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

None

V. Introductions:

Adam Barber, Deputy Planning Director, introduces Heidi Konopnicki as Land Use Planning's Senior Office Assistant. Members of the Planning Commission introduce themselves and detail their background and reasons for participating on the Commission.

Commissioner Foster is unable to communicate verbally via Zoom. He is instructed to use the chat function if he has any questions or input throughout the rest of the meeting. The issue will be further investigated outside the meeting.

VI. Work Session: 2021 Planning Commission Work Program

Kevin Cook, Senior Planner, discusses the 12 projects outlined in the draft 2021 PC Work Program.

Commissioner Kabeiseman asks for clarification regarding the County's obligations for providing middle housing. He understands the County's role in the urban growth boundary is essentially to keep things in larger lots to allow sensible development when it does come into the UGB. Cook indicates that the County is still looking at the House Bill to determine what areas or geographies are subject to the legislation. Commissioner Kabeiseman requests that the Commission be updated on these requirements before changes to the Code are recommended.

Barber introduces a potential need to revise agricultural fill provisions as a result of regulations adopted through County Ordinance 1271.

Cook introduces Attachment 1 – On Deck Work Program Projects. He discusses only those eight items newly identified in 2020.

Commissioner Egger inquires about Land Use Planning's ability to address projects in the Work Program during the COVID-19 pandemic. Cook indicates that, although the teleworking environment presents many challenges, the County has adapted well. Staff are still able to communicate in real-time via chat

and through online meetings. There has been some slowing in progress, because the pandemic has taken the focus away from Long Range Planning at times. Cook expresses optimism about 2021.

Chair Ingle asks what the Planning Commission needs to do at this time to move the Work Program forward. Cook indicates that the goal is to take feedback from the Planning Commission and finalize the Work Program. The Commissioners may request that a project be revisited before any changes are made.

Chair Ingle asks for clarification regarding list designations of projects (e.g., A1, A2, A3) and whether those designations represent the order in which projects will be addressed. Cook indicates that those designations are for tracking purposes only.

Commissioner Egger inquires if Land Use Planning was able to complete any of the projects listed on last year's Work Program. Cook and Barber indicate that a zone change was the only measurable project from the past year. There were significant disruptions from COVID-19 as well as other larger projects that are now coming to a conclusion, which are not related to typical projects brought before the Planning Commission. However, the County is looking forward to gaining momentum within the PC Work Program.

Commissioner Foster inquires how many EFU provisions are currently directly applied through statute rather than through county code? Cook indicates that anything that is a sub-1 use, is required on farmland. The question of direct applicability does not translate into anything the County has had to do at this point.

Commissioner Egger inquires when the County will be seeking input regarding the Sauvie Island drainage project. Barber indicates that he will be the internal project manager. The County is aiming for the first public meeting to be held in early February, and will be communicated to the public likely in the late January timeframe. The public meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

Commissioner Ingle inquires if there is a video component with the Zoom meeting that would allow him to see the attendees. All other meeting attendees confirm they are viewing the presentation and are able to see the other attendees. Barber suggests that the County work with Commissioner Ingle directly after the meeting to determine what issues may be causing his limited viewing capabilities.

Commissioner Ingle indicates that, as the year progresses, the County will likely have a better feel for what it can bring to the Planning Commission, versus items that are too comprehensive or cumbersome to address via the Zoom environment. He further states that the Work Program will likely evolve throughout the year. Cook agrees, stating that the draft Work Program is an idealized snapshot, and that the County has identified its priorities and will take advantage of smaller projects that can be brought before the Planning Commission first.

Commissioner Ingle indicates that with no further questions from the Planning Commission, the County can move forward with the Work Project that has been laid out for 2021.

VII. Director's Comments:

Carol Johnson, Planning Director, provides comments. She indicates she has been with Land Use Planning for one year; the majority of which has been through a teleworking environment. There have been significant changes within the Division. Katie Skakel, Senior Planner, left in December 2019. Due to budget reductions, the Senior Planner position was underfilled with Planner 2. Izze Liu joined the division in that role in June 2020. George Plummer, Planner 2, retired in March 2020. His position was underfilled with Planner 1. Marisol Cervantes was brought on to fill that position. Land Use Planning has also

experienced staffing issues in terms of resource availability. One Code Enforcement position was cut from last year's budget. It has been a full year without that position, and there have also been some challenges with staffing and consistency with the other Code Enforcement position as well.

The Transportation Division experienced a reduction in revenue based on reduced vehicle usage that generates the gas tax revenue to support that function. Land Use Planning was able to open two temporary positions in Code Enforcement to individuals in Transportation affected by those budget reductions, Joreen Whitson and Robert Hyde. The Director will be working with these new employees to determine the current state of the Code Compliance system and update administrative procedures.

Land Use Planning is in the process of developing a new permitting system, and has decided to go with software from Tyler Technologies, titled EnerGov. This software is specifically designed for land use and building permit applications. Many neighboring jurisdictions are already utilizing this software.

The Department of Community Services, less Transportation, is in the process of developing budget proposals for the upcoming fiscal year. As with most government agencies, budget resources are lean due to the impacts of COVID-19. However, there are a couple of urban renewal areas that are expiring within the City of Portland, so the revenue that has been diverted to those areas is coming back to the County within the next 2-3 years. Meanwhile, Land Use Planning will continue to take advantage of available technologies to stretch staffing resources.

Meeting adjourns at 07:45 p.m.

The next Planning Commission meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 1, 2021.

Recording Secretary,

Heidi Konopnicki