



REGULAR SESSION
MAY 23, 2023
MINUTES

For access to supporting documents reviewed by the Planning Commission, visit the Snohomish County Planning Commission webpage at <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/164>

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commissioner Robert Larsen, Planning Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Of the ten (10) currently appointed commissioners, eight (8) were in attendance (a quorum being six (6) members and a majority being six (6) members:

Commissioners Present	Commissioners Absent
Rosanna Brown	Merle Ash
Kimberly Busteed	Neil Pedersen
Tom Campbell	
Christine Eck	
Robert Larsen	
Mark James	
Ray Sheldon	
Angie Sievers	

David Killingstad, Planning and Development Services Director served as the Planning Commission Secretary for this meeting.

B. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Nothing to report but Chair Larsen did urge all commissioners to speak up and ask questions and make comments during the briefings for the Comprehensive Plan Update. He did also remind the Commission that staff can take emails with questions and comments before the briefing and for a time after the briefings.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of [April 25, 2023](#) were unanimously approved.



E. STATUS OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND PAST RECOMMENDATIONS

- [Upcoming Planning Commission Meeting Topics](#)
- County Council Actions on Planning Commission Recommendations

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Commerce Climate Change Grant: Informational Briefing

Eileen Canola, Senior Planner, eileen.canola@snoco.org
Jesse Langdon, Principal GIS Analyst, Jesse.Langdon@snoco.org

The Planning Commission held an informational briefing on the Commerce Climate Change Grant. In 2022, Commerce awarded funding totaling \$2.2 million to 27 jurisdictions in the Central Puget Sound region to integrate climate planning in their comprehensive plan updates, as early planning. The County successfully applied for the grant and was awarded \$99,168. Deliverables include a climate change vulnerability and risk assessment and a briefing to the Planning Commission and County Council. The Department of Planning and Development Services (PDS) is the lead for managing this grant contract and ensuring all deliverables are completed by June 15, 2023.

During the briefing, commissioners had some discussion and questions regarding the informational briefing. Questions included when the Climate Vulnerability Index would be available, if it would be possible to get a sheet explaining acronyms, if different municipalities get a deeper overview of the index, and future uses of the tool.

For further information, please review the following:

- [Briefing Staff Report dated April 26, 2023](#)
- [Attachment A—Executed Grant Contract No. 23-63333-124](#)
- [Presentation dated May 23, 2023](#)

2. Comprehensive Plan Update: Natural Environment Element: Briefing

Terri Strandberg, Principal Planner, Terri.Strandberg@snoco.org

The Planning Commission was briefed on proposed amendments to the Natural Environment Element of the 2024 Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan. The proposed changes are intended to provide greater consistency between the county's plan and the environmental policies in PSRC's VISION 2050 regional plan and the recently adopted countywide planning policies. The proposed policy changes also reflect public input and recommendations from the best available science related to environmental protection and environmental hazards.

During the briefing, commissioners had some questions regarding the proposed updates. Questions included setback and buffer requirements in relation to rivers and streams and what prompted the newer stronger language in the plan. There was also some discussion around the



use of should/shall/may in the Plan Update. Commissioner Sheldon also requested that in the future instead of simply saying Tribes that they could be called Salish Sea Tribes.

For further information, please review the following:

- [Briefing Staff Report dated May 5, 2023](#)
- [Attachment A - Narrative](#)
- [Attachment B – Policy Table](#)
- [Presentation dated May 23, 2023](#)

3. Comprehensive Plan Update: Parks and Recreation Element: Briefing

Carol Ohlfs, Principal Park Planner, Carol.Ohlfs@snoco.org

The Planning Commission held a briefing on proposed comprehensive plan amendments to the Snohomish County Park & Recreation Element (PRE) which works together with the Capital Facilities and Utilities Element to guide long term provision of facilities managed by the Snohomish County Division of Parks and Recreation. The PRE provides a demand and need analysis for parks, trails, and open space for the next 20-years, which informs Parks' six-year Capital Improvement Program. The proposed amendments provide consistency with the Growth Management Act in accordance with the Revised Code of Washington (RCW 36.70A.070), Countywide Planning Policies, Vision 2050 Multi-County Planning Policies, and the other Comprehensive Plan element updates.

Following the briefing on the proposed amendments, there were some questions from the commissioners. Questions included the relationship between the Commission and Park Advisory Board and the effects on the balance of recreation and conservation.

For further information, please review the following:

- [Briefing Staff Report dated May 8, 2023](#)
- [Attachment A – PRE Policy Table](#)
- [Attachment B – Draft Park & Recreation](#) Element
- [Presentation dated May 23, 2023](#)

4. By-Law Change

County Council recently amended the section of code in Title II pertaining to the Planning Commission terms and allows for a third consecutive term to be served. The Commission just needs to make a motion to amend the by-laws to reflect that change.

It should be noted that Both Commissioners Sheldon and Sievers had to leave the meeting early and therefore did not vote on the by-law.

A **Motion** was made by Commissioner Campbell and seconded by Commissioner Eck recommending **APPROVAL** of the bylaw amendments as submitted by staff.



VOTE (Motion):

6 in favor (*Brown, Busted, Campbell, Eck, James, Larsen*)

0 opposed

0 abstention

Motion PASSED

For further information, please review the following:

- [Proposed Bylaw Amendment](#)

H. ROUNDTABLE TOPICS (time permitting)

A new agenda item that has been added at the request of Commissioner James. Time permitting, this can be a way to update the commission about anything exciting or noteworthy.

Commissioners Eck, Brown, Busted, and Chair Larsen didn't have any news but wanted to express their appreciation for both staff and the commission and all their work.

Commissioner James shared that groundbreaking began today on the I-5/529 interchange for a new on and off-ramp.

David Killingstad thanked the commission for their time and commitment and thanked County Staff for their efforts on the Comprehensive Plan Update.

I. ADJOURN

A **Motion** to adjourn was made by Commissioner James and seconded by Commissioner Busted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

PLANNING COMMISSION'S RANGE OF POSSIBLE ACTIONS:

At the conclusion of its public hearing, the County Planning Commission will consider transmitting a formal recommendation to County Council concerning adoption of the proposal. The Commission may make a recommendation to adopt or to not adopt the proposal. The Commission's recommendation may also propose amendments to the proposal. The Planning Commission is an advisory body and the final decision rests with the County Council.

PARTY OF RECORD / PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

You may become a party of record for any specific topic that comes before the Planning Commission by submitting a written request or testimony to Taylor Twiford, Planning Commission Clerk, PDS, M/S 604, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett, WA 98201 or email at Taylor.Twiford@snoco.org.



Snohomish County

Planning Commission

Planning and Development Services

WHERE TO GET COPIES OF DOCUMENTS AND WEBSITE ACCESS:

Please check www.snohomishcountywa.gov for additional information or the Snohomish County Department of Planning and Developmental Services, Reception Desk, 2nd Floor, County Administration Building East, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett, WA 98201 or email at Taylor.Twiford@snoco.org.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT NOTICE:

Snohomish County facilities are accessible. The county strives to provide access and services to all members of the public. Sign language interpreters and communication materials in alternate form will be provided upon request of one calendar week. Contact Angela Anderson at 425-262-2206 Voice, or 425-388-3700 TDD.

Snohomish County Planning Commissioners:

<i>Merle Ash, District 1</i>	<i>Tom Campbell, District 4</i>
<i>Mark James, District 1</i>	<i>Neil Pedersen, District 4</i>
<i>Kimberly Busteed, District 2</i>	<i>Rosanna Brown, District 5</i>
<i>Raymond Sheldon, Jr., District 2</i>	<i>Vacant, District 5</i>
<i>Robert Larsen, District 3</i>	<i>Angie Sievers, Executive Appointee</i>
<i>Christine Eck, District 3</i>	

Commission Staff (from Planning and Development Services (PDS) Department):

<i>Mike McCrary, Commission Secretary</i>	<i>Taylor Twiford, Commission Clerk</i>
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