

Meeting Minutes: (6: 30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 2013)
Urban Neighborhoods and Corridor Subcommittee
Olympia Planning Commission, City of Olympia

Olympia Planning Commission Members in Attendance:
Judy Bardin, Vice Chair; Larry Laveen, and Paul Ingman

Members of the General Public in Attendance:
Carl See, Lou Guethlein, Gus Guethlein, Sophie (City staff) and Thera (TRPC)

Business Item: Review Urban Neighborhood Draft Proposal
for Olympia Planning Commission

General discussion occurred around the issue of why high density "...hasn't happened..." downtown given the city's incentives, zoning, regulations, and permitting process.

General discussion occurred around three "Focus Areas" of the proposed high-density neighborhoods, which were identified for the Capital Mall, Pacific/Martin/Lilly Triangle, and Downtown Olympia.

Commissioner Leveen expressed the importance of transition between high-density corridors and adjacent neighborhoods and the broader need to "...support transit."

Commissioner Vice-chair Bardin expressed concern of having Olympia residents live adjacent to high-density traffic volumes in Urban Corridors.

Subcommittee Recommendation: Commissioner Leveen identified the principle outcome of the subcommittee meeting was focusing on "...messaging..." the Urban Neighborhood proposal to the Planning Commission. Commissioner Ingman offered to clarify the goals and policies, and prepare a diagram of high-density neighborhoods and gateway locations within the Capital City.

Postscript: After the sub-committee meeting Sophie and Thera were invited to join the discuss with their observations of the draft Urban Neighborhood proposal. Thera spoke of the importance of "...market rate..." housing. Planning Commissioners answered questions and clarified their misconceptions of the Urban Neighborhood proposal. The staff's misunderstandings of the Urban Neighborhood (UN) proposal involved: people would be required to walk downtown from "Wilderness; UN proposal would dismantle the Intercity Transit system; and UN would attempt to eliminate vehicular transportation within Olympia.

Notes of meetings minutes recorded and prepared by Paul Ingman.