



City of Olympia

City Hall
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Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8447

Meeting Minutes Land Use & Environment Committee

Thursday, June 19, 2014

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

1. ROLL CALL

Present: 2 - Chair Steve Langer and Committee Member Julie Hankins

Excused: 1 - Committee Member Jeannine Roe

OTHERS PRESENT

Public Works Director of Water Resources Andy Haub
Planning Commissioner Roger Horn
Community Planning and Development (CP&D) Director Keith Stahley
CP&D Program and Planning Supervisor Karen Kenneson
Public Works Director Rich Hoey
Public Works Project Engineer Diane Utter
Assistant City Manager Jay Burney
Executive Senior Program Specialist Bonnie Herrington
CP&D Associate Planner Stacey Ray

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Langer called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 3.A [14-0615](#) Approval of June 5, 2014 Land Use and Environment Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

4. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- 4.A [14-0578](#) Briefing and Discussion about Comprehensive Plan / Action Plan Process

Ms. Ray gave an update on the Action Plan and reviewed the process for identifying performance measures for the Action Plan's five action areas. She discussed considerations critical to identifying effective measures and described measures under consideration by staff.

Ms. Herrington presented examples of graphics currently being developed.

Discussion:

- Poor infrastructure on the Martin Way corridor and addressing problems of economically disadvantaged areas.
- Regulation matches consistent with Comprehensive Plan.
- Current approach being used to measure performance.
- Importance of capturing meaningful statistics.

Mr. Burney answered questions about current projects, plan measurement, and explained measures will be applicable to future projects.

Mr. Stahley discussed how measures will be implemented .

The discussion was completed.

4.B [14-0580](#) Briefing about Parking Improvements, Lot Upgrades, and Rebranding

Ms. Kenneson gave a briefing on the status of parking improvements made over the past several months, and discussed parking lot upgrades, rebranding efforts, and planned future parking initiatives.

Discussion:

- Dealing with abandoned vehicles and car camping in City parking lots.
- A new discounted eastside zone 9-hour permit which will serve as overflow parking for area agencies and businesses.

The discussion was completed.

4.C [14-0571](#) Briefing on Recommended Changes to Waste Water Regulations for Onsite Septic

Ms. Utter discussed the 2007 Wastewater Management Plan and described subsequent regulatory changes which place appreciable constraints on repairing existing septic systems and installing new ones. She detailed results of work done by the Thurston County Health Department in 2013 which revealed surface and ground water contamination due to onsite systems in Olympia may be limited to specific locations rather than widespread. She explained potential and limited modifications of current regulations and how ensuring public and environmental health would be maintained.

Mr. Stahley spoke about difficult situations homeowners have faced and efforts to alleviate some of the financial costs when they convert to sewer.

Mr. Hoey acknowledged Ms. Utter and her outstanding research and work.

The Committee supports changing the City's regulations to allow more, but still few, new onsite systems and recommends the following criteria for implementation:

- **Allow on-site systems to be constructed on vacant lots in existing**

neighborhoods with a predominance of septic systems.

- Reduce the requirement to connect to sewer from 300 feet to 200 feet.
- Modify sewer extension requirements.
- Fund a limited number of small-scale sewer extensions through the Wastewater capital facility program to make it more affordable for residents.
- Allow the City to set up payment plans for City General Facility Charges and potentially LOTT Capacity Development Charges.

The recommendation was completed.

4.D [14-0616](#) Status Reports and Updates

The Committee discussed how to communicate with downtown business owners who are unaware of the Downtown Project.

Mr. Stahley invited Councilmembers to the Planning Commission retreat on June 21, 2014.

Mr. Wilson gave an update on the Downtown Project (DP) and distributed the brochure "Strategic Priority: Champion Downtown" outlining DP goals and opportunities for citizen engagement.

The report was completed.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.