

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Thursday, June 25, 1998**

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Planning & Permit Center - Tom Karsh, Director.

- 1) Review and Possible Action on Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board Stipulated Agreement "Short Term" Issues.
- 2) Review and Possible Action on Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 25, 1998, with Commissioners Robert Hart, Ted W. Anderson and Harvey Wolden present.

PLANNING & PERMIT CENTER – Tom Karsh, Director.

1. Review and Possible Action on Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board Stipulated Agreement "Short Term" Issues.

Gary Christianson, Senior Planner, Skagit County Planning & Permit Center, passed out a proposed ordinance and information regarding the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board Stipulated Agreement, "Short Term" Issues. He explained that this is a Planning Commission referred item, indicating that the Planning Commissions' recommendation was referred to the Commissioners earlier for review.

Mr. Christianson reviewed each issue of the recorded motion with the Board.

- ISSUE A The Planning Commission has chosen to strike a policy in the capital facilities element which was inconsistent with other policies in the Comp Plan.
- ISSUE B The issue to do with community on-site sewer systems is already addressed in the County Code. There is also a WAC that addresses this issue. This section allows rural villages, such as Edison, to be addressed. It more narrowly defines a rural village boundary and some issues of water quality in the bay.
- ISSUE C. This was to address whether the County has adequately provided for the transference of urban governmental services within the UGA's. This includes water, law enforcement, solid waste, libraries, etc. The issue in this was with regard to public water. This would support an increasing role of municipalities to provide services within a UGA. It also indicates that within an urban growth area cities are to be the major purveyors of services, although it doesn't say they will be the only one.
- Commissioner Anderson questioned how this fits with the interlocal agreements that are in place? He and Commissioner Wolden expressed some concerns about the water issue in Marblemount. Mr. Christianson said it is not definitive by nature because there are unique situations with each jurisdiction. This is talking about how the water utilities will be governed.
- ISSUE D. Mr. Christianson indicated that relative to conservation of rural development policies, some additional policies were proposed that would provide more detail. The issue regarding CaRD policies is still being debated. They are recommending no changes to the comp plan CaRD policies and that any future revisions be addressed when the CaRD policy comes out.
- ISSUE E. Minor language policy amendments.
- ISSUE F. Protection of aquatic resources.

Commissioner Wolden asked about the aquatic designation. Mr. Christianson explained that the County doesn't have an aquatic designation. The shorelines plan will be updated based on changing circumstances and new information. They are also looking at commercial and industrial uses outside of the UGA's. Also, the issue is before the Western Hearings Board.

After further discussion, Mr. Christianson said that the intention here is that aquatic resource areas are important to Skagit County in terms of economy and way of life. It would be such things as marine industries, recreational opportunities, commercial/industrial operations such as oyster beds, claming, etc.

ISSUE G. The Planning Commission has agreed with map changes.

ISSUE H. This issue addresses, primarily, the fact that critical areas can be mapped by using general sources of information, or based on a discovery and review process. What someone may designate a critical area has to be substantiated. In response to a question from Commissioner Hart, Mr. Christianson indicated that this particular policy is in the forestry section. In that section there was an appeal based on rural resource not being part of the forest designation. This could be flagged as something to be addressed.

ISSUE J. This is a change in the comp plan designations as to what ag support services are. There should not be uses included that are not related or tied to ag.

Commissioner Hart said that this brings to mind the Tulip Festival. There are resource buildings used most of the year as resource buildings, but during the festival they are used as art galleries.

Mr. Christianson said they do not want to necessarily disallow that. Public festivals can promote ways of reducing impacts on ag land. This was done with the Tulip Festival in mind and a desire to mitigate any conflict these activities may bring.

Commissioner Hart thanked Mr. Christianson for the work that he and staff have put into this document.

Commissioner Hart motioned to adopt the Planning Commissions' Recommendations Regarding Short-term Stipulated Issues in Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board (WWGMHB) Case No. 97-2-0060c and Amending the 1997 Skagit County Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried. (**#Ordinance No. 17029**)

2. Review and Possible Action on Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan.

Gary Christianson, Senior Planner, Skagit County Planning & Permit Center and Jon Aarstad, Director, Parks, Recreation and Fair, were present to review the Planning Commission recommendations regarding the proposed Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan.

Mr. Christianson passed out the recorded motion and supplemental findings, explaining that the Planning Commission held a public hearing on June 16 regarding this matter. They deliberated again on June 23 and have forwarded this recorded motion to the Board with their findings. In doing so they have voted 6-0 to have the plan approved with the noted amendments. The reason for the 6-0 vote is because three members were not in attendance at the public hearing. Those three members didn't have an opportunity to review the transcript prior to the June 23 meeting and, therefore, they listened to the discussion but did not vote.

Mr. Christianson reviewed the nine recommendations of the motion.

1. Basically, this recommendation is saying that there are a smaller number of rural parks the County should continue to main and operate but, in the future, if there are any proposals from

communities or groups, prior to the County taking on any new obligations, there should be assurance there will be funding.

Commissioner Hart said there are a lot of these properties and, unless there are partnerships or a private organization wants to finance them, none of them will go forward. Parks funding is limited.

Mr. Christianson reported that the discussion focused on whether the County is going to abandon maintenance and operations on existing small rural playfields and areas. Mr. Aarstad emphasized that they are just talking about those smaller one or two acre locations it takes longer to drive to.

Commissioner Anderson stressed that the County should not lose sight of its obligations.

Commissioner Wolden said that the County is probably serving the public more with smaller parks because the bigger parks, like Howard Miller Steelhead Park, serve people from out of the county more. He emphasized the need to serve local parks.

Commissioner Hart felt the County needs to look at developing partnerships.

Commissioner Anderson agreed that this has some validity and suggested that maybe city parks could assume more responsibility through interlocal agreements, with the County concentrating on larger parks.

2. Regarding the proposed Mayer site, Mr. Christianson indicated that they have tried to make a case on page 4 of the recorded motion that the entire 700 some acre site be included in the urban growth area in Sedro Woolley to accommodate any facilities that may be needed.
3. There was some discussion about Park Cascade North (NSRA), with the Planning Commission recommendation of an addition to the third paragraph of page IX-21.
4. Mr. Christianson explained that under this portion of the recorded motion, "Facility Plan Map and Inventory of Recreation Open Space Areas", that "recreation/open space" was a better designation.

During the ensuing discussion, Commissioner Anderson said he felt that the designation "conservation/open space" was more flexible than the recreational designation.

Mr. Christianson reported further that there is a multi-use objective for that area. The intent is to acknowledge that those lands are going to be managed as timberlands. They may be harvested or they may provide for recreational opportunities and open space.

After further discussion it was agreed that the word, "resource" should be used after "recreation".

5. Project Review. Okay.
6. Relative to this section, "Non-Motorized Transportation Plan", Commissioner Anderson wondered why the Cascade Trail was the only trail mentioned here and if the proposed facility development will include trails? Would anything that is done with the Cascade Trail trigger public review and comment?

Mr. Christianson answered that it would.

7. Mr. Christianson explained that this recommendation just points out that the "Evergreen Trail" had inadvertently not been noted. It was agreed that it would be added to the map.
8. Relative to Clear Lake, Mr. Christianson reported that this is mentioned because, with the Mayer house in Clear Lake, those sites have a potential recreational opportunity. It is important to consider future options. If anything is done there it will go through a public process and involve either those communities or landowners.

Mr. Aarstad added that if you haven't identified a potential site then it will not be included in any future planning.

9. Mr. Christianson noted that the last issue deals with Resource Management on Level 4 parklands. He referred to the last page of the recorded motion.

Commissioner Hart stated that a lot of these lands have come into the County's possession through trades, etc. At some point the County should be identifying future park sites, whether they be for aquatic access, community playfields, or passive parks, and coordinate with other agencies, cities, etc. , then go out and see how an appropriate site can be acquired in those identified areas.

After further discussion, Commissioner Wolden motioned to pass the recommended motion with the amendment on page 4 of 7, item 4, "Facility Plan Map and Inventory of Recreation Open Space Areas". Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Ordinance #17030)

ADJOURNMENT.

Chairman Hart made a motion to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Robert Hart, Chairman



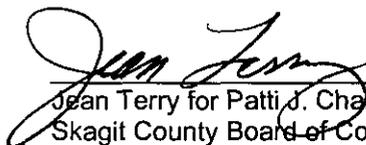
Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner



Harvey Wolden, Commissioner



ATTEST:



Jean Terry for Patti J. Chambers, Clerk of the Board
Skagit County Board of Commissioners