



PLAN COMMISSION FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT Z19-499COMP

A Recommendation of the Spokane Plan Commission to the City Council to APPROVE the Comprehensive Plan Amendment application seeking to amend the land use plan map designation from “Residential 4-10” to “General Commercial” for a 0.85-acre area located at 3001, 3011, and 3027 E Liberty Avenue. The implementing zoning designation requested is General Commercial with 70-foot height limit (GC-70).

FINDINGS OF FACT:

- A. The City of Spokane adopted a Comprehensive Plan in May of 2001 that complies with the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA).
- B. Under GMA, comprehensive plans generally may be amended no more frequently than once a year, and all amendment proposals must be considered concurrently in order to evaluate for their cumulative effect.
- C. Amendment application Z19-499COMP (the “Application”) was submitted in a timely manner for review during the City’s 2019/2020 amendment cycle.
- D. The Application seeks to amend the land use plan map designation for a 0.85-acre area located at 3001, 3022, 3027 E Liberty Avenue (the “Properties”) from “Residential 4-10” to “General Commercial” with a corresponding change in zoning from Residential Single Family (RSF) to General Commercial with a 70-foot height limit (GC-70).
- E. The owner of the Properties also owns the parcel immediately to the east of the properties, resulting in common ownership holding that spans the area between N Haven Street and N Market Street.
- F. Annual amendment applications were subject to a threshold review process to determine whether the applications will be included in the City’s Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendment Work Program.
- G. On February 6, 2020, an Ad Hoc City Council Committee reviewed the applications that had been timely submitted, and forwarded its recommendation to City Council regarding the applications.
- H. On March 2, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution RES 2020-0014 establishing the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Work Program, and including the Application in the Work Program.
- I. Thereafter, on May 11, 2020, staff requested comments from agencies, departments, and neighborhood councils. The City received two comment letters regarding the Application, one from the Spokane Development Services Center, stating no concerns, and one from the Spokane Tribe, requesting a site survey be conducted for cultural resources prior to any development.

- J. A Notice of Application was published on June 8, 2020 in the Spokesman Review and was mailed to all properties and owners within a 400-foot radius of the subject Properties and any adjacent properties with the same ownership. Signs were also placed on the subject Properties in plain view of the public. The Notice of Application initiated a 60-day public comment period from June 8 to August 7, 2020, during which the City received comment cards expressing general opposition to the application.
- K. On June 4, 2020, the Community Assembly received a presentation regarding the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Work Program and the Application, and was provided with information regarding the dates of Plan Commission workshops and hearings.
- L. On June 10, 2020, the Spokane City Plan Commission held a workshop to study the Application.
- M. On June 24, 2020, the Land Use Subcommittee of the Community Assembly received a presentation regarding the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Work Program, including the Application.
- N. On August 24, 2020, a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist and Determination of Non-Significance were issued for the Application. The deadline to appeal the SEPA determination was September 14, 2020. No comments on the SEPA determination were received.
 - 1. Notice of the SEPA Determination for the Application was published in the Official Gazette on September 2 and 9, 2020.
- O. On August 25, 2020, the Washington State Department of Commerce and appropriate state agencies were given the required 60-day notice of intent to adopt before adoption of any proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan.
- P. On August 26 and September 2, 2020, notice was published in the Spokesman Review providing notice of a SEPA Determination of Non-Significance and notice of the September 9, 2020 Plan Commission Public Hearing.
- Q. On August 24, 2020, Notice of Public Hearing and SEPA Determination was posted on the Properties and mailed to all property owners and taxpayers of record, as shown by the most recent Spokane County Assessor's record, and occupants of addresses of property located within a four-hundred-foot radius of any portion of the boundary of the subject Properties.
- R. On August 24, 2020 staff published a report addressing SEPA and providing staff's analysis of the merits of the Application, copies of which were circulated as prescribed by SMC 17G.020.060B.8. Staff's analysis of the Application recommended approval of the Application.
- S. On September 9, 2020, the Plan Commission held a public hearing on the Application, including the taking of verbal testimony, and closed the public record, postponing deliberations until the following hearing date.
- T. Two members of the public testified in opposition of the Application during the hearing on September 9, 2020, citing concerns about intrusion of higher intensity and/or non-residential uses into a single family neighborhood.

- U. As a result of the City's efforts, pursuant to the requirements of SMC 17G.020.070, the public has had extensive opportunities to participate throughout the process and persons desiring to comment were given an opportunity to do so.
- V. Except as otherwise indicated herein, the Plan Commission adopts the findings and analysis set forth in the Staff Report prepared for the Application (the "Staff Report").
- W. The Plan Commission finds that the proposal meets the intent and requirements of the Comprehensive Plan, most specifically policy Land Use LU 1.8 concerning the establishment of General Commercial land uses in the City.
- X. The Plan Commission finds that the proposal meets the decision criteria established by SMC 17G.020.030, as described in the Staff Report.

CONCLUSIONS:

Based upon the application materials, staff analysis (which is hereby incorporated into these findings, conclusions, and recommendation), SEPA review, agency and public comments received, and public testimony presented regarding application File No. Z19-499COMP, the Plan Commission makes the following conclusions with respect to the review criteria outlined in SMC 17G.020.030:

1. The Application was submitted in a timely manner and added to the 2020 Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendment Work Program, and the final review application was submitted as provided in SMC 17G.020.050(D).
2. Interested agencies and the public have had extensive opportunities to participate throughout the process and persons desiring to comment have been given that opportunity to comment.
3. The Application is consistent with the goals and purposes of GMA.
4. Any potential infrastructure implications associated with the Application will either be mitigated through projects reflected in the City's relevant six-year capital improvement plans or through enforcement of the City's development regulations at time of development.
5. As outlined in above in the Findings of Fact, the Application is internally consistent as it pertains to the Comprehensive Plan, as described in SMC 17G.020.030.E.
6. The Application is consistent with the Countywide Planning Policies for Spokane County, the comprehensive plans of neighboring jurisdictions, applicable capital facilities plans, the regional transportation plan, and official population growth forecasts.
7. The Application has been considered simultaneously with the other proposals included in the 2020 Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendment Work Program in order to evaluate the cumulative effect of all the proposals.
8. SEPA review was completed for the Application.

9. The Application will not adversely affect the City's ability to provide the full range of urban public facilities and services citywide at the planned level of service, or consume public resources otherwise needed to support comprehensive plan implementation strategies.
10. The Application proposes a land use designation that is in conformance with the appropriate location criteria identified in the comprehensive plan (e.g., compatibility with neighboring land uses, proximity to arterials, etc.).
11. The proposed map amendment and site is suitable for the proposed designation.
12. The map amendment would implement applicable comprehensive plan policies better than the current map designation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

In the matter of Z19-499COMP, a request by Liam Taylor of Storhäug Engineering on behalf of Liberty Project LLC to change the land use plan designation on 0.85 acres of land from "Residential 4-10" to "General Commercial" with a corresponding change of the implementing zoning to GC-70 (General Commercial, 70-foot height limit), as based upon the above listed findings and conclusions, by a vote of **9 to 0**, the Spokane Plan Commission recommends City Council **APPROVE** the requested amendment to the Land Use Plan Map of the City's Comprehensive Plan with corresponding amendment to the City's Zoning Map, and authorizes the President to prepare and sign on the Commission's behalf a written decision setting forth the Commission's findings, conclusions, and recommendation on the application.



Todd Beyreuther, President

Spokane Plan Commission
October 21, 2020