

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2011**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 24, 2011, with Commissioners Ron Wesen, Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, and Sharon D. Dillon present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Wesen called the proceedings to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Wesen led the gallery in the salute to the flag.

III. AGENDA:

a) 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Planning and Development - Gary Christensen, Director:

1. Deliberations & Possible Action: Planning Commission Recommendations on Proposed Amendments to Skagit County Code

Mr. Christensen informed the Commissioners of the work already performed on the code amendments which encompassed: meeting with the Board in February, meeting with the Forestry Advisory Board and Agricultural Advisory Board for their comments and review, publishing the amendments in March for public review and comment, holding a public hearing before the Planning Commission regarding the amendments, the deliberation of the Planning Commission on the amendments, and legal counsel review of the finalized version of the amendments.

Chairman Wesen expressed his appreciation for the long hours that the Planning Commission spent working on the code amendments.

Ms. Ruacho stated that some of the amendments were omitted from the final version for more deliberation and work.

Commissioner Dahlstedt stated that land use issues were always challenging and that he also appreciated staff, citizens and the Planning Commission for working through the proposed amendments. He brought up concerns that he had regarding the current economic situation and being able to give applicants more time to finish their projects. Commissioner Dahlstedt said that Skagit County is not always able to finish projects on time and that the private sector can have similar issues and so he asked that the current time extensions in place be revised as he believed they were inadequate.

Commissioner Dillon pointed out that section 14.24.110 on page 23 would have to be updated. It dealt with Forest Practice and it would not be in line with Washington State law, as Washington recently changed some of their forest practice rules in the last legislative meeting.

Mr. Christensen agreed with Commissioner Dillon and stated that they prefer to match state rules.

Commissioner Dillon also asked that the code be altered in order to address time extensions on projects. She asked that this portion of code be reviewed soon.

Chairman Wesen thanked Jason Easton for being the Chair of the Planning Commission. He also expressed his preference to alter the current portion of Skagit County Code regarding time extensions.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve the 2011 Annual Code Amendments as recommended by the Planning Commission and outlined in the adopting ordinance. (**Ordinance No. O20110007**) Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Mr. Christensen thanked the Board and acknowledged the work of many who completed the code amendments. Chairman Wesen recessed the proceedings at 8:53 a.m.

2. Miscellaneous

Gary Christensen stated that Planning and Development Services did not have any miscellaneous items to discuss.

b) 9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Proclamation: May as Community Action Month in Skagit County

Commissioner Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 9:31 a.m. and excused Chairman Wesen who left in order to attend the Ecosystem Coordination Board's meeting regarding Puget Sound Partnership's target setting in Tukwila, Washington.

The Commissioners discussed Community Action Month and they spoke of their appreciation for all that Skagit County Community Action Agency (SCCAA) does in Skagit County.

Commissioner Dahlstedt expressed his concerns over state and federal budget cuts to Community Action Agencies when they are most needed within their communities. Executive Director of Skagit County Community Action Agency Bill Henkel thanked the Commissioners for taking the time to discuss Community Action and for the proclamation. Mr. Henkel expressed his appreciation for the volunteers at SCCAA and for the partnerships that SCCAA has in Skagit County. He stated that many families are only one paycheck away from needing assistance.

Commissioner Dahlstedt read the document proclaiming May as Community Action Month in Skagit County.

Mr. Henkel said people in need of assistance can contact Skagit County Community Action Agency at 360-416-7585 and that they have 35 programs in place to help with various essentials such as: housing and homelessness, food assistance, crisis intervention, literacy and job skills, volunteerism, etc. and said that they are linked to many other organizations that can help.

Commissioner Dillon recessed the proceedings at 9:42 a.m.

c) 11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Public Comment Period

Commissioner Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m.

Susan Fox of South Shore Road on Guemes Island submitted a petition to the Commissioners asking that Skagit County grant an exception to the service animal policy for the passenger waiting room at the Guemes Island Ferry Terminal. The petition stated that pets were allowed inside the old ferry building, but that they are not allowed inside the newly constructed building and that it was unreasonable and unfair to ferry riders during inclement weather. The petition asked that well-behaved, leashed pets attended by responsible owners be allowed in the waiting room. Ms. Fox said that nearly 350 signatures were collected. Ms. Fox went on to say that the policy was unclear and that the ferry workers have not consistently enforced it. Ms. Fox inquired if the glass bus shelter recently brought to the island could be designated as a pet zone.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Fox and stated that they believed the glass shelter would be designated for that purpose.

Commissioner Dillon brought forward item No. 2 from the consent agenda from May 23, 2011.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve item No. 2, the Commissioners minutes from May 17, 2011, from the Consent Agenda on May 23, 2011. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Dahlstedt adjourned the proceedings.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ron Wesen, Chairman

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Linda Hammons, Clerk of the Board