



# Meeting Minutes

## Planning Commission

City Hall  
601 4th Avenue E  
Olympia, WA 98501  
Contact: Joyce Phillips  
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**Monday, January 23, 2017**

**6:30 PM**

**Room 207**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mark called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**1.A ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 7 - Chair Brian Mark, Vice Chair Mike Auderer, Commissioner Paula Ehlers, Commissioner Darrell Hoppe, Commissioner Negheen Kamkar, Commissioner Carole Richmond and Commissioner Missy Watts

**Excused:** 1 - Commissioner Travis Burns

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Community Planning and Development:  
Deputy Director Leonard Bauer  
Senior Planner Joyce Phillips  
Senior Planner Linda Bentley  
Office Specialist/Minutes Recorder Stacey Rodell

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**The agenda was approved.**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3.A** [17-0062](#) Approval of the January 9, 2017 Olympia Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

**The minutes were approved.**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**5. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Phillips made the following announcements:

- Positions for City advisory boards are still open, including for the Planning Commission. The deadline to apply is January 31, 2017.
- The next Planning Commission meeting is on February 6, 2017. It will be held in the Council Chambers as Room 207 will be closed for the installation of new

A/V equipment. The meeting will primarily be dedicated to the Downtown Strategy (DTS) briefing. A DTS open house will occur from 5:00 - 6:30 pm. Planning Commission is invited and encouraged to attend.

- Staff is working hard to get the DTS graphic report summary formatted by Thursday - February 2, 2017. The approximately 40-page summary will be sent to the Commission and posted to the web. Copies for Commissioners and the public will be available at the February 6, 2017 meeting.
- As the more detailed background chapters are completed, they will be posted to the web and a link sent to the Commission. The hope is to have these all complete and posted by February 13, 2017; however if they are not completed by that date, the public hearing date (currently planned for February 27, 2017) may be held at a later date.
- The Comprehensive Plan chapter “teach back” summaries from Commission members to the rest of the Commission begin tonight with Commissioner Richmond giving a recap of the Capital Facilities Plan chapter. On February 27, 2017, Chair Mark is scheduled to cover Community Values and Vision.
- Public comment for written comments will remain open until noon on January 27, 2017 for the Critical Areas Ordinance. The Commission’s deliberations will begin on February 6, 2017.

## 6. BUSINESS ITEMS

### 6.A [17-0054](#) Public Hearing, Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO), Phase 2, Locally Important Habitat and Species

Ms. Bentley presented a briefing regarding the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) via a PowerPoint presentation.

Discussion:

- Commissioner Richmond asked how developable the land is at the west side habitat. Ms. Bentley explained it is sloped, there are some streams and there is some developable land. Most of the property is owned by a non-profit organization that does not plan to develop the land. Determination of whether or not the land is developable would be considered on a case to case basis.
- Vice Chair Auderer asked if there has been a revenue impact study done on either of the areas. Ms. Bentley indicated there hasn’t been a study done to the best of her knowledge. Chair Auderer indicated he would like staff to inquire further regarding this impact. Ms. Bentley indicated she will look into this further.
- Commissioner Hoppe inquired why development would be restricted during the non-occupied habitat season. Ms. Bentley indicated if the habitat is not occupied then the development activity time period will be extended to April 1st instead of September 1st. Commissioner Hoppe asked how the herons will be tracked in the future. Ms. Bentley stated what would trigger such a determination of if there are herons on a parcel would be when a property owner submits an application for development.

- Commissioner Watts asked for clarification on the decibel noise levels. Ms. Bentley provided some clarification.
- Vice Chair Auderer said he would like to see the decibel level portion of the ordinance be more clearly defined.
- Mr. Bauer provided some clarification that noise level impacts would be measured at the boundary of the nesting colony.

Chair Mark opened the public hearing.

The following members of the public spoke:

Andrea Buser, Daniel Einstein, Martin McCallum, Jennifer Schafer, Katherine Himes, Noah Jensen, Harry Branch and Bob Jacobs all spoke in support of the ordinance.

Tom Schrader spoke in support of protecting the herons but questioned the City's process of developing the CAO. He was not in support of the ordinance as it is written.

Joel Baxter, a representative for Olympia Master Builders, stated he believes the five month development period is too short to finish a development project. He feels the ten year restriction could create a burden on land owners and there should be additional scientific study done regarding the CAO and the protection of the herons.

Chair Mark stated the public hearing would remain open for any additional written comments to be submitted to the City by noon on Friday, January 27, 2017.

**The verbal portion of the public hearing was held and closed.**

**6.B**     [17-0053](#)     Preliminary Planning Commission Work Plan for April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018

Ms. Phillips reviewed the 2017 draft work plan. The Commission discussed the draft work plan.

**The discussion was completed.**

**7.        REPORTS**

Chair Mark presented a report on the recent Arts Commission meeting he attended. They have completed the request for proposals process and have selected a consultant for the Gateways project. They also reviewed their 2017 draft work plan as well as the municipal art plan. The Poet Laureate has started with the City. Chair Mark will be meeting with the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations regarding a pilot garden project in the public right-of-ways in neighborhoods.

**8.        OTHER TOPICS**

Commissioner Richmond gave a PowerPoint presentation that included an overview of the Capital Facilities Plan (CFP), the goals and policies of the Capital Facilities Element, and how they relate to the City's comprehensive plan and capital budget.

She reviewed the requirements of Capital Facilities Elements as outlined in the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A) and discussed the Commission's role in the review of the annual CFP.

Vice Chair Auderer inquired as to what event started the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). Ms. Phillips and the Commission briefly discussed the origin of the CAO.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.