

# Lewis County Planning Commission

## Public Meeting

In-Person & Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**March 26, 2024 - Meeting Notes**

**Planning Commissioners Present:** Lorie Spogen, District 1; Jason Alves, District 1; Gretchen Fritsch, District 3; Frank Corbin, District 3; Jeff Skutley, District 2; Bob Russell, District 2; Roger Moore, At-Large

**Staff Present:** Mindy Brooks, Senior Long Range Planner; Megan Sathre, Office Assistant Senior; Lee Napier, Director of Community Development;

### **Materials Used:**

- Agenda
- Draft Meeting Notes – March 12, 2024
- Staff Presentation: Comprehensive Plan Community Engagement
- 2024 Legislative Report

### **1. Zoom Guidelines**

The clerk dispensed with the Zoom Guidelines.

### **2. Call to Order**

A. Determination of a Quorum

7 Commissioners were present; there was a quorum.

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Russell made the motion to approve the agenda; second by Commissioner Spogen. The motion carried unanimously.

### **4. Approval of Meeting Notes**

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the meeting notes from March 12, 2024. Commissioner Russell made a motion to approve the notes as presented, second by Commissioner Spogen. The motion carried unanimously.

## 5. Public Comment

There were no members of the public who wished to provide public comment.

## 6. Workshop

### A. Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update – Public Engagement Plan

Mindy Brooks, Senior Long-Range Planner, gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update Public Engagement Plan (*see presentation for details*). At the conclusion of the presentation the commissioners asked the following questions.

Commissioner Spogen asked if Mindy is explaining the comprehensive plan update and then asking for feedback. Mindy responded that in most meetings she is only given 5-10 minutes so her main focus is explaining what the comprehensive plan is and why people should care, then directing them to the online survey.

Commissioner Russell asked if the primary goal right now is to get survey results rather than telling people what is happening. Mindy responded yes, we want to get survey results about what people's priorities are, what people are concerned about with the growth that's coming and incorporate those into the draft plan.

Mindy shared that that the survey will not have many open-ended questions, there will be multiple choices. This allows us to do statistics on the results. Commissioner Russell asked when the survey results would be available. Mindy responded, after the close of the survey on May 10.

Commissioner Moore participated in the City of Centralia survey, which was 36 questions, and afterwards the city said that no one under the age of 50 had taken the survey. Is there anything that the county is going to do to try to get input from the younger demographic? Mindy responded that anyone who does public engagement has a hard time getting people ages 25-50 to participate. This is usually just because they are busy with kids and careers. But one way we try to reach them is by having an electronic survey that can be accessed easily from their phone and asking only a few pertinent questions. Our survey will be 4 questions.

Commissioner Alves asked if the county had thought about attending sporting events. Mindy said that staff could, but they would have to be very strategic about it to make sure attendees are likely to stop at a booth and interact, rather than watch the event. Alves responded that something like a tournament where there's breaks between games could be beneficial.

Commissioner Skutley asked if the county could do mailers. Mindy responded that mailers are very expensive and usually don't have much response. However, paper copies of the survey can be placed at libraries and let people know that they are there.

Lee shared that over the years she has seen how outreach has evolved. We used to send things via postal mail and if no one replied then we thought oh well, we let them know. What I admire

about how we do engagement now is when people show up and listen and have conversations. This is a big project and so if through this process, we can slowly move the dial to engage more people, then I think it is a success.

Commissioner Skutley asked if the newspaper helps out. Mindy responded that the Chronicle is very helpful in covering our current topics. We've done two press releases so far, the last one was published on Saturday. The local radio has allowed staff to speak in the past as well.

## **B. 2024 Legislative Report**

Mindy provided an overview of the 2024 Legislative Session bill outcomes relating to Housing & Planning. The WSAC report will be sent with material for the next meeting.

## **7. Good of the Order:**

### **A. Staff**

Mindy asked Commissioners if they would still like staff to provide snacks for the meetings. The Commissioners shared that they were generally in consensus that they don't need snacks. Mindy will continue to bring water.

### **B. Planning Commissioners**

Commissioner Russell would like to be at the Lewis County 2045 meeting with the Commissioners, out of the country until April 10<sup>th</sup> so he will not be at the next meeting.

Commissioner Corbin shared that he will be out of the county for the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **8. Calendar**

The next meeting of the Planning Commission will occur on April 9, 2024, and the agenda item is a workshop on Private Road Naming.

## **9. Adjourn**

Commissioner Corbin made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.