

Spokane Plan Commission - Draft Minutes

May 26, 2021

Webex Teleconference

Meeting Minutes: Meeting called to order at 3:30 PM by Todd Beyreuther

Attendance:

- Board Members Present: Todd Beyreuther (President), Greg Francis (Vice President), Michael Baker, Sylvia St. Clair, Thomas Sanderson, Carole Shook, Clifford Winger, Jo Anne Wright, Jesse Bank
- Board Members Not Present: Tim Williams
- Non-Voting Members Present: Mary Winkes (Community Assembly Liaison), Council Member Lori Kinnear
- *Quorum Present: yes*
- Staff Members Present: Louis Meuler, Jackie Churchill, Maren Murphy, Tirrell Black, Amanda Beck, Chris Green, Kirstin Davis
- Guest Council Member: Michael Cathcart

Public Comment: Citizens are invited to address the Plan Commission on any topic not on the agenda. 3 Minutes each.

Minutes: May 19th meeting minutes approved unanimously.

Briefing Session:

1. City Council Liaison Report - Lori Kinnear

- Council Member Kinnear reported that three council members met with Governor Inslee at Hope House, which is a non-profit organization that provides shelter and transitional housing to homeless women. They learned about financial challenges that the Hope House is facing for funding mental health and substance abuse counseling and diversion and getting the women into stable housing.
- Council Member Kinnear reported that she met with a Downtown Spokane Partnership Ambassador and they spoke about homelessness in downtown and the outskirts of downtown and how homelessness has been a long ongoing problem that has been exacerbated by an increase in mental health issues and violence.
- Council Member Kinnear reported that City Council is looking at the Housing Action Plan and split it into 25 parts. They are deciding on their priorities and splitting them into three phases: immediate actions, actions that will take 6 months to a year, and those that will take 2 to 5 years. Then Council plans on voting on items that need to be funded.

2. Community Assembly Liaison Report - Mary Winkes

- Ms. Winkes reported that there were no updates from the Community Assembly and Vice President Francis stated that Maren Murphy will be presenting the draft Housing Action Plan to Community Assembly at their next meeting.

3. Commission President Report - Todd Beyreuther

- None.

4. Transportation Subcommittee Report - Clifford Winger

- Mr. Winger reported that the Plan Commission Transportation Subcommittee will not be meeting in June.

5. Secretary Report - Louis Meuler

- None.

- Council Member Kinnear left the meeting at 4:00 pm.

1. Draft Housing Action Plan

- Presentation provided by Maren Murphy
- Questions asked and answered
- Discussion ensued
- Public Testimony:
 - James Frank - He spoke in opposition of recommending of the Draft Housing Action Plan. He believes that the barriers to housing investment downtown and discrepancy about the short fall of housing units are issues that should be addressed in the plan before it is approved.
 - Joanne Smieja - She requested an addition be made to the Housing Action Plan that addresses housing discrimination due to the criminal history screening used by housing providers. She said that there should be a Fair Chance Housing ordinance to help prevent unfair bias towards renters with a criminal record.
 - Darin Watkins - He spoke in opposition of recommending the Draft Housing Action Plan due to the discrepancy in housing units shortage figures in the City of Spokane Housing Needs Assessment and the Growth Management Act Assessment. He wants a thorough review of the Housing Needs Assessment.

Greg Francis motioned to recommend the Draft Action Housing Plan to City Council as written and presented. Seconded by Jesse Bank

Todd Beyreuther motioned to make an amendment to the motion as the Plan Commission finds that some stakeholders disagree with the Housing Needs Assessment conducted as a part of the Housing Action Plan regarding housing growth and current underproduction models. The Plan Commission recommends that a sensitivity analysis on current underproduction and future growth be conducted during strategy prioritization to better understand scenarios appropriate for both planning activities and development activities. Seconded by Greg Francis. Amendment to the motion carried unanimously.

Greg Francis motioned to amend strategy A1 in Table 1 to include an additional first step that states, "Form a joint Plan Commission/City Council led task force to conduct a complete review of all residential-focused zones to develop a set of specific actions that could include both Comprehensive Plan revisions and development code changes. Seconded by Thomas Sanderson.

Greg Francis made a friendly amendment to the amendment to strike the "complete" from the language. Tom Sanderson concurred with the friendly motion.

Michael Baker called the question. Amended motion carried (8,1)

Michael Baker motioned to continue deliberations to the next Plan Commission meeting on June 9, 2021. Seconded by Carole Shook. Motion carried (8,1)

Meeting Adjourned at 5:58 PM

Next Plan Commission Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 9, 2021