

# Spokane Plan Commission - Minutes

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Hybrid Meeting in Council Briefing Center & Microsoft Teams Teleconference

Meeting Minutes: Plan Commission Workshop called to order at 2:06pm by President Jesse Bank.

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

- None

## **Attendance for Plan Commission Workshop:**

- Board Members Present: Jesse Bank, Ryan Patterson, David Edwards, Greg Francis, Amber Lenhart, Carole Shook, Tim Williams, Jill Yotz
- Board Members Not Present: Sandra Neperud, Tyler Tamoush
- Non-Voting Members Present: Mary Winkes (Community Assembly Liaison), Kitty Klitzke (Council Member Liaison)
- Non-Voting Members Not present: None
- *Quorum Present:* Yes
- Staff Members Present: Spencer Gardner, Angie McCall, Emily King, Tim Fischer, Sarah Sirott, Kevin Picanco, Kevin Freibott, Brandon Whitmarsh, Tirrell Black

**Minutes:** Minutes from 2/12/2025 approved 6-0-2 (abstentions).

## **Briefing Session:**

- **Community Assembly Liaison Report - Mary Winkes**
  - Mary stated that they had not met and therefore she did not have a report.
- **Transportation Commission Liaison Report - Vice President Patterson**
  - Ryan reported that this past week was the first meeting that Jon Snyder (Director of Transportation and Sustainability) attended as the new Secretary.
  - The Washington Fish and Wildlife attended and offered that they would be available for any questions especially as it relates to transportation and animal collisions. They also stated that they would be continuing to attend the TC meetings.
  - There was a presentation on the Commute Trip Reduction. The City of Spokane is pretty close to their target on reducing commute trips.
  - The Spokane Transit Authority presented on the Division BRT (Bus Rapid Transit). STA is planning 43 stations with hopeful plans of a transit station at the end. The plan would include transit signal priorities. They are leaning toward side access stations versus center access. The funding is around 53 million dollars but 50 million of that is from the state. There are plans to redesign the Ruby Street portion.
  - Safe Streets program (federally funded one) - currently prioritizing and ranking projects.
  - 6-Year Streets Program update
  - BAB presented a resolution that they drafted regarding the Maxwell bike/pedestrian project.
  - Fish Lake Trail update.
- **Commission President Report - President Bank**
  - President Bank stated that he was out of town during the last Plan Commission meeting as he was in Olympia discussing a variety of items with Legislature. There are a number of housing, planning, and zoning related actions going through the legislature right now that are either floundering or are still alive.

- a. There is a bill currently that would cap the limits that municipalities would be able to place on parking that is still alive and seems to be moving.
  - b. There are a series of bills that are incentivizing transit-oriented development. Unfortunately, the Senate version seems to have died but the House version seems to still be alive.
  - c. Mobile Dwelling Units (ie. ADU's on a trailer chassi) - the Senate version seems to be advancing.
  - d. The small elevators bill has passed through the Senate and is into the House now. This bill would allow smaller elevators to be placed into buildings six stories or shorter with 24 units or less versus the gurney size elevators which are quite large.
  - e. House Bill 1108 - creates a housing cost driver analysis task force. It looks at what determines housing costs and seeks to provide a series of recommendations of how to drive down the costs of housing. This could relate as we look at requirements and our zoning challenges. Costs and the cost drivers continue to be a huge challenge therefore having a task force looking at that and making recommendations at the state level could be very beneficial.
  - f. House Bill 1175 - Utilizing corner stores and neighborhood cafes is alive. As we look to the 2026 periodic update as a use that we would like to see incentivizing these and gives policy support at the state level.
- **Secretary Report - Spencer Gardner**
    - Spencer had a few items to discuss:
      - The Bike Priority Network is set on the agenda for our next meeting. It has already been brought before BAB and the Transportation Commission. Because it could set some direction for the Comprehensive Plan Update it would make sense to bring the BPN back again to the Plan Commission in a Hearing. Currently, the BPN is set to come to Plan Commission in the Workshop on March 12, 2025. Discussion ensued.
        - Motion was made to bring the BPN to a Plan Commission Hearing on March 26, 2025. Seconded. Voice vote was unanimously approved.
      - The department is currently in the thick of public engagement with the Periodic Update. Coming up there are workshops scheduled in various locations around the city ([see below](#)). We are encouraging all Plan Commissioners to attend and observe. Please do not discuss Plan Commission business during these meetings.
        - March 5, 2025, at 5:30pm at the Northeast Community Center
        - March 12, 2025, at 12:00pm at the Central Library Events Room A
        - March 25, 2025, at 5:30pm at the Liberty Park Library Events Room
        - March 27, 2025, at 5:30pm at the Shadle Park Library Events Room
      - We understand that the update to the Comprehensive Plan is going to be a big lift with a lot of information to process. We are thinking that it makes sense to make a subcommittee or multiple subcommittees of the Plan Commission over the various chapters/topics. More details to come during the March 12<sup>th</sup> Workshop. Be thinking about what you are interested in and what level of engagement you could have outside of the PC Workshops.
        - Commissioner Williams brought up a recent article that he felt was relevant to the Comprehensive Plan from the March edition of *The Atlantic* titled, "[How Progressives Froze the American Dream](#)".
  - **Council Liaison Report - Kitty Klitzke**
    - CM Klitzke discussed the following:
      - She stated that at the steering committee of elected officials level they are still working on getting their Land Capacity Analysis done and to get the other jurisdictions to accept the process and do theirs properly as well.
      - CM Cathcart has heard from constituents that it is difficult to get an address when they are trying to do infill. There is a lot of process when it comes to revising our addressing and it needs to come before the Plan Commission.
      - The Land Use committee is looking for someone to present to the Community Assembly about the elimination of the parking requirements.

**Current Agenda:** The current agenda was approved unanimously.

**Workshop(s):**

- Land Capacity Analysis
  - Presentation provided by staff member Kevin Freibott.
  - Questions asked and answered.
  - Discussion ensued.

Six-Year Streets Capital Improvement Plan Update

- Presentation provided by staff member Kevin Picanco.
- Questions asked and answered.
- Discussion ensued.

Workshop Adjourned at 4:05PM.

The next regularly scheduled Plan Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12, 2025.