

**TOWN OF LA CONNER
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
January 15, 2019**

The Planning Commission meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Present were Commissioners Bruce Bradburn, Marna Hanneman, Linda Talman, Liz Theaker, and Planning Director Marianne Manville-Ailles. Commissioner Hedlin was absent.

Also present were John Doyle and Bill Reynolds.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

MINUTES:

Amend page 2 paragraph 6 of the December 4, 2018 minutes to correctly spell Kelly Wynn. Commissioner Talman recused herself since she was not at the December 4th meeting. Commissioner Bradburn moved to approve the amended minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Theaker. Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

- *New Chairperson for 2019*

Commissioner Hedlin is the new Chair of the Planning Commission for 2019 in accordance with the rotating roster, and Commissioner Theaker is the new vice Chair.

OLD BUSINESS:

- *2019 Work Plan*

Council adopted the Comprehensive Plan at the January 8th meeting. The Dept. of Commerce has received the Comp Plan update, but have notified the Town that they still need an updated Critical Areas Ordinance. We have informed them that it is in progress. The Critical Areas Ordinance and Transportation Element updates are the minimum compliance requirements with the Dept. of Commerce to be eligible for grant funding this year.

The contract for the transportation consultant will go before Council at the first meeting in February so that they can get started as soon as possible on the technical component of the Transportation Element. The traffic study will also be done in February, since it takes some time to get the results back from the County. Once the consultant has been supplied

the counts, Commissioner Talman will start reviewing the Transportation Element in April or May so it will be ready to add the data once the consultant has compiled it. If all goes well, the Transportation Element will be ready for the Commission to review by mid-year.

The department heads will simultaneously also be working on the Capital Facilities and Utilities Elements. The intention is to have the Comp Plan amendments done by the end of June.

Marianne met with the Parks Commission and got them started on updating the information that will be used in the Parks Element. Commissioner Bradburn will also be meeting with them going forward.

John Doyle was invited to talk about how the Planning Commission can work toward addressing the issues raised by the design charrette which was held in La Conner in 2017. The policies developed during the charrette were included in the Comp Plan update, but there is much more that can be done. Doyle said he has found that the charrette process is a useful tool for communities to achieve consensus on divisive issues. The design competition alluded to in the charrette report is something he feels the Commission should be acting on this year and he suggested holding a public workshop once they have decided how they would like to proceed on this. Commissioner Theaker will write up an outline to get the process started.

Some Code updates will also need to be made this year to implement the Comp Plan update. The residential setbacks issue will be revisited and the Council changes incorporated into the Code. Some changes will also need to be made to the Historic District regulations so that side-by-side buildings are not required to provide off-street parking. This Code change is to preserve the historic character of the area, and is a priority so the Tribe can restore their First Street property.

Now that the 2019 Planning Commission Work Plan has been formulated, Marianne will be meeting with Scott to set up a joint Planning Commission/Council meeting to go over it and discuss priorities. She will also be working with the Deputy Clerk in the next week or so to make sure the updated Comp Plan is the only version on the Town website.

- *Errata for the Comprehensive Plan*

Marianne made an executive decision that the Comp Plan had been reviewed enough and already sent it to the Dept. of Commerce, so this item was deleted.

CLOSING COMMENTS:

The issue of cars speeding on Maple Street will be discussed at the next Council meeting and the Streets Committee has been tasked with finding a solution.

Commissioner Talman mentioned that there is training for Complete Streets if the Commissioners want to review it. Also, the Non-Motorized Activity Committee (NMAC) are looking for volunteers to repair donated bicycles.

Commissioner Bradburn said that the Parks Commission is having a fundraiser at Hellams Vineyard on February 22nd for the Waterfront Park Pavilion.

Planning Commission meetings are now on the third Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be held on February 19th. Commissioner Talman will be absent.

With no further business Commissioner Bradburn moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Talman. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair

Date