

**Skagit County Planning Commission
Public Remarks and Department Update Only
December 1, 2015**

Commissioners: Josh Axthelm, Chair
Keith Greenwood, Vice Chair
Tammy Candler
Hollie Del Vecchio
Kathy Mitchell
Annie Lohman
Amy Hughes
Kevin Meenaghan (absent)

Staff: Dale Pernula, Planning Director
Ryan Walters, Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Public Commenters: Ellen Bynum, Friends of Skagit County

(PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT: CDI DISCUSSION WAS NOT TRANSCRIBED SINCE IT ULTIMATELY WAS NOT ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.)

Chair Josh Axthelm: ...December 1st. Welcome to our Planning Commission meeting. Looking at the agenda, do the Commissioners have any – oh, we call this meeting to order (gavel). Sorry. Do we have any changes to the agenda from the Commissioners?

(silence)

Chair Axthelm: Okay. Seeing none, we'll move on to the first item on the agenda, the Public Remarks.

Ellen Bynum: Ellen Bynum, Friends of Skagit County, 110 First, Mount Vernon. I wanted to talk a little bit about the process that we just went through for putting in Comprehensive Plan amendments. Those amendments have gone before the Board of County Commissioners and some of those were accepted – a couple of those were accepted but the citizens presented quite a few of them. I think there were 17 or so. The Department presents Comprehensive Plan amendments and then citizens are able to now submit them. And I just wanted to talk about that right now because they're due in the middle of the year. I think it's June or July.

Dale Pernula: End of July.

Ms. Bynum: End of July – right. And so there are people watching and who may watch later who might have an interest in proposing Comprehensive Plan amendments. For example, one of the things that we have heard citizens say that they really wanted was to have no loss of farmland and we've proposed various ways of doing that. None of those were accepted but at some point we have to bite the bullet and figure out a way to do that if we actually do want to

have no loss of farmland. And I'm not talking about no *net* loss because they're not making any more of the ag soils that we use to categorize the best farmland that we have.

So this process of the Comprehensive Plan amendments, I just want to talk a little bit more about that and say that there's a form on the website that you can go to and fill out, and anybody can do it and there's no charge for submitting the Comprehensive Plan amendment. And it would be useful if you knew what the Comprehensive Plan was before you submitted an idea, so you probably need to go and read that as well. But I think that's the only way that we're going to get back to having more citizens participate in what was originally a citizens-based planning exercise, which was how the Comprehensive Plan was originally written. So I just wanted to take the time to say that, and also to tell people that if they have things that they're not sure of, they're welcome to come and talk with staff or talk with Planning Commission members about their ideas and see if those are things that are important enough to bring forward to make decisions about. Thanks.

Chair Axthelm: Thank you. Are there any other public comments?

(silence)

(Skip to Department Update and Planning Commissioner Comments and Announcements.)

Chair Axthelm: So Department Update?

Mr. Pernula: Okay, I think the main thing I want to go over is the Planning Commission schedule for next year. Next week will be your last meeting this week.

Mr. Greenwood: This year?

Mr. Pernula: The first of next year we'll be publishing the dates of all your meetings that we're scheduling for next year. And let me go over what we're scheduling tentatively right now. First of all, on January 5th we want to hold one of our Comprehensive Plan workshops, this time on Population, Employment, and the Urban Growth Areas. We'll invite a couple of the Cities here so we can discuss those issues with them. Then on January 19th, we're going to get back to the Shoreline Master Program. Now because we have these two huge projects coming up, the Comprehensive Plan Update and the Shoreline Master Program, we want to schedule the hearings and deliberations for each of those in the months of April and May. What we're going to do is schedule four meetings each month, one every week; however, if you can get through the hearings in one meeting and the deliberations in one meeting, you'll have two meetings a month. We're going to schedule four, but you can get it done in two. So that's what we're proposing right now. I want to let you know well in advance there's going to be a lot to do in April and May.

Chair Axthelm: For Shoreline.

Mr. Pernula: Shorelines and then the Comprehensive Plan Update.

Okay, the only other thing I wanted to bring up is what the Board did last week on their docketing. They docketed a number of items for the 2015 Comprehensive Plan amendment docket. They docketed a proposal to change the maximum lot coverage in the Rural Reserve and they deferred docketing of CaRD reform. On map amendments, there were some that were

proposed by individual applicants. They docketed Lake Erie Trucking, an MRO designation. That's on South Fidalgo, Fidalgo Island. They docketed Concrete Concepts, a Rural Village Commercial in Edison. They docketed a Rural Village – another one by Edison Granary for Rural Village Commercial in Edison. They docketed the Sedro-Woolley UGA expansion. That had been docketed in the past. This is a carry-forward. They deferred the creation of a standalone UGA near Avalon. That's on Butler Hill. It was not docketed but they deferred it to be done in the future. They docketed several Department code updates – code amendments. They're mostly fairly minor so I don't want to go over all those right now. But they docketed seven of those. And they deferred a proposed South Fidalgo Rural Residential zone. I think they were interested in doing some more planning – perhaps creation of a subarea plan – before they get into some specific changes for South Fidalgo. So that's what they did.

Ms. Lohman: They docketed the code amendments?

Mr. Pernula: They docketed seven of those, yes, that were proposed by the Department. And most of those are things where we found problems with the code.

Mr. Greenwood: When will those be posted on the website?

Mr. Pernula: I think they're already there.

Mr. Walters: What do you mean?

Mr. Greenwood: The ones that they've actually docketed or they've approved, and which ones they deferred.

Mr. Walters: The formal document – their resolution adopting the docket – probably won't get adopted until December 14th.

Mr. Greenwood: Oh, okay.

Mr. Pernula: But all of these are explained and it's available online already.

Mr. Walters: Just not the list of who's docketed and who's not.

Mr. Greenwood: Well, I guess that's what I was asking because I've already seen the one that shows what was proposed, but which ones were docketed and which ones weren't.

Mr. Pernula: It'll be next week they vote on it?

Mr. Walters: No, two weeks.

Mr. Pernula: Two weeks?

Mr. Walters: Two weeks.

Chair Axthelm: Okay, so next week with our meeting, can we eliminate some of the things off the agenda? I'm hesitant to limiting Public Remarks, but I would just as well get right to the point on the meeting.

Ms. Lohman: Can we on special meetings?

Mr. Walters: Yes. You can whenever you want.

Mr. Pernula: Just have the one item on the agenda?

Chair Axthelm: The Conservation?

Ms. Lohman: Yeah.

Mr. Greenwood: Yeah, we could really cut a bunch of time out if we cut the Department Update out, huh?

(laughter)

Chair Axthelm: I mean, it does take 15 minutes out. You know, it just – depending on how many people show up. Okay. All right. Anything else?

Ms. Mitchell: Motion to adjourn.

Ms. Del Vecchio: Second.

Chair Axthelm: (gavel) Okay. The meeting is adjourned.