

Peter Gill

From: John Day <jday0730@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 1:47 PM
To: PDS comments
Cc: Commissioners; Hal Hart; Michael Cerbone
Subject: Comments for Jan. 12, 2021 Planning Commission meeting
Attachments: 2020-01-11 Comments re SCPC Lundsten censure, bylaw changes.pdf

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Please find attached comments for the public remarks section of the January 12, 2021 Skagit County Planning Commission meeting. The subjects of my comments are

1. the Commission's September 22, 2020 resolution censuring Commissioner Mark Lundsten and
2. proposed changes to Planning Commission bylaws

I am a 41-year resident of Skagit County.

John Day
6368 Erwin Ln.
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
Email: jday0730@gmail.com
Phone: (360) 856-0644

January 11, 2021

To: Skagit County Planning Commission
Skagit County Planning and Development Services
Skagit County Board of Commissioners

From: John Day
6368 Erwin Ln
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
Email: jday0730@gmail.com
Phone: (360) 856-0644

Re: Mark Lundsten censure resolution and changes to Planning Commission bylaws

I am writing in support of Skagit County Planning Commission (SCPC) member Mark Lundsten's request that the SCPC revoke its September 22, 2020 resolution to censure him for alleged objectionable conduct or, failing that, that the Board of County Commissioners overturn the resolution. The resolution represents a violation of Mr. Lundsten's constitutionally protected right to free speech. Furthermore, it is contrary to basic standards of fairness and transparency in the conduct of public business.

I also strongly support changes in SCPC bylaws to create a clear mechanism for filing a minority report, one that both protects commissioners' free speech rights and ensures that the Board of County Commissioners, Planning and Development Services, and the public hear SCPC members' dissenting opinions.

January 11, 2021

Skagit County Planning Commission
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA

RE: Planning Commission conduct and Bylaw changes (*via email*)

Dear Members of Skagit County Planning Commission:

I am writing in support of Planning Commissioner Mark Lundsten's request for the Planning Commission's (PC) to withdraw or revoke their September 2020 censure of Mr. Lundsten. I believe that the censure was inappropriate and perhaps even unlawful. Furthermore, Mr. Lundsten deserves an apology. Any commission member is entitled to express a minority opinion, and Mr. Lundsten did so properly and respectfully. In addition, his position on the changes to the Critical Areas Ordinance in relation to Great Blue Heron nesting sites represents the views of the majority of members of the public that commented to the PC on this matter. His dissenting opinion is, therefore, an even more important piece of the public record. The PC should be encouraging informed discussion and consideration of these important issues, not stifling it.

It is past time for the PC to adopt more transparent and fair procedures for conducting its business and for allowing respectful dissent; and most importantly, to start really listening to all of its constituents.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Martha Bray
Sedro-Woolley

Cc: Skagit County Board of County Commissioners
Skagit County Planning and Development Services staff

Peter Gill

From: Laurie Sherman <shermanpt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 10:52 AM
To: Peter Gill
Subject: Planning Commissioners public remark/ Jan 26th mtg

Attention Peter Gill,
Please add to public comments to be read for Jan 26th mtg

Mark has made every effort to work within the guidelines of the law. In the course of PC discussions it is inevitable that individuals will differ in opinion. One purpose of government is to provide an orderly process to guide discussions, for all to hear and be recorded clearly for public review, in order to make the best decisions. Mark is requesting and I agree, that a protocol needs to be established for reports in the PC bylaws to accommodate dissent. I attended the meeting re (P-12) and can tell you it was loud and unruly in the lobby. While waiting to make our statements, people were yelling at the speakers shown on the monitors. It was unnerving and intimidating to speak. I hope that our commissioners will be strong enough to lead by example and create a process for its members to discuss and record dissenting opinions accurately.

I have two requests of the Planning Commission:

1. Remove the censure of Mark Lundsten.
2. Provide PC members a protocol for filing a minority report to accommodate dissent.

Laurie Sherman
4596 Ginnett Rd
Anacortes WA 98221

Peter Gill

From: Peggy Ratermann <ratermann.peggy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 9:49 AM
To: PDS comments
Subject: Heron Protection Ordinance

This letter is being sent as an objection to the censure of Mark Lundsten at the September 22, 2020 meeting on the Heron Protection Ordinance.

Since when is it wrong to present a different opinion to our county government? I believe, and I am sure the majority of residents would agree that a healthy exchange of ideas, and a transparent and robust discussion of issues is essential to maintaining a vibrant democracy that speaks for all. Mark Lundsten was censured in September for his thoughts on protecting the herony on Fidalgo Island. There was little or no discussion, and proper legislative procedure was not followed, in defiance of the "Sunshine Law" meant to keep the public involved in the business of our government. This is shameful!

I recommend that the Planning Commission remove the censure, and encourage and allow for opinions and ideas by all to be heard and reported.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mary M Ratermann
Burlington, WA

Peter Gill

From: Paul Sherman <pshermanpt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:06 AM
To: PDS comments
Subject: Yes to dissenting opinions

This is in regard to the Planning Commission meeting on January 26, 2021. My name is Paul Sherman and I am a resident of Skagit County. I am commenting on the need for dissenting comments by the commission

I believe the Planning Commission (PC) would benefit from a change in its bylaws to allow and encourage dissenting opinions. It works for the US Supreme Court and it can work here. Encouraging dissenting opinion gives the public a greater understanding of the thinking behind the PC recommendations along with dissenting points of view. Transparency in government is a good thing.

Thank you.

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Music is the magic

Paul Sherman
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